

# Amorim Cork Composites products LCA

Amorim Cork Composites

**September 2021**

## Disclaimer

EY LCA analysis follows a life-cycle approach based on ISO Standard 14040 and is based on Amorim Cork Composites data and business assumptions. The results presented are not third-party verified.

# Agenda

## 1. About the study

## 2. Carbon footprint

### Cradle-to-gate

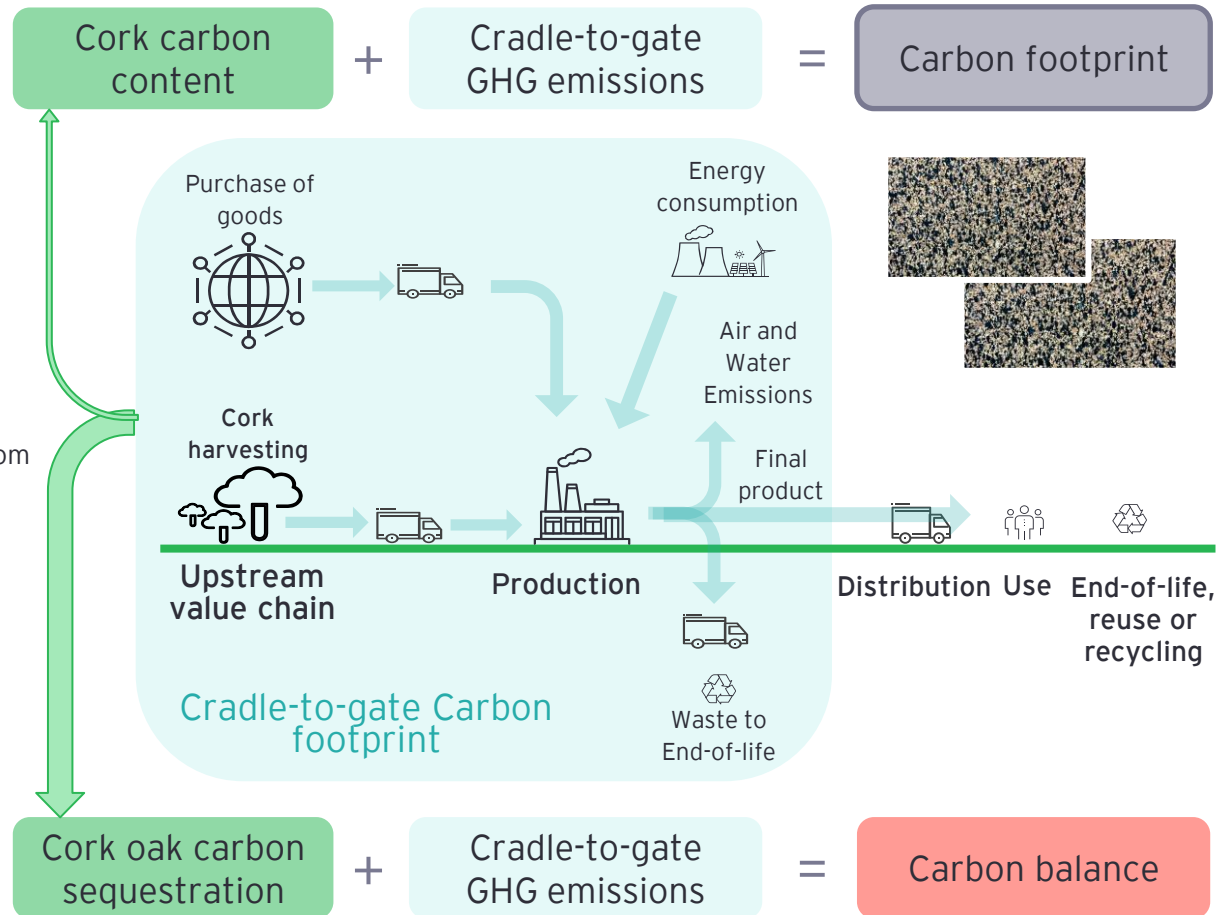
Climate Change impact category from ILCD method

