

# Symposium pour l'électronique & le numérique durables

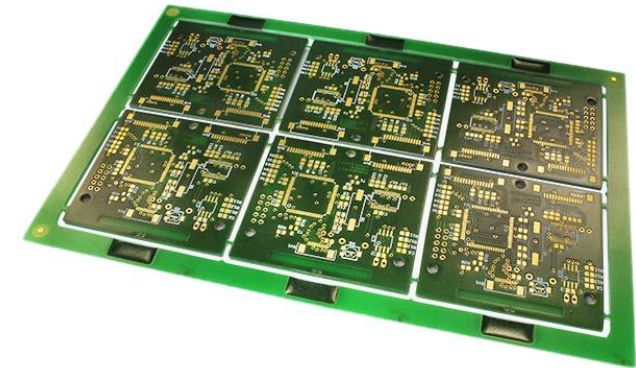
Le 12 décembre 2024, Grenoble

AVEC  
**tech&fest**



# Carbon Impact of Printed Circuit Boards

Grenoble – 12 décembre 2024  
Pierre Le Gargasson

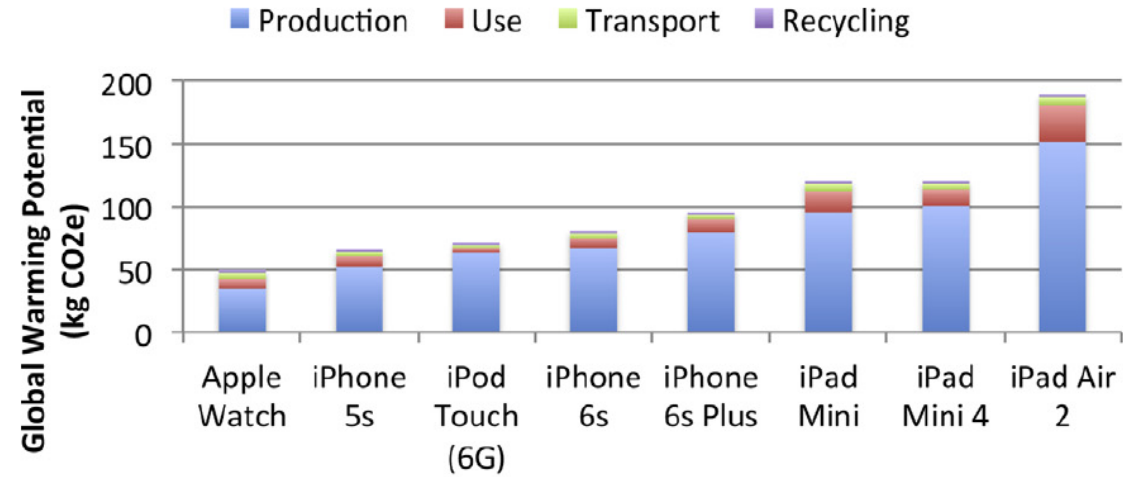


[https://fr.beta-layout.com/images/spec/multipanneau\\_PCB\\_\\_Beta\\_LAYOUT.jpg](https://fr.beta-layout.com/images/spec/multipanneau_PCB__Beta_LAYOUT.jpg)

