

What's An Engineer to Do?

Mary Hansel

Sustainable Strategies Coordinator, Carollo Engineers - mhansel@carollo.com

Lydia Holmes

Environmental Engineer, Carollo Engineers - lholfmes@carollo.com

How can engineers include life cycle ecological impacts in decision-making criteria for planning and design alternatives... within limited budget and time constraints?

Carollo Engineers, working with the non-profit Redefining Progress, has used the Ecological Footprint to measure the relative ecological impacts of decisions affecting the design of two municipal water recycling facilities. The Ecological Footprint measures the amount of bioproductive space required to produce all materials and energy consumed, and to sequester or absorb all wastes produced, for a given activity or to support a given population.

This presentation will describe our process for calculating the footprints and report on our findings, as well as on the strengths and challenges of using this tool to aid decision-making at the facility level.