## 3. Carbon balance

Scenario analysis with carbon sequestration at the forest stage

## 4. LCA results

### Cradle-to-gate





# 1

## About the study

# About the study

## Context

- ▶ The **main purpose** is to quantify the potential environmental impacts of the products Underlay Plus 5080 and Underlay Plus 5080 VB, through a life cycle approach.
- ▶ **Products** : Underlay Plus 5080 and Underlay Plus 5080 VB
- ▶ **Approach**: *cradle-to-gate* (from raw material extraction to the finished product at the factory gate)
- ▶ **Functional unit**: 1 m<sup>2</sup> of product
- ▶ **Modelling software and database** : SimaPro 9.1 with ecoinvent 3.5 database
- ▶ **Method** : Midpoint characterization factors recommended by the International Reference Life Cycle Data System (ILCD)
- ▶ **Products**

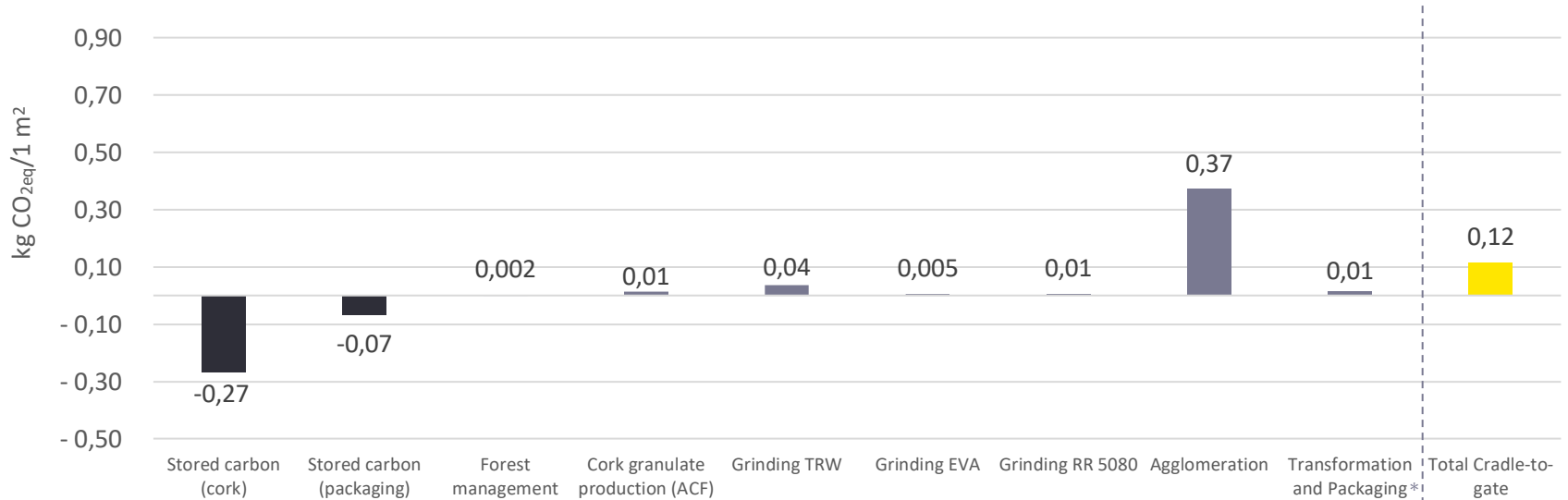
Product characteristics	Underlay Plus 5080	Underlay Plus 5080 VB
Size (mm x mm x mm)	1 000 mm x 1 000 mm x 2 mm	1 000 mm x 1 000 mm x 2 mm
Weight (kg) - packed	0,68	0,68
Weight (kg) - unpacked	0,64	0,59
	21% cork 	19% cork 
Components (%) - packed product	61% recycled materials 12% customization products 6% packaging material	56% recycled materials 11% customization products 14% packaging materials

- ▶ **Accounting for the use of recycled/reused raw materials** : these materials enter the product system as having zero burdens and benefits. Only the transport of these materials is accounted in the study.