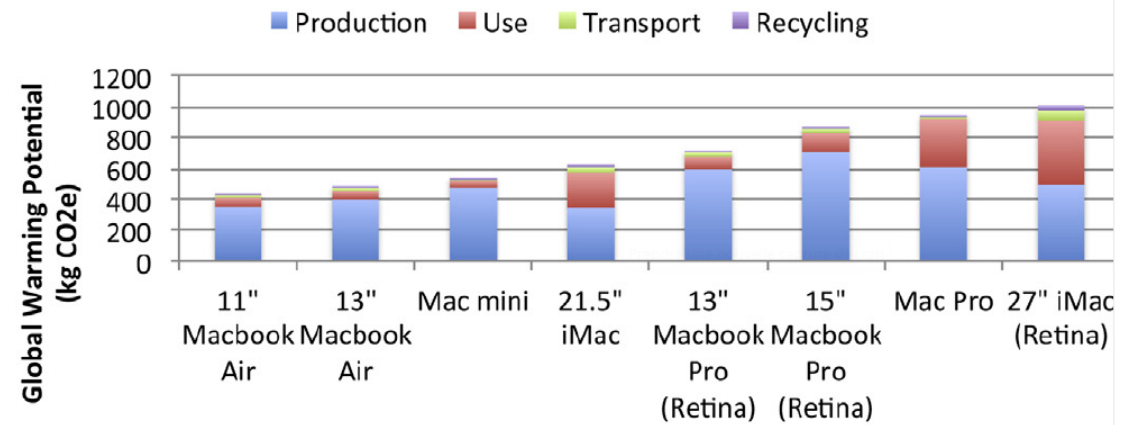
# LCA of electronics



- Carbon footprint by lifecycle step



(a) Tablets



(b) Computers

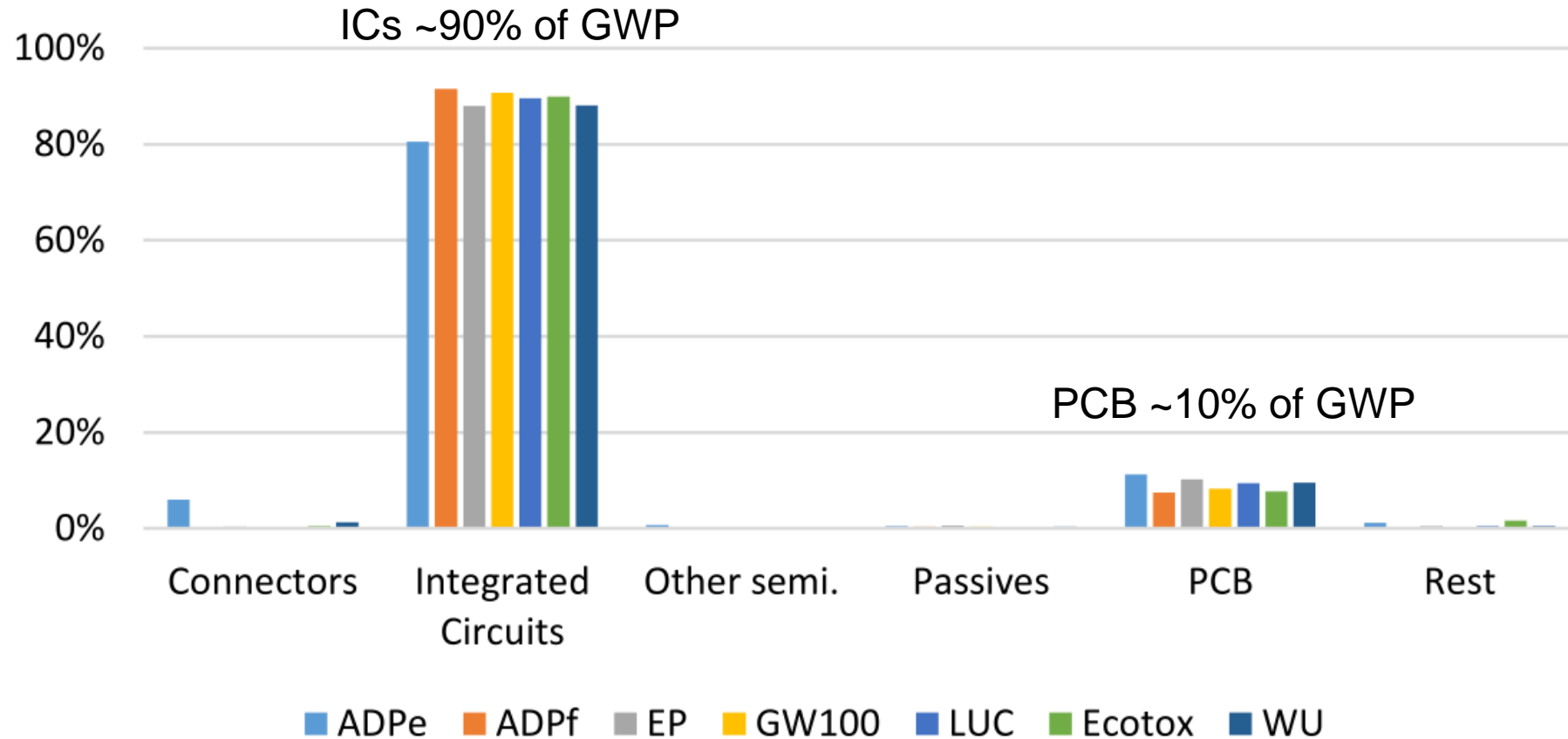
Source : Donald Kline Jr. (2019)



