Resource efficiency is a policy oriented concept. Resource efficiency means using the Earth’s limited resources in a sustainable manner while minimising impacts on the environment. It allows us to create more with less and to deliver greater value with less input (definition EU). It is a concept linked to « decoupling »: a continued economic development while reducing environmental pressure. It has been adopted internationally as a development direction, by the UN, the OECD and the EU. It is also a concept that is embraced by national governments, as well as by businesses. There is a strong link with the concept of eco-efficiency.

Scope

Indicators for resource-efficiency are manifold and have strong links to eco-efficiency and decoupling. Most commonly resource-efficiency indicators put resource use indicators in relation to the economic output, such as GDP, value added etc. Resource efficiency indicators can be provided at the macro-, meso and micro-level, both from a life cycle perspective as well as from a regional/territorial perspective. A distinction is made in resource productivity indicators (showing how much value/functionality is created from resources) and its reciproke resource efficiency indicators (showing how much resources are used to create a functional unit). The EU has adopted GDP/DMC as its core indicator of resource productivity. The environmental impacts dimension is then equalled to the use of resources.
| Contexts of use, application fields | -> contexts (e.g., environmental, economic, social assessment)  
| | -> which types of stakeholder questions are concerned?  
| | -> link to published studies that implement the method  
| | ► Not applicable  
| Input parameters | -> which parameters are needed to run the method  
| | ► Not applicable  
| Type(s) of related input data or knowledge needed and their possible source(s) | -> which types of data are needed to run the method, from which sources could they come...  
| | -> could be qualitative data or quantitative data, and also tacit knowledge, hybrid, etc.  
| | ► Not applicable  
| Model used (if any, geological mathematical, heuristic...) | -> e.g., geological model for mapping  
| | -> e.g., mathematical model such as mass balancing, matrix inversion, can be stepwise such as agent-based models, dynamic including time or quasidynamic specifying time series...  
| | -> can also be a scenario  
| | ► Not applicable  

### System and/or parameters considered

-> **the system can be described by its boundaries.** These can refer to a geographic location, like a country, or a city, the time period involved, products, materials, processes etc. involved, like flows and stocks of copper, or the cradle-to-grave chain of a cell phone, or the car fleet, or the construction sector, or the whole economy...

-> **parameters** could possibly refer to geographic co-ordinates, scale, commodities considered, genesis of ore deposits and others...

### Time / Space / Resolution /Accuracy / Plausibility...

-> **to which spatio-temporal domain it applies, with which resolution and/or accuracy (e.g., near future, EU 28, 1 year, country/regional/local level...)**

-> for foresight methods can also be plausibility, legitimacy and credibility...

### Indicators / Outputs / Units

-> **this refers to what the method is actually meant for.** Units are an important part but that is most of the time not sufficient to express the meaning. For example, the indicators used in LCA express the cradle-to-grave environmental impacts of a product or service. This can be expressed in kg CO₂-equivalent. But also in €. Or in millipoints. Or in m²/year land use.

-> for foresight methods the outputs are products or processes
### Treatment of uncertainty, verification, validation

Not applicable

-> evaluation of the uncertainty related to this method, how it can be calculated/estimated

### Main publications / references

Not applicable

-> e.g., ILCD handbook on LCA, standards (e.g., ISO)

-> can include reference to websites/pages

-> references to be entered with their DOI

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/resource_efficiency/
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/resource_efficiency/about/roadmap/index_en.htm
http://www.oecd.org/environment/resourceefficiency.htm
https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/resource-efficiency
https://www.wbcsd.org/

### Related methods

Not applicable

-> List of comparable methods, their particularities...

-> link to one or several other existing fact sheet(s)

### Some examples of operational tools (CAUTION, this list is not exhaustive)

Not applicable

-> e.g., software... Only give a listing and a reference (publication, website/page...)

-> should be provided only if ALL main actors are properly cited
### Key relevant contacts

-> list of relevant **types** of organisations that could provide further expertise and help with the methods described above.

- Not applicable

### Glossary of acronyms / abbreviations used

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