

Putting the metrics behind sustainability.



Confidential Client Life Cycle Assessment for a major jewelry manufacturer

The Challenge

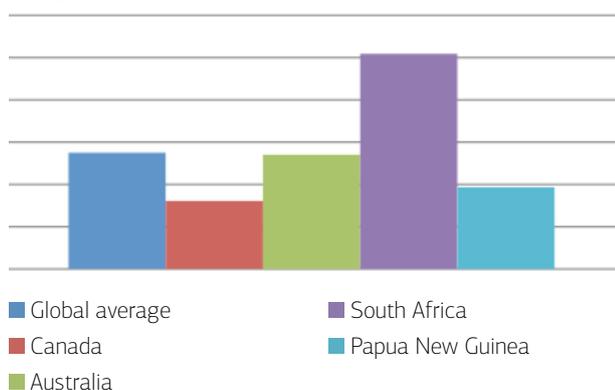
A major jewelry manufacturer ("Gem Co.") wanted to conduct Life Cycle Assessments (LCA) for two popular metal rings to gain additional visibility into its supply chain and establish baselines for comparison to similar products.



PRé Solution

PRé conducted a workshop with Gem Co. staff to familiarize personnel with LCA, establish Gem Co.'s primary objectives for the study, and determine key suppliers to be contacted. Following this workshop, PRé worked with Gem Co. employees and key members of its supply chain to collect primary data and to verify assumptions for the different stages of the value chain. The resulting model was used to quantify the environmental impacts of the two different rings.

Energy Demand



PRé determined that the extraction and refining stage at the mine is primarily responsible for the impacts associated with these two rings. Because of the importance of the mining phase, an additional regional investigation of gold mining (illustrated to the left) was conducted to better understand global production differences in energy consumption.

A secondary benefit of the ring LCA was to uncover the relatively significant contribution of the retail stage to overall energy and carbon emission impacts. The retail phase impacts, which were greater than those at manufacturing on a per unit basis, were largely due to lighting used to display the jewelry and consequently provides an opportunity for Gem Co. to improve environmental performance within its own operations.

Business Value

Working with PRé, Gem Co. discovered the following project-driven benefits:

- Creation of a benchmark for comparison to other jewelry products
- Understanding of the relative impacts of metals sourced from different global regions
- Discovering the importance of the retail stage for its product's life cycle impacts





Creating Business Value Through Sustainability Metrics

Sustainability Metrics Consulting

Sustainability in business has become a core business concern and a driving factor in creating business value. PRé offers a range of consulting services, provided by a team of experts who will work with you to choose, create and deliver the right metrics for your sustainability goals.

PIONEERING Developing Innovative New Metrics For New Challenges

Societal and stakeholder expectations for implementing sustainability in business are becoming more demanding. Sometimes, off-the-shelf metrics cannot help you answer their questions. PRé has extensive experience in life-cycle-based metrics pioneering: implementing cutting-edge new product metrics and developing completely new, scientifically sound and robust metrics. PRé has been the driving force behind many ground-breaking initiatives like ReCiPe or the Handbook for Product Social Impact Assessment.

INTEGRATION Integrating Sustainability Metrics In Your Business

To create business value from sustainability, your business needs to integrate sustainability metrics across its business functions. You can't improve what you can't measure. PRé has the expertise required to help you choose the right metrics and to integrate sustainability into your day-to-day operations. PRé also supports you in increasing the efficiency of your LCA work and in empowering your LCA practitioners.

DELIVERY Expert LCA Knowledge To Measure Sustainability Performance

LCA has proven to be a robust and science-based way to measure and communicate your sustainability performance. PRé can review your LCA studies, deliver EPDs, footprints and other metrics, and provide you with completely new LCA studies to measure your impact. Our consultants are renowned for their expertise in specific topics, such as impact assessment, uncertainty, normalisation, toxicity, social sustainability and databases. PRé offers training courses and in-house training that build a solid knowledge base to help you conduct LCA studies yourself.

Get In Touch With PRé
We're always happy to discuss your sustainability challenges with you. If you have any questions, feel free to contact our offices in the Netherlands and the US.

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We look forward to being your partner in putting the metrics behind sustainability.

pre-sustainability.com

Those Who Have Gone Before – Market-leading Businesses That Are Creating Value From Sustainability Metrics

PRé has built a worldwide reputation as a leader on environmental and social impact assessment. We work with organisations and institutes such as the European Commission, European Space Agency, Heineken, BASF, Philips, L'Oréal and DSM.



About PRé

PRé has been a leading voice in sustainability metrics and life cycle thinking, since 1990, pioneering the field of product and supply chain sustainability metrics. We've developed some of the world's most widely recognised and applied environmental impact assessment methods, as well as the world's leading LCA software, SimaPro. From the very first, we have not only focused on developing the science of LCA, but also its application – helping companies create value by using state-of-the-art measuring, monitoring and analysis methodologies to improve their sustainability performance.

Find out more about what we can do for your organisation at www.pre-sustainability.com

