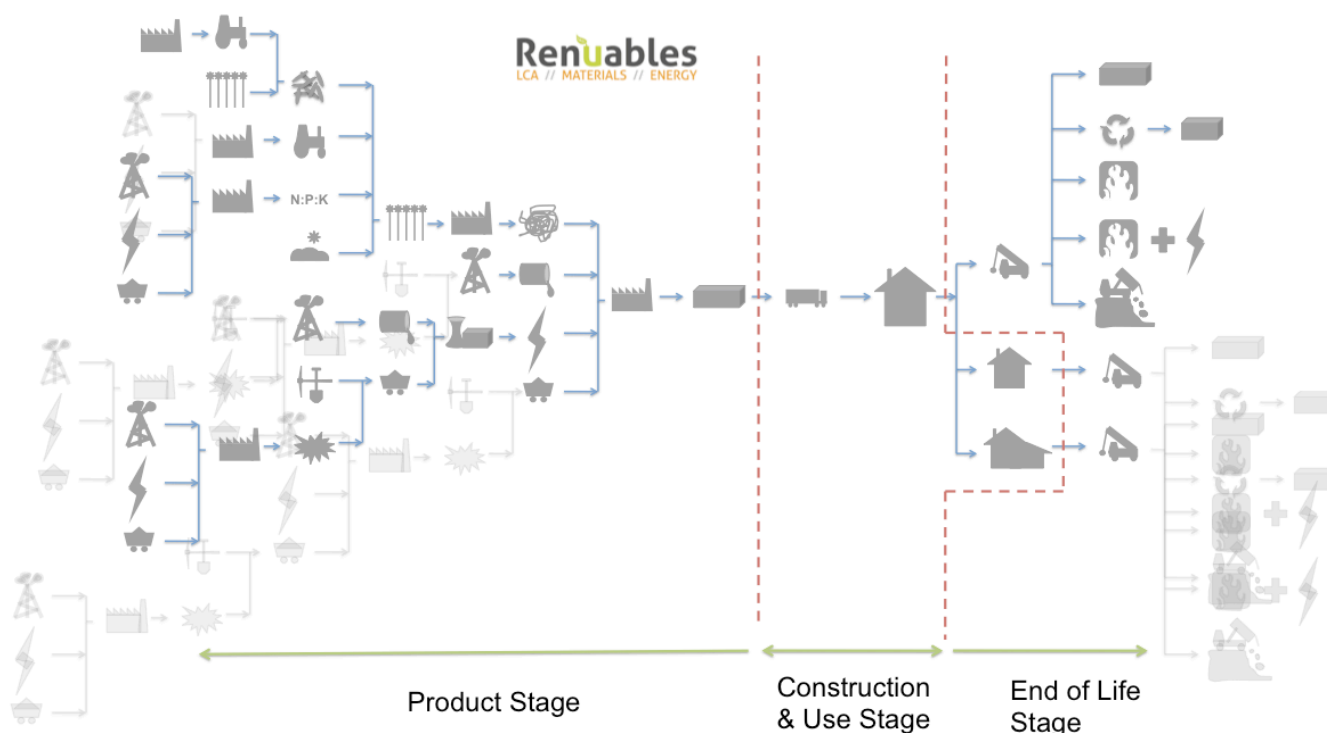
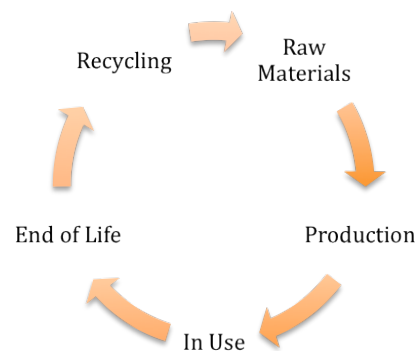


Life Cycle Assessments

Life Cycle Assessments normally look at all of the inputs and outputs associated with the product over its whole life cycle. Though the idea is simple, this accounts for a large amount of data collection and/or assumptions, if you straighten out this loop to show the processes involved over time studied, it quickly becomes very complex:



Looking at just the Product stage (or “Cradle to Gate”) shows how many factors must be considered, even in this highly simplified diagram! For each stage the data must be collected in the same way as another LCA for them to be comparable. The same is also true of all the assumptions made regarding what happens after the product leaves the factory gate. Though there is an almost infinite amount of possibilities and timings for each potential outcome, it is very important that realistic options are considered as well as using the data to educate the practice for a product.

As Carbon Footprints and Environmental Product Declarations become more popular it is important that the underlying Life Cycle Assessments are done in a uniform and comparable way. It is also important that this is done in a way that is fair to all products and that no particular materials are given favouritism as new standards evolve regarding how LCAs are conducted.