# Global Warming Potential example

□ Fairphone 5

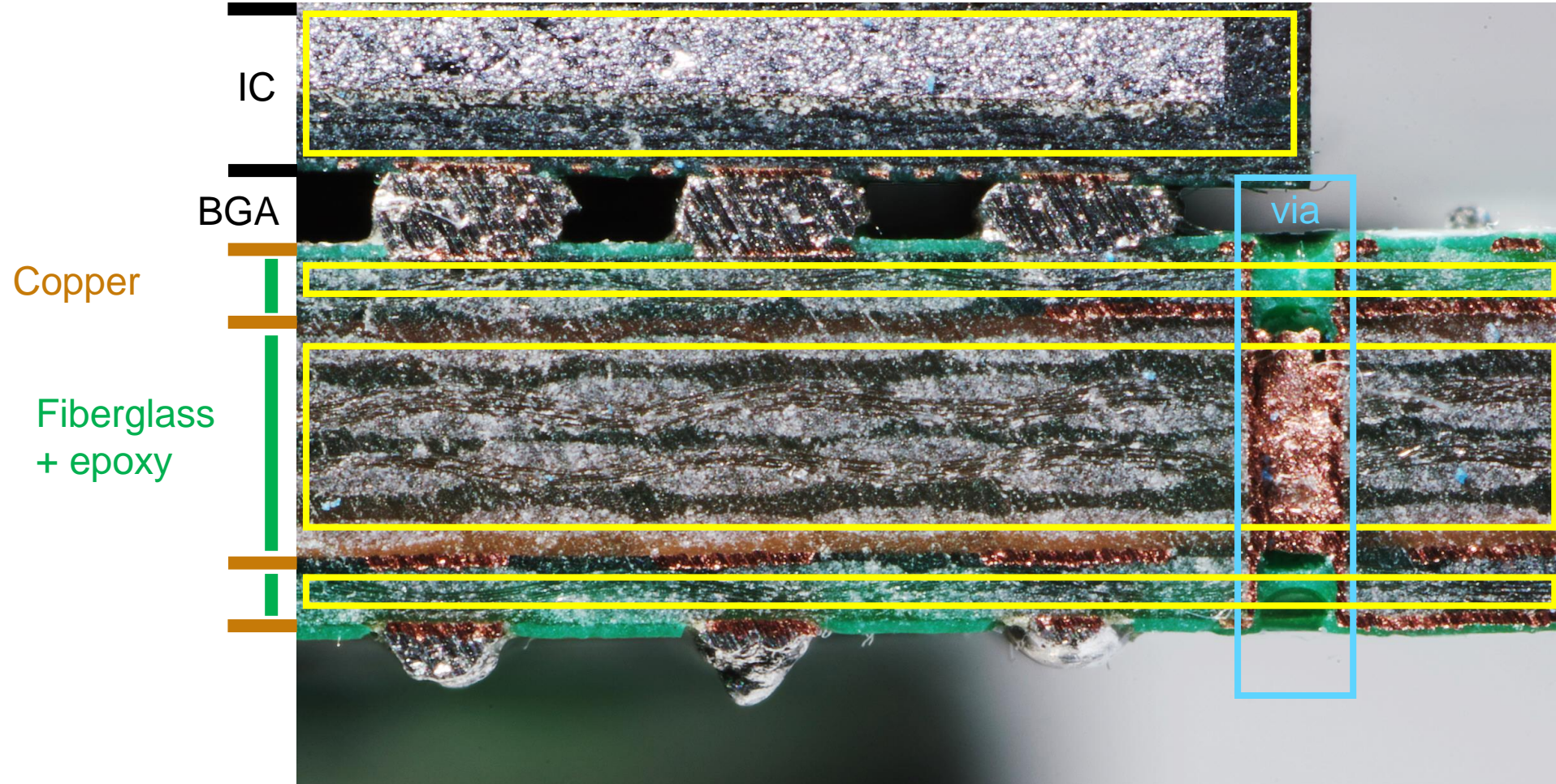
## Primary PCBA impacts distribution, per component group