# 2

## Carbon footprint

# Carbon footprint: Underlay Plus 5080

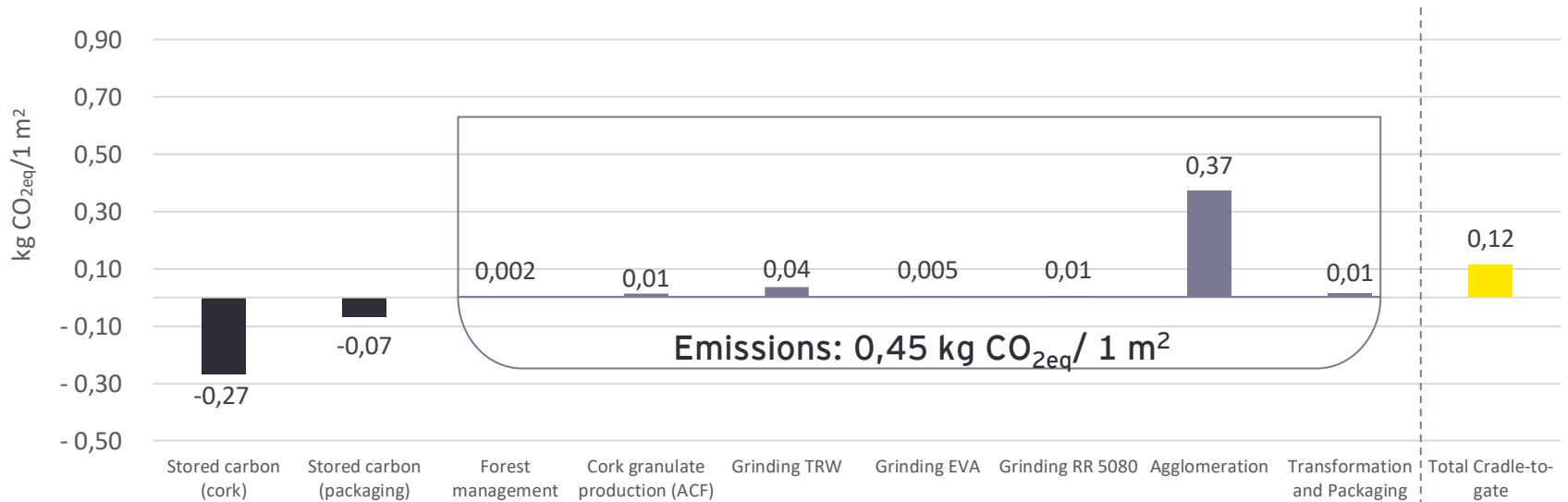


## Underlay Plus 5080 carbon footprint:

- ▶ Carbon stored in cork : **-0,27** kg CO<sub>2</sub> /1 m<sup>2</sup>
- ▶ Cradle-to-gate: **0,12** kg CO<sub>2eq</sub> /1 m<sup>2</sup>

\*Packaging stage only includes the packaging materials consumption impact, since electricity data obtained from stages transformation and packaging together cannot be separated. For the final results both stages may be presented together.

