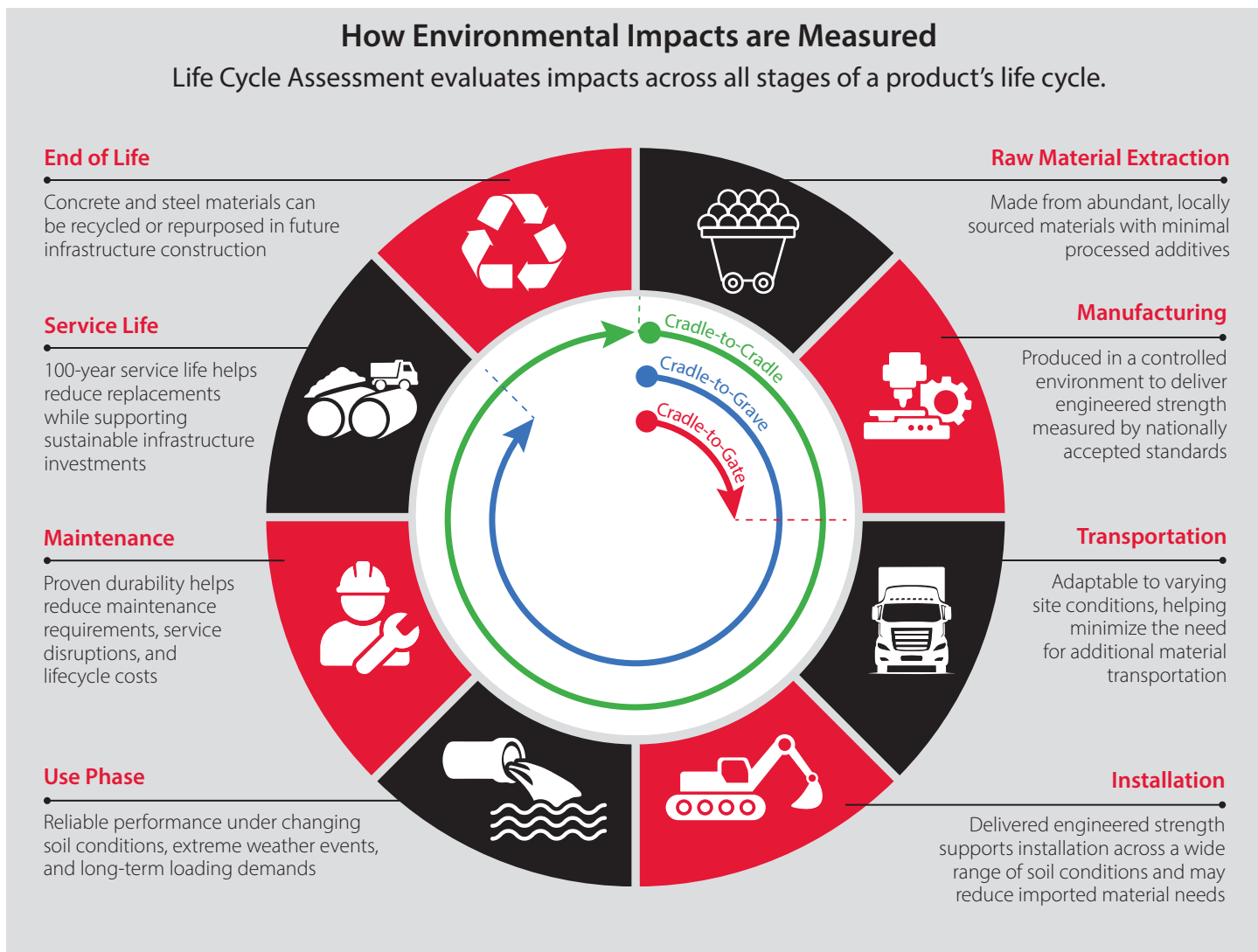




Reinforced Concrete Pipe (RCP):

Measuring Sustainability Across the Full Life Cycle

Sustainability is measured across the full life cycle of an asset, not solely during manufacturing or installation. Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) examines environmental impacts from cradle-to-grave, accounting for each stage of a product's life cycle, including material sourcing, production, transportation, construction, operation, maintenance, and end-of-life management. This holistic approach provides a more complete assessment of environmental performance and long-term sustainability.



Cradle-to-Gate vs. Cradle-to-Cradle

Cradle-to-gate evaluates a portion of a product's environmental impact, while cradle-to-cradle evaluates impacts across the entire life cycle.

Cradle-to-Gate

Measures impacts up until a product leaves the manufacturing facility

- Raw Materials
- Manufacturing



Cradle-to-Cradle

Measures impacts across the entire life cycle

- Raw Materials
- Manufacturing
- Transportation
- Installation
- Use Phase
- Maintenance
- Service Life
- End of Life



Lifecycle Terms at a Glance

Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)

A standardized methodology used to quantify environmental impacts across a product's life cycle.

Cradle-to-Gate

Environmental impacts from raw material extraction through manufacturing before a product leaves the plant.

Cradle-to-Cradle

Environmental impacts measured across the complete life cycle, including manufacturing, transportation, installation, use phase, maintenance, service life and end of life.

Environmental Product Declaration (EPD)

A third-party verified document that reports environmental impacts. EPDs provide transparency into environmental performance but should be interpreted within the context of a product's intended application and full lifecycle.

Global Warming Potential (GWP)

A measure of greenhouse gas emissions expressed as carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂e).

Service Life

The period during which an asset performs its intended function while meeting performance requirements.

Design Life

The anticipated service period specified during design under expected conditions and maintenance practices.

Looking Beyond a Single Metric

Environmental performance is often discussed using individual metrics such as embodied carbon, product emissions, recycled content, or transportation impacts. While these measures provide valuable information, they represent only one portion of a product's sustainability profile. A lifecycle perspective provides a more complete understanding of overall environmental performance.



Get the Facts



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