

## Life cycle exercise using Input-Output (Embodied Energy & Operating Energy) Quick tool to estimate the energy resulting from production of a product.

One of the goals of the sustainability lecture is to give participants an understanding of how we can measure sustainability using scientific tools to make sure that triple bottom line is achieved. This activity creates a comparison of two products, assesses the materials and energy resources required, as well as the environmental emissions resulting from making these products. The tool easily evaluates a commodity or service and provides guidance on the relative impacts of different types of products, materials, services, or industries with respect to resource use and emissions throughout the supply chain.

For example, the effect of producing an automobile would include not only the impacts at the final assembly facility, but also the impact from mining metal ores, making electronic parts, forming windows, etc. that are needed for parts to build the car.

In this exercise, participants will explore embodied energy and emissions associated with the manufacturing of an automobile versus a bicycle.

1. Go to online tool: <http://www.eiolca.net>
2. Click **“Use the Tool”** in the upper left corner.
3. Once the new page opens, it should look like this:

The screenshot displays the EIO-LCA Quick tool interface with five numbered steps:

- 1 Choose a model:** The current model is the **US 2002 Purchaser**, which is a **Purchaser Price Model**. A dropdown menu shows "US 2002 (428 sectors) Purchaser".
- 2 Select industry and sector:** A search box for a sector by keyword is present. Below it, a dropdown menu shows "Vehicles and Other Transportation Equipment" and "Automobile Manufacturing".
- 3 Select the amount of economic activity for this sector:** A text input field contains "0.03" with the unit "Million Dollars (whole or decimal values only)".
- 4 Select the category of results to display:** A dropdown menu shows "Energy".
- 5 Run the model:** A "Run Model" button is visible at the bottom.

4. There are several different models to choose from. For the purpose of this exercise, please select **“US 2002 (428 sectors) Purchaser”** model. This model will include all inputs up until the product is purchased, as opposed to production stage only. The **“(Show more details)”** link provides additional information on every database.

- Now, please select the **“Vehicles and Other Transportation Equipment”** sector and **“Automobile Manufacturing”** in detailed sector.
- Your car will be worth \$30,000, which corresponds to 0.03 million dollars.
- And finally, please select **“Energy”** in the category of results to display and **“Run”** the model.

Sector #336111: Automobile Manufacturing  
 Economic Activity: \$0.03 Million Dollars  
 Displaying: Energy  
 Number of Sectors: Top 10

Documentation:  
[The sectors of the economy used in this model.](#)  
[The environmental, energy, and other data used and their sources.](#)  
[Frequently asked questions about EIO-LCA.](#)

[Change Inputs](#) (Click here to view greenhouse gases, air pollutants, etc...)

This sector list was contributed by Green Design Institute.

Sector	Total Energy	Coal	NatGas	Petrol	Bio/Waste	NonFossElec
	TJ	TJ	TJ	TJ	TJ	TJ
<i>Total for all sectors</i>	0.218	0.065	0.063	0.044	0.010	0.036
221100 Power generation and supply	0.060	0.044	0.013	0.002	0.000	0.001
331110 Iron and steel mills	0.026	0.016	0.007	0.000	0.000	0.003
484000 Truck transportation	0.013	0.000	0.000	0.013	0.000	0.000
336300 Motor vehicle parts manufacturing	0.010	0.000	0.004	0.000	0.000	0.005
336111 Automobile Manufacturing	0.008	0.000	0.004	0.000	0.000	0.003
4A0000 Retail trade	0.006	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.000	0.004
325190 Other basic organic chemical manufacturing	0.006	0.000	0.002	0.000	0.002	0.000
482000 Rail transportation	0.006	0.000	0.000	0.006	0.000	0.000
324110 Petroleum refineries	0.005	0.000	0.001	0.004	0.000	0.000
420000 Wholesale trade	0.005	0.000	0.000	0.003	0.000	0.001

[Download](#)  [View Graph](#) 

- The results are shown in the table. To produce the car worth \$30,000 and to sell it to the purchaser, 0.218 of total energy (TJ) is used. This energy comes from coal (0.065TJ), Natural gas (0.063TJ), Petroleum (0.044TJ), Bio waste (0.010TJ) and Electric (0.036TJ).
- In column Sector, the total energy is broken down into sectors.
- Now, please **“Change the Input”** (upper left corner) to **“Greenhouse gas”**.
- Record the results.
- Please repeat the analysis for the bicycle.
- Please select the **“Vehicles and Other Transportation Equipment”** sector and **“Motorcycle, bicycle and parts manufacturing”** in detailed sector.
- Your bicycle is worth \$200, which corresponds to \$0.002 million dollars
- And finally, please select **“Energy”** in the category of results to display and **“Run”** the model.

**Sector** #336991: Motorcycle, bicycle, and parts manufacturing  
**Economic Activity:** \$200 Dollars  
**Displaying:** Energy  
**Number of Sectors:** Top 10

**Documentation:**  
[The sectors of the economy used in this model.](#)  
[The environmental, energy, and other data used and their sources.](#)  
[Frequently asked questions about EIO-LCA.](#)

[Change Inputs](#) (Click here to view greenhouse gases, air pollutants, etc...)

**This sector list was contributed by Green Design Institute.**

Sector	Total Energy TJ	Coal TJ	NatGas TJ	Petrol TJ	Bio/Waste TJ	NonFossElec TJ
<i>Total for all sectors</i>	0.002	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
221100 Power generation and supply	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
331110 Iron and steel mills	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
322130 Paperboard Mills	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
33131A Alumina refining and primary aluminum production	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
336991 Motorcycle, bicycle, and parts manufacturing	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
4A0000 Retail trade	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
484000 Truck transportation	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
33131B Aluminum product manufacturing from purchased aluminum	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
420000 Wholesale trade	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
324110 Petroleum refineries	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

[Download](#) 

[View Graph](#) 

16. Compare and contrast the embodied energy and GHG emission for the car and bicycle.

### Questions:

1. How are the inputs similar, how are they different? (consider total energy and categories).
2. Discuss the assumptions for the car and bicycle.
3. Does the result change based on the product lifetime?

Yes - it depends how long do you use the car or a bicycle. If you buy a car every 5 years, the embodied energy will be higher per year than if you buy a car every 10 or 15 years.

Assuming that embodied energy for a car is 0.218 TJ over lifetime,  
 $0.218/5 = 0.0436$  TJ per year, providing that car is kept for 5 years = 121,111.11 kWh  
 $0.218/10 = 0.0218$  TJ per year providing that car is kept for 10 years = 6055.55555556 kWh  
 $0.218/15 = 0.0145$  TJ per year providing that car is kept for 15 years = 4,027.77 kWh

The average person in U.S. uses 10,766 kWh per year.