# Carbon footprint: Underlay Plus 5080 results



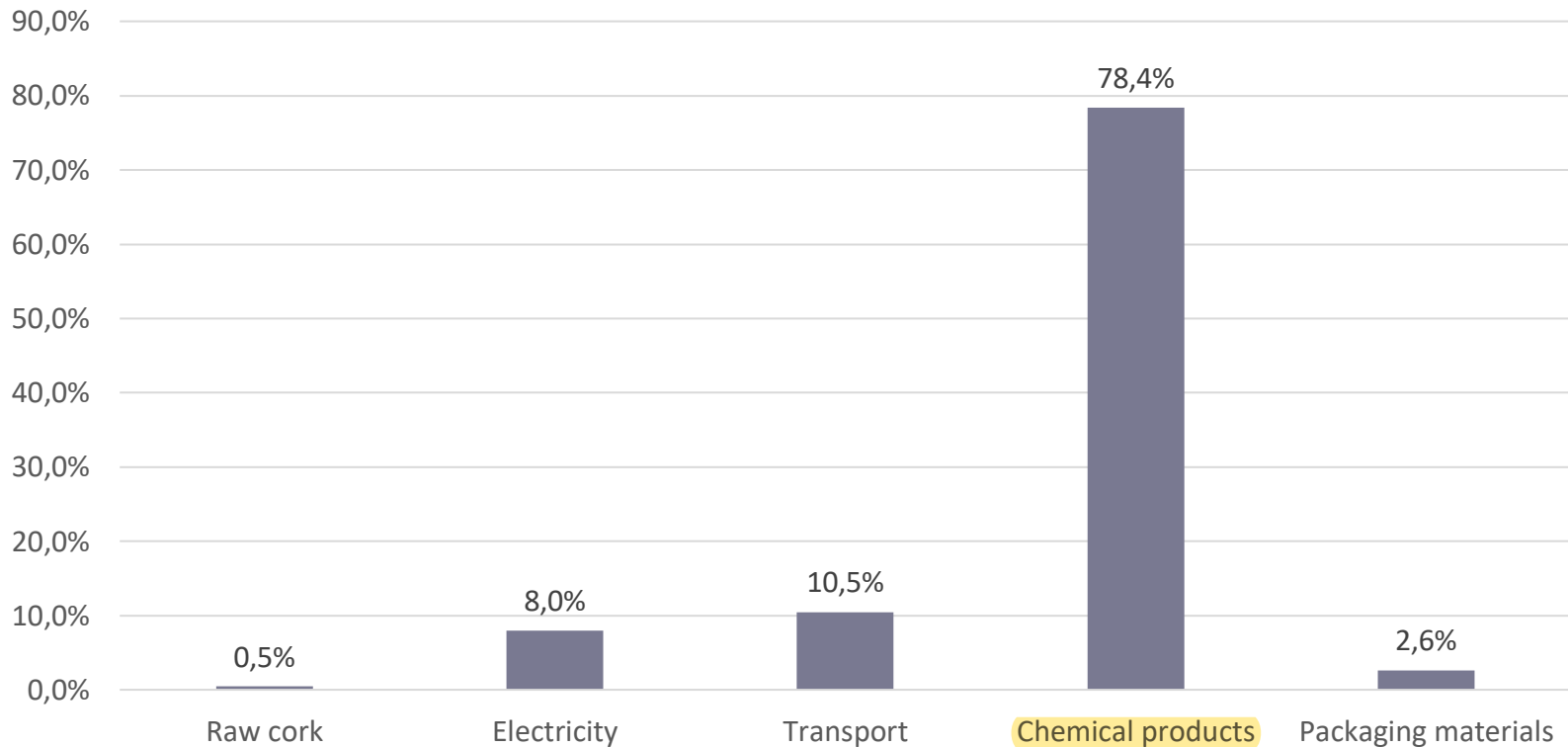
**82%** emissions associated with agglomeration process and **8%** associated with grinding TRW process



- ▶ Most upstream value chain activities carbon impacts (e.g. production and purchase of chemical products as well as transport of raw and recycled materials) are reflected in these stages



