

# CONCRETE EXAMPLES OF ECO DESIGN APPROACH AND ANALYSIS OF THE LIFE-CYCLE IN THE LEATHER INDUSTRY. ADVANTAGES FOR COMPANIES

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Environmental considerations influence customers more and more with what they purchase and their behaviour. In a global consumer market, shoppers compete on price and quality. They now also seek products that offer novelty and a distinctive appeal for which customers are willing to pay more. Products with a lower environmental impact is one of these distinctive areas that is leading to sustainable consumption.

Footwear, like other products, causes environmental impacts throughout their lifespan (from raw materials to end of life). Impacts are wide-ranging and include global warming, acidification, smog, ozone layer depletion, toxicity, water and energy consumption, depletion of mineral and fossil fuels....

There are a number of barriers that effectively provide information for consumers who put the information into action. These barriers are related to the growing volume and complexity of environmental information today, consumer scepticism vis-à-vis the credibility of most source information.

Eco-design through Life Cycle Analysis is the methodology that quantifies the impact of an article throughout its lifespan. The first rule of the LCA practitioner is to define the functional unit, that is to say the intended application and the system boundaries.