

# Environmentally Friendly Products

**Fiscal 2011 Topics** ● LCA activities have commenced in all divisions.

## Basic Philosophy

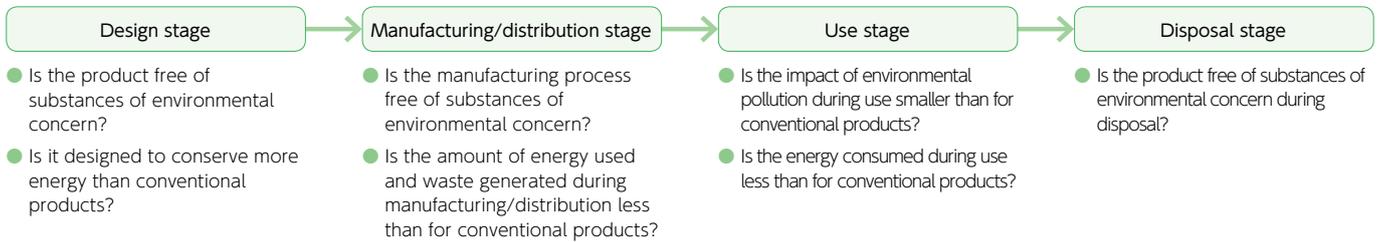
The NGK SPARK PLUG Group aims to contribute to improving the global environment through its products by making efforts to reduce the environmental burden throughout the lifecycle of its products, from raw material procurement to product disposal. Aside from efforts to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and waste during the

manufacturing and distribution processes, we are also endeavoring to produce environmentally friendly products by controlling the amount of energy involved in using and disposing of the product by customers and ensuring that they do not contain substances of environmental concern.

## Product Assessment

To reduce the environmental burden from procuring, using and disposing of raw materials, it is important to predict the environmental impact at the design stage, and to take prompt countermeasures when any negative impact is foreseen. To ensure this, we conduct product assessments when we develop new products or change the specifications of existing products.

During a product assessment, the existence of substances of environmental concern, the amount of energy used, etc. are confirmed at each of the design, manufacturing/distribution, use, and disposal stages. If the assessment determines that there is a significant environmental impact, countermeasures will be taken before development is continued.



## Reducing Environmental Burden Throughout the Lifecycle

To reduce the environmental burden throughout the entire lifecycle of a product, we conduct an LCA (life cycle assessment) on our key products. LCA is a method of providing an objective assessment on the impact on global warming and resource depletion throughout the entire lifecycle of a product. Making a more comprehensive,

scientific and quantitative assessment allows us to clarify present problems and their magnitude, and reflect the results into designs, process, etc. In fiscal 2011, LCA activities began in all divisions. In the future, we will create a mechanism to promote assessment in our product models so as to utilize the results in our designs.