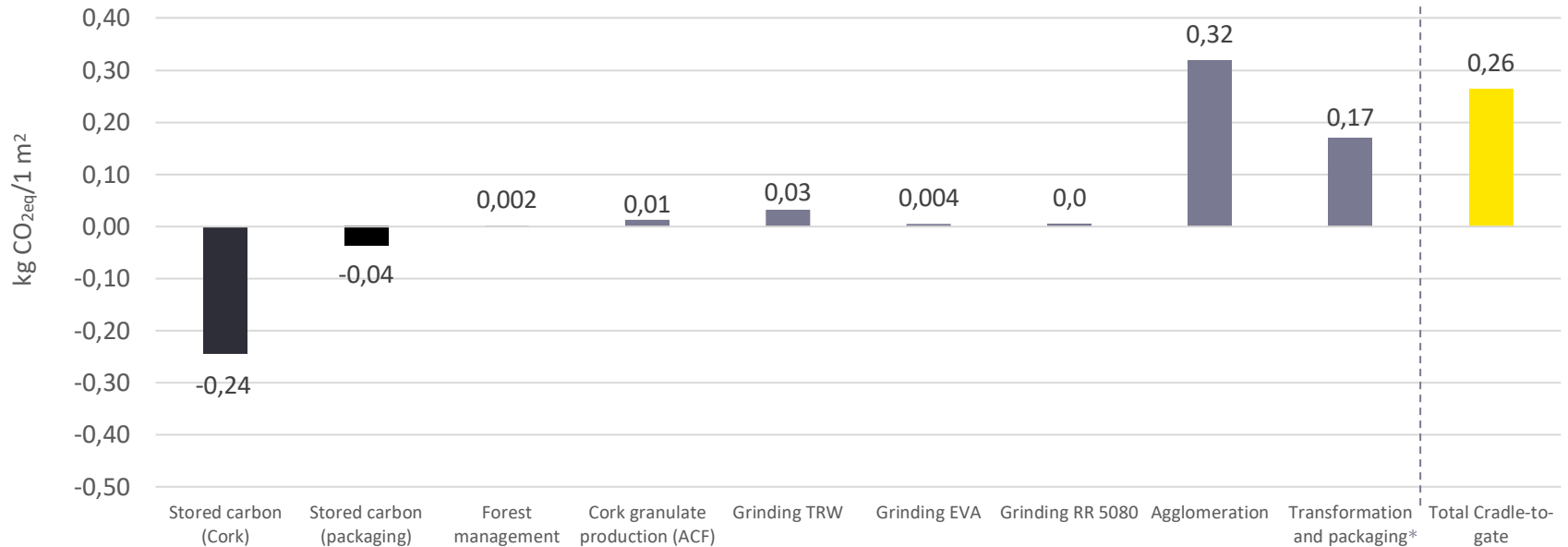
# Underlay Plus 5080: key emission sources



## GHG emissions most relevant flows are associated with

- ▶ Consumption of **chemical products** (e.g. agglomeration binders)
- ▶ Transport of recycled materials (steering wheels waste) from distant locations (e.g. Mexico and Marroco), both by truck and ship

