

# Introducing environmental and end-of-life considerations in the design process



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## 1 INTRODUCTION

The nineties and the first half of this decade have seen researchers and public organizations generate a number of proposals to aid designers in the development of environmentally friendly products. Nevertheless, in many situations, ecodesign seems to be limited to single projects with no following up or continuity.

Several driving forces have motivated companies into the consideration of environmental issues as part of their corporate policy. Nonetheless, there seem to be barriers in the implementation, and focus is, if any, in very specific environmental issues.

## 2 DEFINITION OF THE PROBLEM

**GOAL** To aid in the inclusion of environmental issues in the design process as is carried out in any conventional design.

**AIMS** To analyze the factors that have previously posed a problem in the implementation of ecodesign to everyday design decisions and activities.

To understand the nature of environmental information in the design process, and how must it be transmitted for designers to use it.

To generate tools and/or methods, or improve existing ones, in order to include environmental issues in the practiced design process.

**RESEARCH QUESTIONS** What is the context in which ecodesign is applied?

Which problems does effective ecodesign find?

What is the role of environmental information in the design process? What is the role of product-related information? What is the role of company-related information?

How can environmental information be improved, so that it is more adapted to the design process?

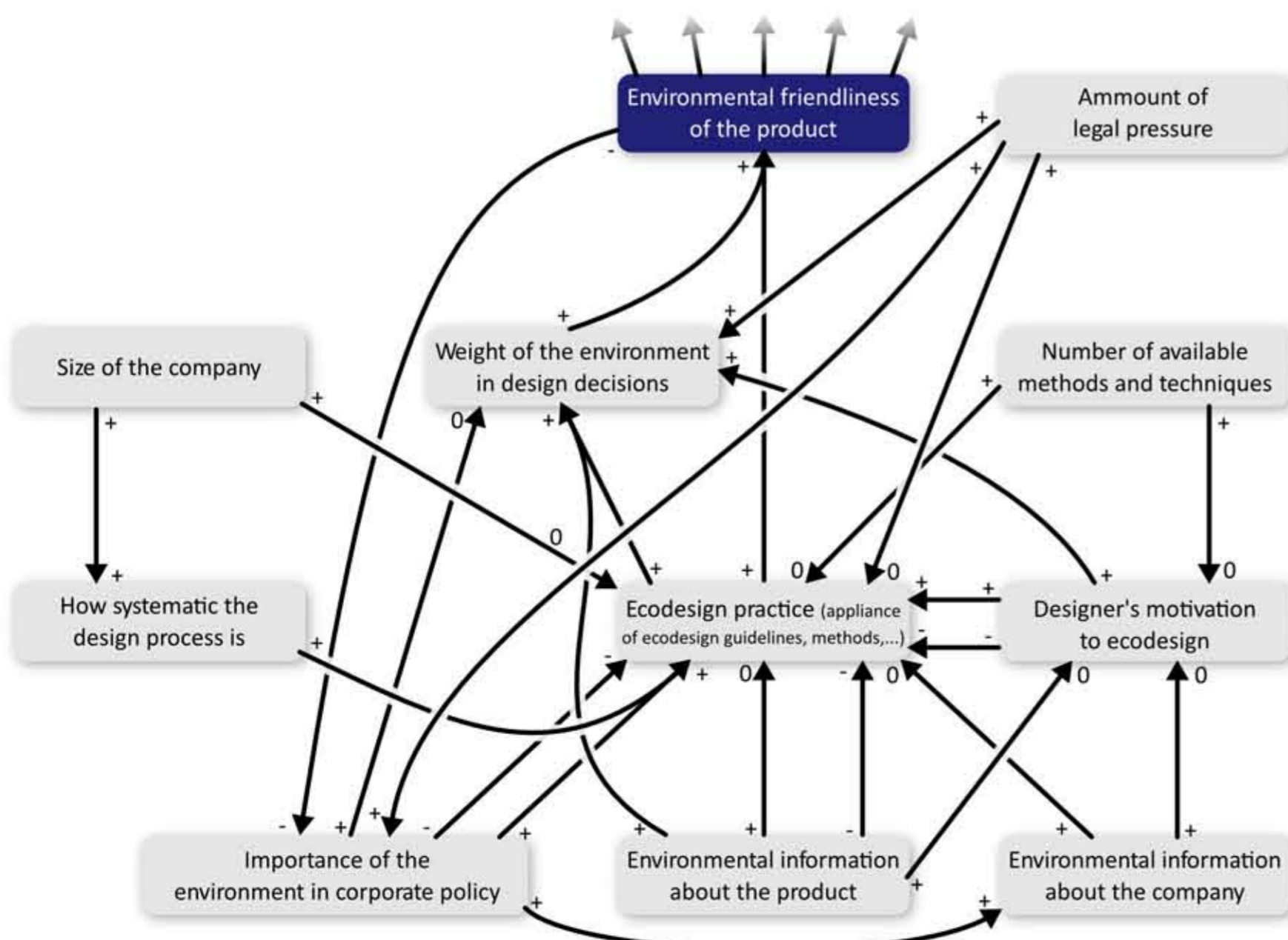
Can the flows of environmental information be improved as they are?

