

# network

## enterprise europe



**ELEEN**

### **WP7 Report (DL 7.1)**

**Catalogue of success stories /  
good practices**

**Environmental services available to  
SMEs through public schemes**

*Swerea IVF, Sweden*



## Life Cycle Assessment

### *Basic information about the company*

Ultramare sells, develops and manufactures air filters that protect people, processes and machines. Ultramare was established in 1934, is located in Trollhättan and is the oldest filter company in Scandinavia and a leading manufacturer in the Swedish air filter market.

Ultramare's products contribute to safeguarding the environment and the company also aims to lead the industry in terms of environmental work.

### *Description of services provided by EEN/ESP*

Life cycle assessment is a method used for mapping the environmental impact of a product or service. Ultramare had recently developed a new type of frame for their most popular filter product. Together with the new filtering media this product seemed to be much better from an environmental point of view, but how to be sure? In order to get an answer the company contacted EEN to find a suitable partner who could help them. EEN facilitated the initial contact and the co-operation between the industrial research institute, Swerea IVF and the company. Swerea IVF's environment experts made a life cycle assessment of the new filter and delivered facts about the performance of the product.

### *Results of provided service/ changes after implementation of ESP advices*

The life cycle assessment showed that the new filter frame almost had the same environmental impact as the existing, but the advantage of being much easier to assemble. The greatest benefit from an environmental perspective was the new filter media. The improved efficiency of the filter media is a big advantage since the biggest environmental impact of this kind of products is energy consumption during operation. The fact that Ultramare's products have a major environmental impact in the operation phase has resulted in activities to inform and guide the customers and users how to best select and use air filters.

### *Potential further use of the provided service or expectations for the future*

The results from the life cycle assessment and the environmental impact of the new filter have been used when training staff at Ultramare as well as users and customers attending the courses at the training centre, "Ultra Academy". The gained knowledge from making a life cycle assessment is very useful for improving similar products' environmental characteristics as well.