# Carbon footprint: Underlay Plus 5080 VB

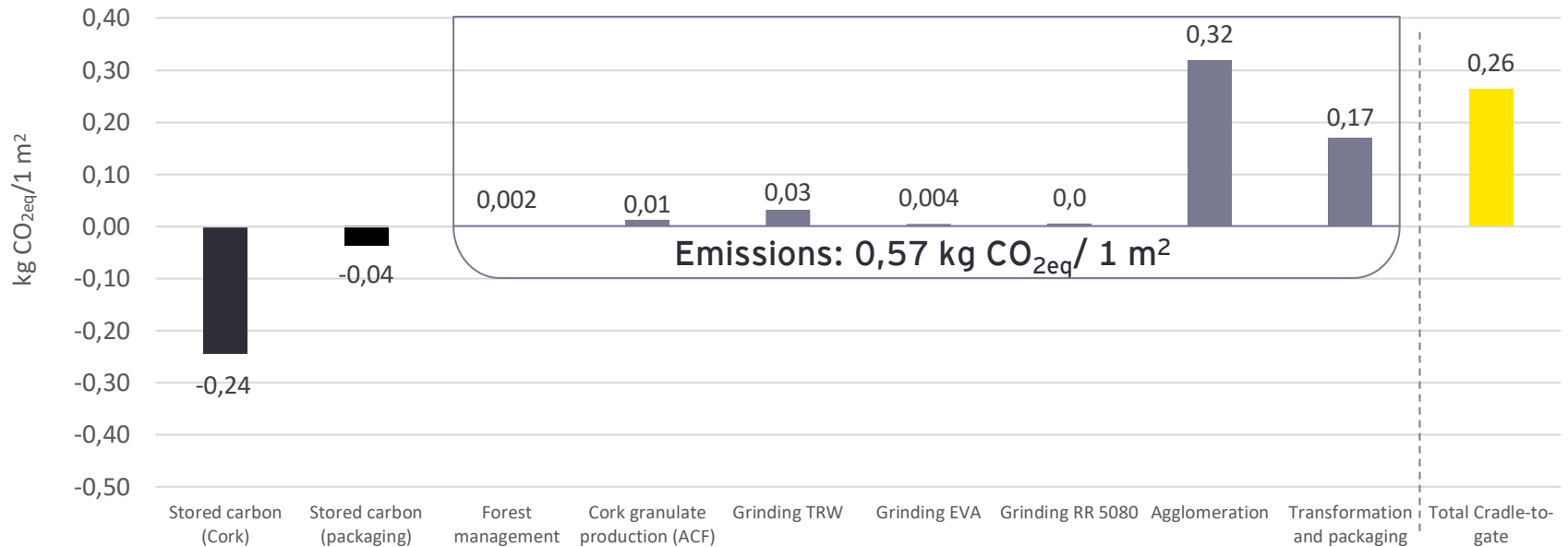


## Underlay Plus 5080 VB carbon footprint:

- ▶ Carbon stored in cork : **-0,24** kg CO<sub>2</sub> /1 m<sup>2</sup>
- ▶ Cradle-to-gate: **0,26** kg CO<sub>2eq</sub> /1 m<sup>2</sup>

\*Packaging stage only includes the packaging materials consumption impact, since electricity data obtained from stages transformation and packaging together cannot be separated. For the final results both stages may be presented together.