# PCB



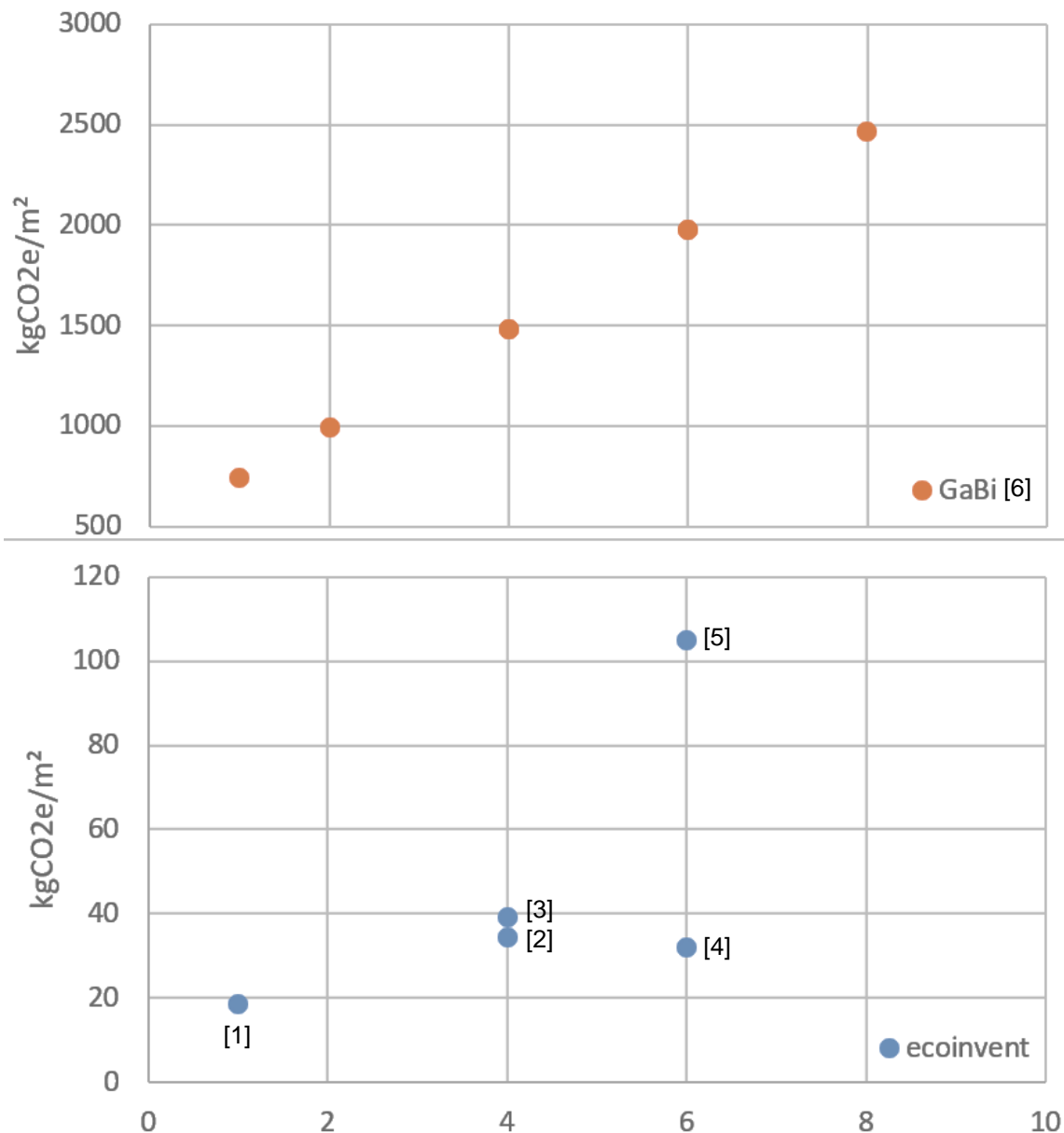
## Plated Through-Hole (PTH) FR-4 PCB



# Carbon impact of PCBs in the Literature



## PCB carbon intensity in the Literature



### □ PCB LCAs scaled to a reference unit

- [1] E. Ozkan, N. Elginöz, and F. Germirli Babuna, “Life cycle assessment of a printed circuit board manufacturing plant in Turkey,” *Environmental Science and Pollution Research*, vol. 25, no. 27, pp. 26 801–26 808, Sep. 2018. [Online]. Available: <http://link.springer.com/10.1007/s11356-017-0280-z>
- [2] M. N. Nassajfar, I. Deviatkin, V. Leminen, and M. Horttanainen, “Alternative Materials for Printed Circuit Board Production: An Environmental Perspective,” *Sustainability*, vol. 13, no. 21, p. 12126, Nov. 2021. [Online]. Available: <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/13/21/12126>
- [3] J. Liu, C. Yang, H. Wu, Z. Lin, Z. Zhang, R. Wang, B. Li, F. Kang, L. Shi, and C. P. Wong, “Future paper based printed circuit boards for green electronics: fabrication and life cycle assessment,” *Energy Environ. Sci.*, vol. 7, no. 11, pp. 3674–3682, 2014. [Online]. Available: <http://xlink.rsc.org/?DOI=C4EE01995D>
- [4] Y. Deng, D. Paraskevas, Y. Tian, K. Van Acker, W. Dewulf, and J. R. Duflou, “Life cycle assessment of flax-fibre reinforced epoxidized linseed oil composite with a flame retardant for electronic applications,” *Journal of Cleaner Production*, vol. 133, pp. 427–438, Oct. 2016. [Online]. Available: <https://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S0959652616306515>
- [5] <https://ecoquery.ecoinvent.org/3.10/cutoff/dataset/9764/documentation>, accessed 2024-10-01
- [6] K. Grant, S. Zhang, and J. Kettle, “Improving the sustainability of printed circuit boards through additive printing,” in *2023 IEEE Conference on Technologies for Sustainability (SusTech)*, 2023, pp. 86–90. [Online]. Available: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/10129587>



# Carbon impact of PCBs from manufacturers



- Gate-to-gate scope
- Energy
- GHG emissions
  - Scope 1 : direct
  - Scope 2 : indirect (energy)
  