What is the role of the designer's motivation to consider the environmental impacts? How does it influence the design process?

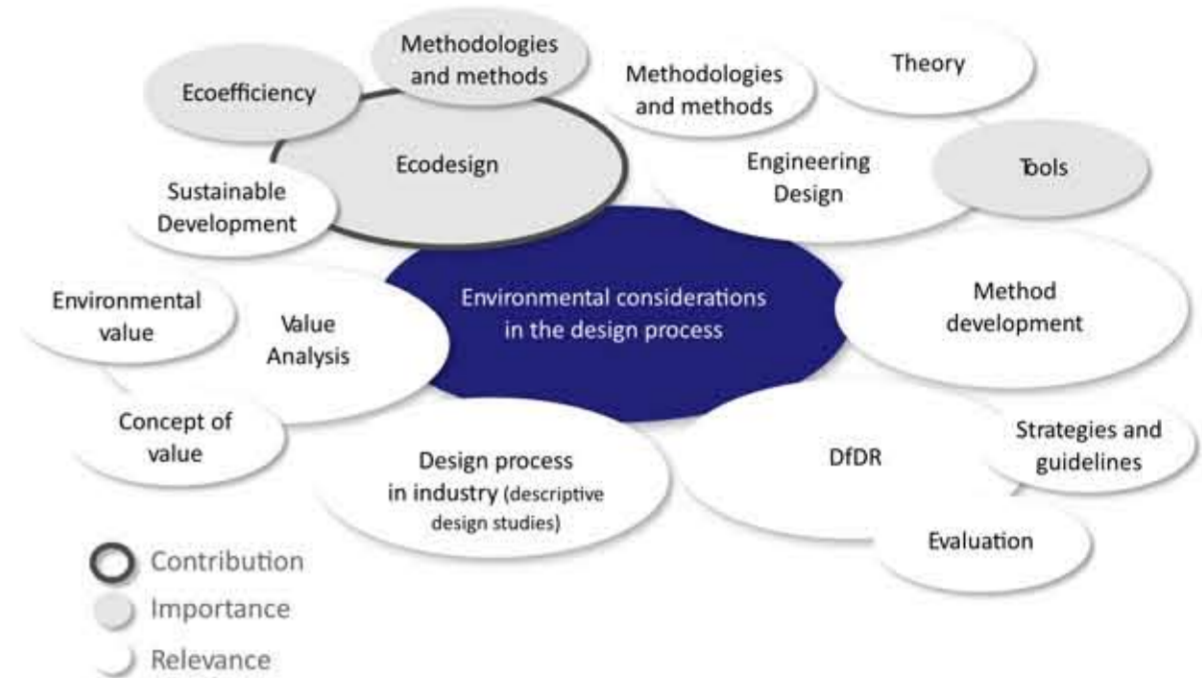
Can environmental evaluation be included systematically in the design process?

Can the concept of ecoefficiency become useful in the deployment of new products? How?

