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The Imperative and Implementation of Eco-Friendly Product Design

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Abstract: Eco-friendly product design integrates environmental considerations (like recycled materials, energy efficiency, recyclability) into the entire product lifecycle—from sourcing to disposal—to minimize ecological impact, addressing resource depletion and pollution by optimizing material use, reducing waste, and promoting circularity, requiring innovative tools and strategies to overcome implementation challenges for sustainable development and consumer trust. This abstract provides an overview of the core principles and methodologies of eco-friendly product design. Key principles centre on material selection (prioritizing renewable, recycled, or biodegradable inputs), dematerialization, energy efficiency, and designing for longevity, disassembly, and recycling (aligned with the 3R and 10R principles). Tools such as Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) and Design for Environment (DfE) are instrumental in evaluating environmental performance and identifying areas for improvement.

The implementation of ecodesign is a cornerstone of the broader circular economy model, which seeks to decouple economic growth from finite resource consumption by creating closed-loop systems where materials retain their value and are regenerated rather than wasted. While challenges such as initial costs, data availability, and the need for cross-functional collaboration exist, adopting ecodesign strategies offers substantial environmental and economic benefits, including reduced operating costs, enhanced brand image, and improved market competitiveness. This approach is not merely an ethical obligation but a strategic necessity for businesses aiming to foster a more sustainable future.

Keywords: Lifecycle Approach, Material Focus, Process Optimization, Design for Disassembly, Waste Reduction