- Analyze 25 manufacturers

 TOP 25 PCB SUPPLIERS MANUFACTURING LOCATIONS

FACTORY LOCATIONS

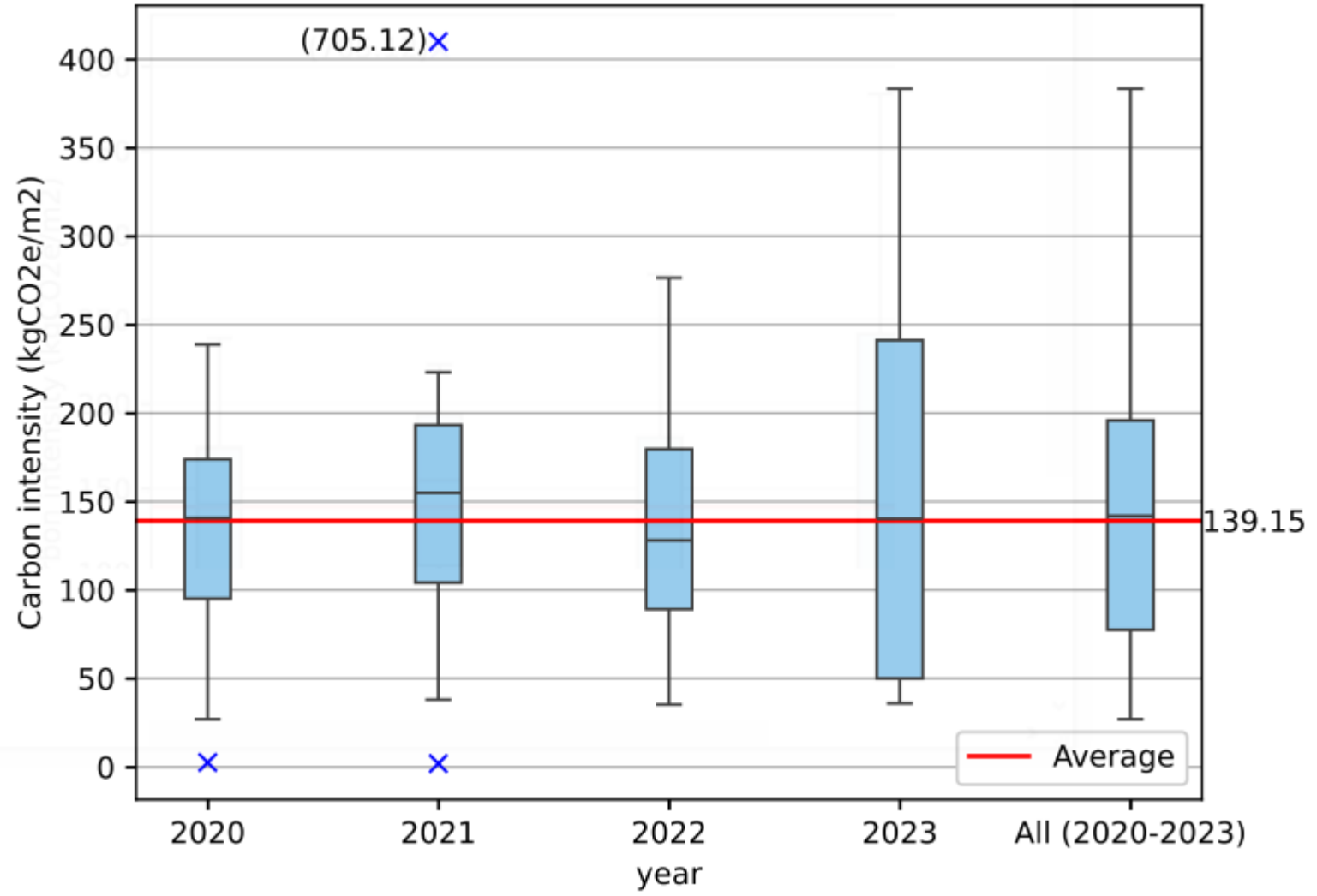
Company	Americas	Europe	Japan	China	Taiwan	Korea	Thailand	Vietnam	Malaysia	Philippines	India
Zhen Ding				√	√		•				√
Unimicron				√	√		•				
Dongshan Precision				√			•				
Nippon Mektron			√	√	√		√	√			
Ccmpeq				√	√		•				
TTM	√			√					•		
Tripod				√	√			•			
Nan Ya PCB				√	√						
AT&S		√		√		√			•		√
Ibiden			√	√					√	√	
Young Poong Group				√		√		√			
Shennan Circuit				√			•				
Kingboard Group				√			√				
SEMCO						√		√•			
Shinko			√								
Kinwoog				√			•				
FLEXium				√	√						
WUS Group				√	√		•				
HannStar				√	√				√•		
Simmtech			√	√					√		
BH Co				√		√		√•			
Maiko			√	√				√•			
Kinsus				√	√				•		
Victory Giant				√			•	•			
Gold circuit			√	√			•				

• New facility / investment either announced recently or still in construction  
 √ Existing factory that can pivot production or volume production  
 Source : PRISMARK PARTNERS LLC : The Printed Circuit Report, Third Quarter, November 2023

# Carbon intensity



- 11 companies
- 35 samples over 4 years
- Large variance
  - 27 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/m<sup>2</sup>
  - 383.41 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/m<sup>2</sup>
  
- Average
  - 11.8 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e (4y)
  - 84.7 million m<sup>2</sup> (4y)
  - 139 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/m<sup>2</sup>



- ❑ Prismark PCB annual report
- ❑ Sampled in Thailand + Taiwan + China
- ❑ PTH FR-4 PCBs (68% world production)

