



National Institute for Public Health
and the Environment
Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport

Tool for *sustainability* *method* selection

*RIVM developed a tool that helps you
select in three steps the best method for
answering your sustainability question.*

www.sustainabilitymethod.com

Many methods available

There is a growing need to measure the effectiveness of efforts to realise a biobased and circular economy. A wide range of methods for measuring sustainability is already available, for a wide variety of scopes and timescales. These methods cover a wide range of issues, from global climate change to the consumer behaviour of one individual on a regular Friday. Our tool is developed to find your way successfully in this world of methods.

Select together

Finding a method requires specification of the system boundaries and sustainability issues you think are important for the assessment. System boundaries are for example the spatial scale and the life cycle perspective of the assessment. Sustainability issues are for example climate change, child labour and human toxicity.

Involving the people for whom this assessment might be important. Often people have different views on sustainability, and, consequently, different views on what might be important for the assessment. Please answer the questions on the other side of this flyer together with colleagues or stakeholders, before you enter data in the tool.

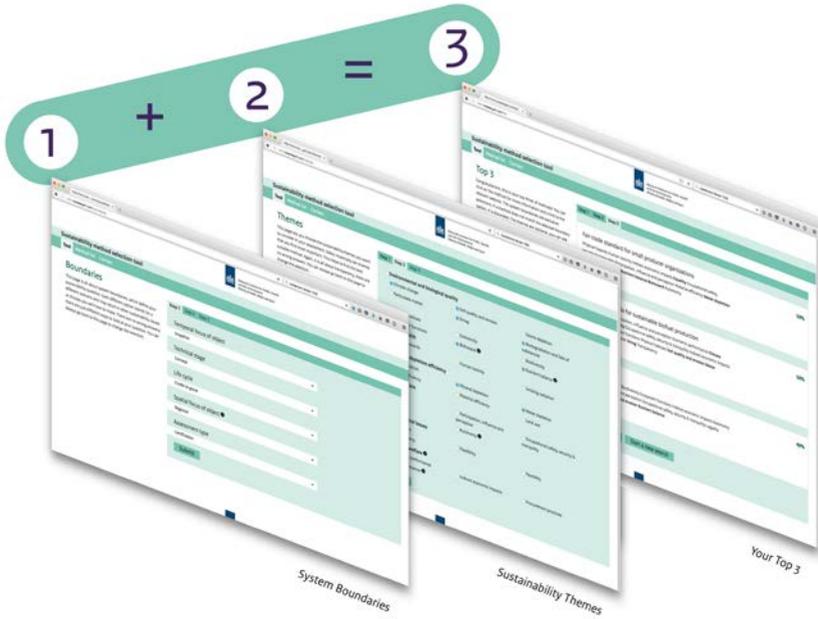
Expectations

The tool results in a top 3 of methods that best fit your specifications. Sometimes no method is available that covers the specific combination of issues you selected. In those cases a combination of tools can be used.

Suggestions

Any questions and remarks with regard to the tool (e.g. missing methods) can be addressed to biobased@rivm.nl.

Select the sustainability assessment method that fits your sustainability question in three steps at www.sustainabilitymethod.com.



Questions to discuss with colleagues or stakeholders before using the tool:

1. What is the goal of the assessment? To what should the assessment contribute?
2. What is the central object of the question (a product, product group, organisation, etc.)?
3. What is the technical readiness level of the object (lab, development, pilot, commercial)?
4. What is the spatial scale the question focusses on (local, regional, national, global)?
5. What is the temporal scale the question focusses on (present, past, close future, far future)?
6. Which parts of the life cycle should be included?
7. Which sustainability themes are important to include in the assessment?
8. Which stakeholders that are not yet involved should be involved in this case study?
9. Will they have other views on the above questions then you just answered?

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Committed to *health and sustainability*