# Carbon footprint: Underlay Plus 5080 VB results

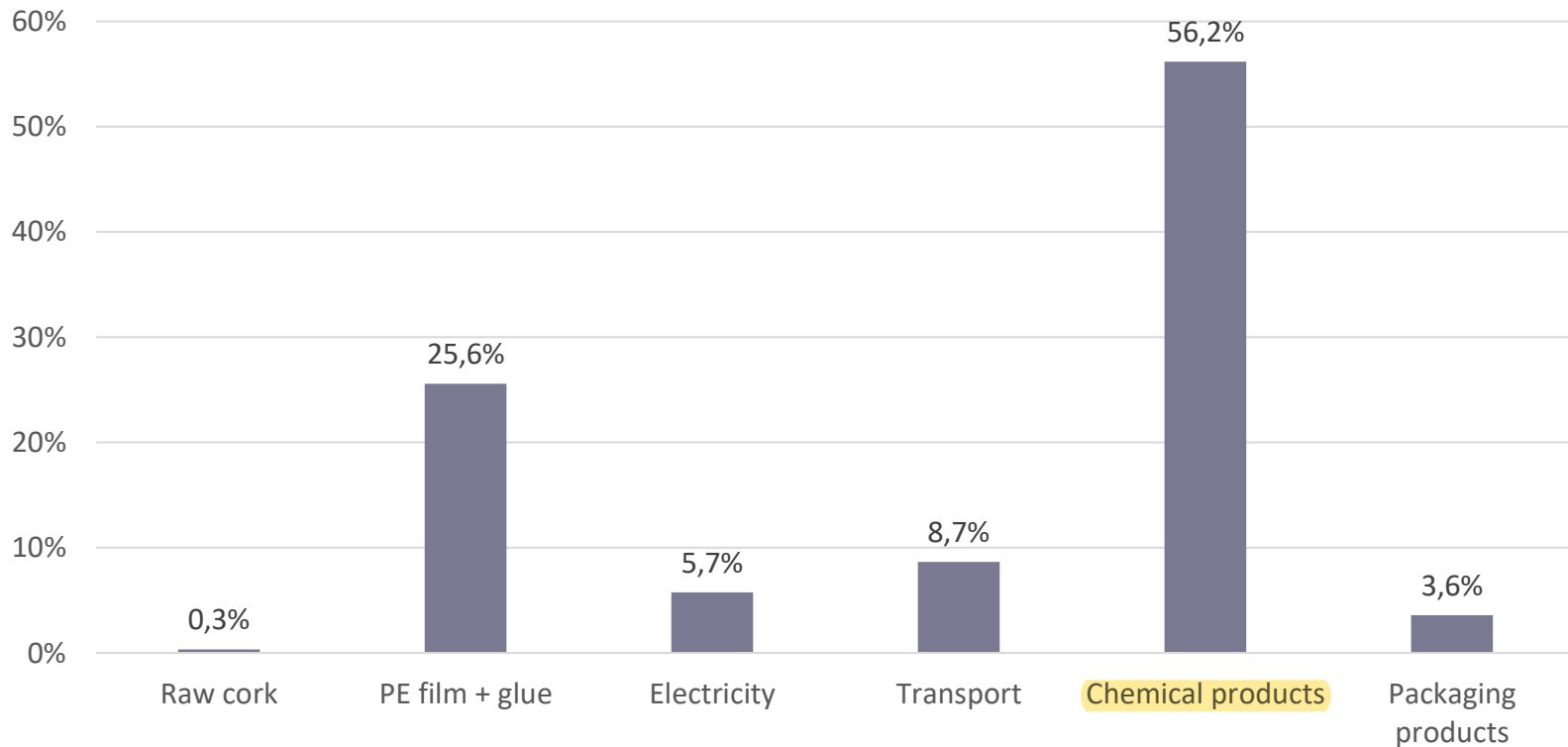


**56%** emissions associated with agglomeration process, **34%** emissions associated with transformation and **6%** emissions associated with grinding TRW process.

- ▶ Most upstream value chain activities carbon impacts (e.g. production and purchase of **chemical products** as well as transport of raw and recycled materials) are reflected in these stages



# Underlay Plus 5080 VB: key emission sources



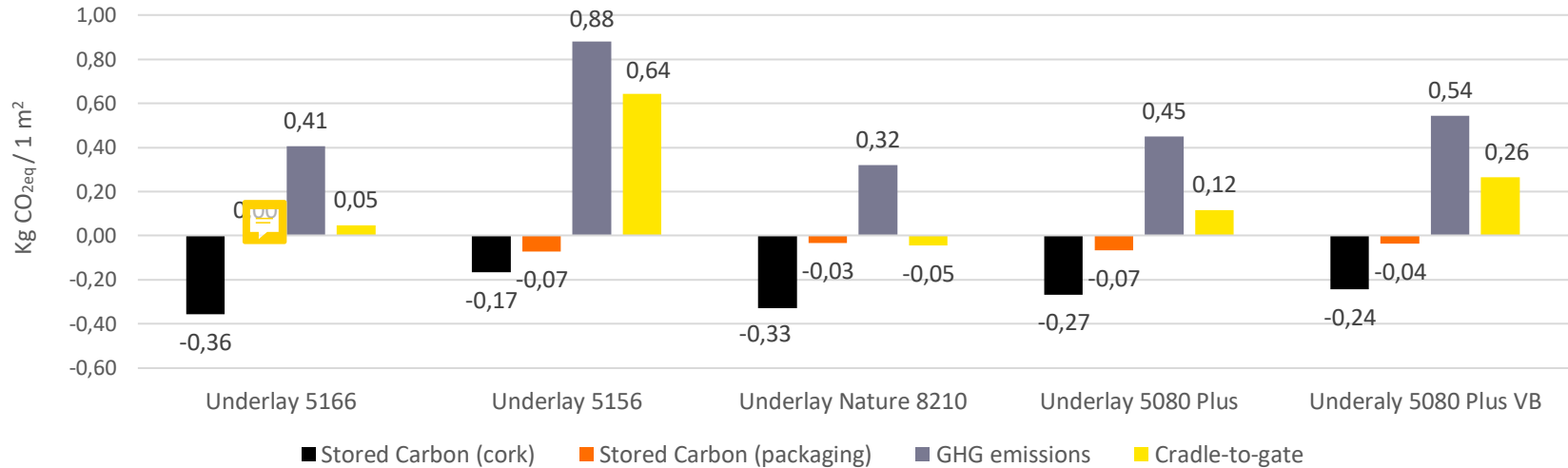
## GHG emissions most relevant flows are associated with

