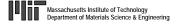
### Session 2: Defining Goal & Scope

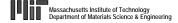


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# **Goal & Scope Definition: Study Goals**

- Intent: Intended application of the study
  - For what purpose
  - Examples
    - Identifying major problems
    - Selecting the preferred option
- Context: For whom and compared to what
- Output: How will results be communicated



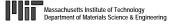
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### Why Carry Out a Life-Cycle Assessment?

- Decision-making
  - Product design
  - Process design
  - Purchasing
  - Policy-making
- Communication
  - Eco-labeling
  - Product declarations
  - Benchmarking

- Learning / exploration
  - Identifying improvement opportunities
  - Identify liability concerns
  - Selecting performance indicators
  - Research



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## Goal & Scope Definition: Study Scope

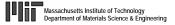
- Functional Unit (Unit of analysis)
- System boundaries:
  - Conceptual
  - Geographic
  - Time period of study
- Types of impacts to consider
- Required level of detail



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### **Defining the Functional Unit**

- Reference flow against which all others are related
  - Establishes a common level of performance across the systems to be considered
- Examples
  - Light bulbs
  - Wallpaper vs. paint
  - Newspapers
  - Bread

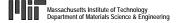


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#### Goal & Scope Definition: How far do we go?

- Defining boundaries
  - No theoretical basis for exclusion
  - Often broken at environmental flows or economic flows of + value
  - Generally includes only processes in direct contact with product & raw materials entering that product
- Example: Oil Use
  - Combustion
    - If electricity, consider: conversion efficiency & transmission eff.
  - Extraction
  - Transport
  - Refining



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