Checklist: PCF in four steps

The process of calculating a PCF can be divided into four key phases:

1. Step	 Define goal & Scope Define the objective and target audience: internal, regulatory, or customer-specific? Determine the functional unit and system boundaries (e.g., Cradle-to-Gate or Cradle-to-Grave) Select suitable software and databases to support the calculation process Pilot projects provide a pragmatic starting point and lay the foundation for scaling
2. Step	 Data collection Data collection is based on the BOMs, supplemented with transport, process, energy, & waste data Emission factors come from databases or directly from suppliers High data quality – especially for raw materials – is essential for reliable results Standardization, software, and an iterative approach support scalability and efficiency
3. Step	 Consider environmental impacts PCF calculations focus on greenhouse gas emissions; additional impacts require a separate LCA A holistic view helps avoid goal conflicts, such as excessive water consumption Consistent methods and clear data mapping ensure comparability and reveal optimization potential
4. Step	 Report and communication Clearly document the calculation method, including assumptions and uncertainties Transparent communication builds external credibility Use the report as a foundation for climate strategy and reduction