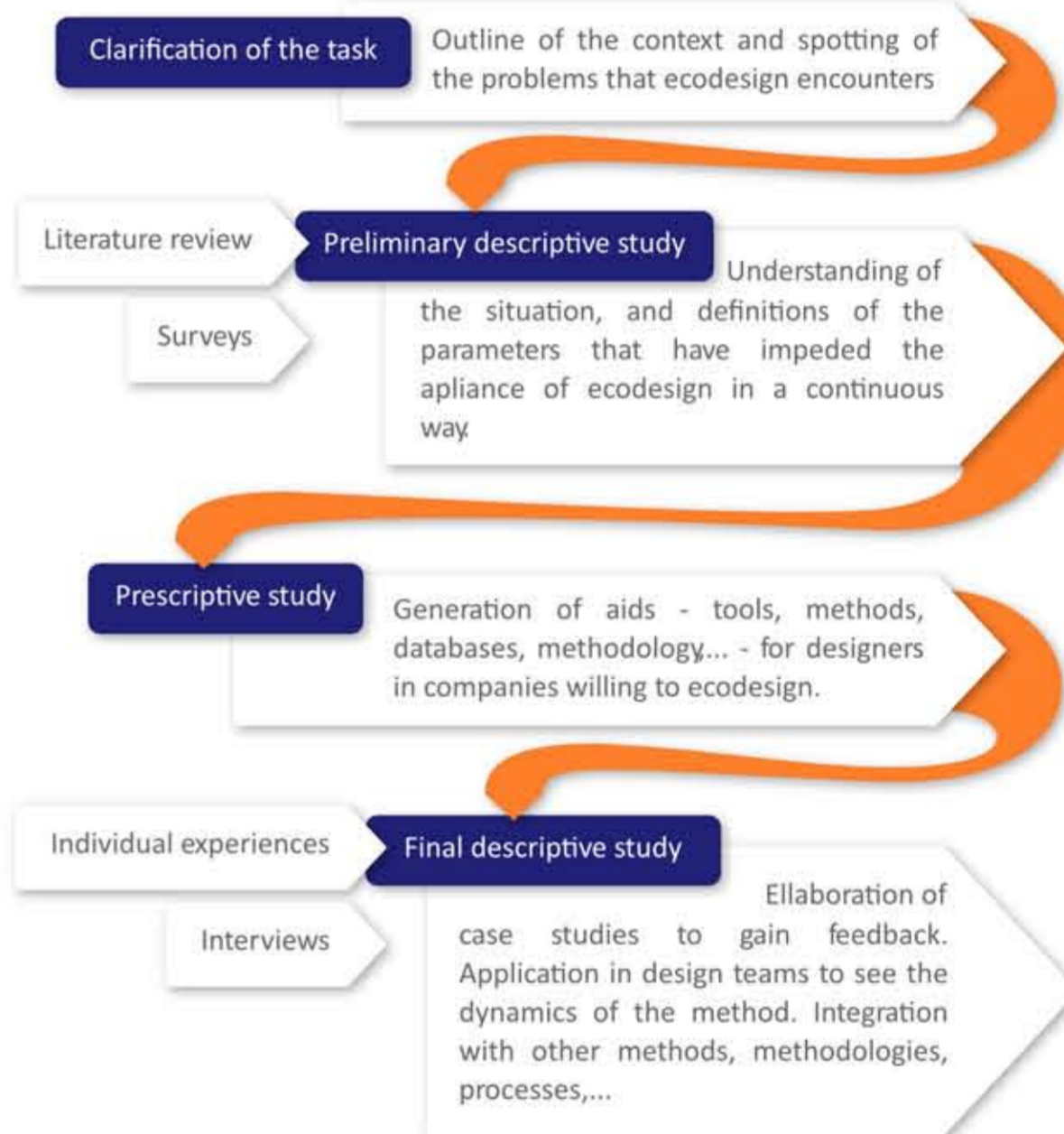
## 3 REFERENCE MODEL



## 4 AREAS OF RELEVANCE AND CONTRIBUTION



## 5 RESEARCH APPROACH



## 6 EXPECTED RESULTS

- Knowledge of the problems encountered in the systematic consideration of environmental impacts.
- Strategies that can be followed to ensure the correct application of ecodesign tools.
- Different types of tasks of the ecodesigner and needs of the designer in each one of them.
- Amount and type of environmental information that is needed in different stages of the design process.
- Compilation of information needed by designers that can be generated by environmental experts.
- Method(s) or improvement of existing ones to increase implementation, making use of designer's motivation and contextual characteristics. Eventually development of an ecodesign tool.