2021 PCB PRODUCTION ESTIMATION (AREA)

(M m <sup>2</sup> )	Paper	Composite	Rigid DS	Multilayer				HDI	Package Substrate	Flex	Total
				4 Layer	6 Layer	8 – 16 Layer	18+ Layers				
Americas	0.1	0.2	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.9	<b>4.3</b>
Europe	0.1	0.9	2.4	1.1	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.5	<b>5.9</b>
Japan	0.6	3.7	0.6	1.6	1.1	0.6	0.1	0.7	1.8	3.4	<b>14.2</b>
China	42.2	44.6	66.3	88.8	41.1	17.2	0.7	12.9	3.0	33.3	<b>350.2</b>
Asia (xJP/CN)	9.9	9.6	9.8	10.1	8.0	5.0	0.3	5.5	7.5	23.8	<b>89.4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>52.9</b>	<b>59.0</b>	<b>80.2</b>	<b>102.2</b>	<b>51.2</b>	<b>23.5</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>62.1</b>	<b>464.1</b>

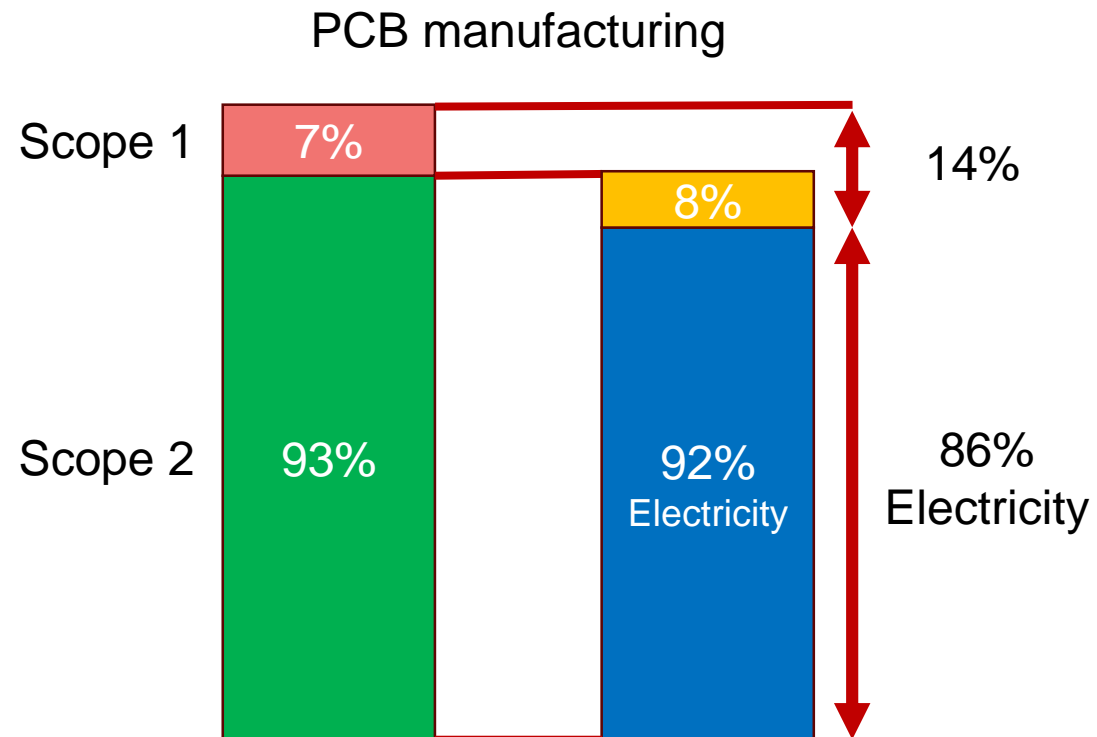
❑ Average stackup = 3.9 layers



- ❑ PCB manufacturing : 86% based on electricity
- ❑ Location based on electricity mix (ecoinvent v3.10 EF v3.1)

- ❑ Average TH + TW + CH
  - ❑ 139 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/m<sup>2</sup>

- ❑ Average Global
  - ❑ 109 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/m<sup>2</sup>
  - ❑ 3.9 layers



- ❑ Optimistic / Average / Pessimistic evaluation of PTH FR-4 PCB
- ❑ Gate-to-gate scope

	25% quantile	Average	75% quantile
Region	kgCO2e/m <sup>2</sup>		
Global	60.73	109.03	153.51
Asia	77.54	139.23	196.03
China	79.93	143.52	202.08
Taiwan	65.03	116.76	164.40
Europe	26.91	48.31	68.02
France	6.27	11.26	15.85
Germany	36.20	65.00	91.52
USA/Canada	36.78	66.04	92.99