



Materials Energy & Toxicity (MET) Matrix read me

The MET matrix is a breakdown of the Material use, Energy use, and Toxic emissions related to the manufacture of a product. This matrix is an ideal working process for thinking strategically about the environmental impacts of a product. It allows you to sketch out the different aspects going on at a macro level.

Rather than detail the product life too much, the focus is on broad brush strokes to quickly work up an overall picture.

This high level technique could be used to start a conversation around the key environmental metrics of your product or service, potentially identifying some areas for further investigation and consideration.

How to use the MET matrix:

1. Use a separate template (provided) for each product you wish to assess.
2. Under each life cycle stage (extraction of raw material, production, distribution, use, and end-of-life) list:
 - a. The materials that go into (or come out of) the product,
 - b. The energy that is used (or created) during the process,
 - c. Any toxic emissions (aqueous, gaseous, or solid) that are created.

3. Use the matrix to identify where change in the material use, energy use or toxic emissions is a priority at different stages in the product's life cycle.

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