- ▶ Consumption of **chemical products** (e.g. agglomeration binders)
- ▶ Consumption of PE film and binder (vapour barrier)
- ▶ Transport of recycled materials (steering wheels waste) from distant locations (e.g. Mexico and Marroco), both by truck and ship

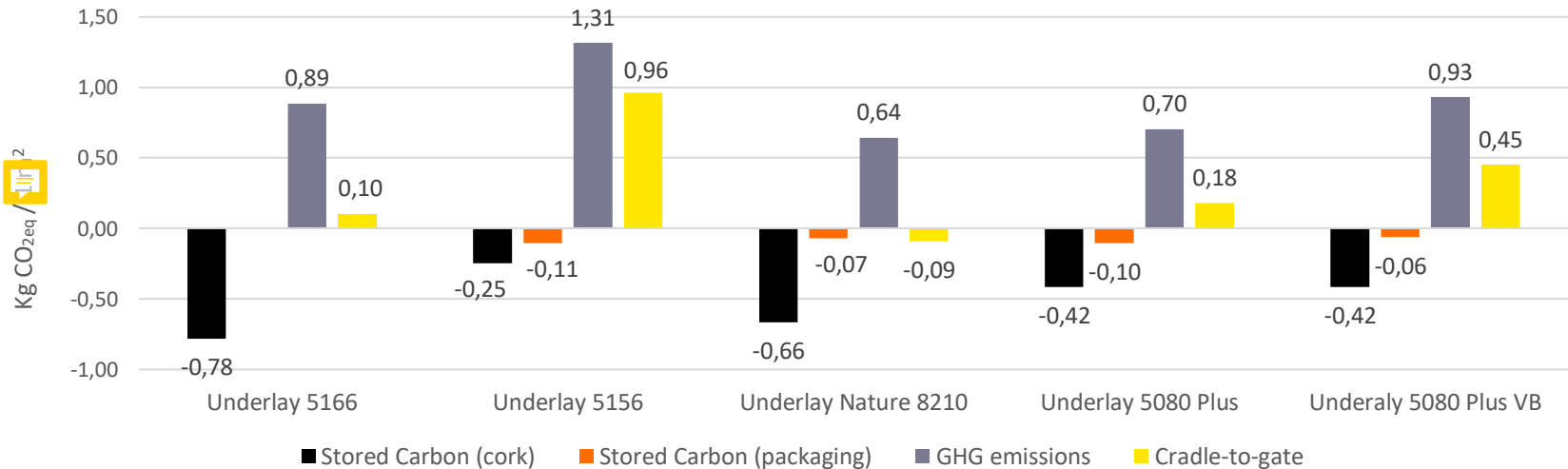
# Comparison

# 1. Carbon footprint: benchmark

## Carbon footprint for 1 m<sup>2</sup>



## Carbon footprint for 1kg



# 3

## Carbon balance

# Carbon balance: results

## Scenario analysis with carbon sequestration in the cork oak montado

For the average stopper when considering carbon sequestration in the cork oak\* montado:

There is a **forest storage up to:**

- **10,3**

kg CO<sub>2</sub>/1 m<sup>2</sup> Underlay Plus 5080

- **9,4**

kg CO<sub>2</sub>/1 m<sup>2</sup> Underlay Plus 5080 VB

Therefore, the **carbon balance reaches up to:**

- **9,9**

kg CO<sub>2eq</sub>/1 m<sup>2</sup> Underlay Plus 5080

- **8,9**

kg CO<sub>2eq</sub>/1 m<sup>2</sup> Underlay Plus 5080 VB

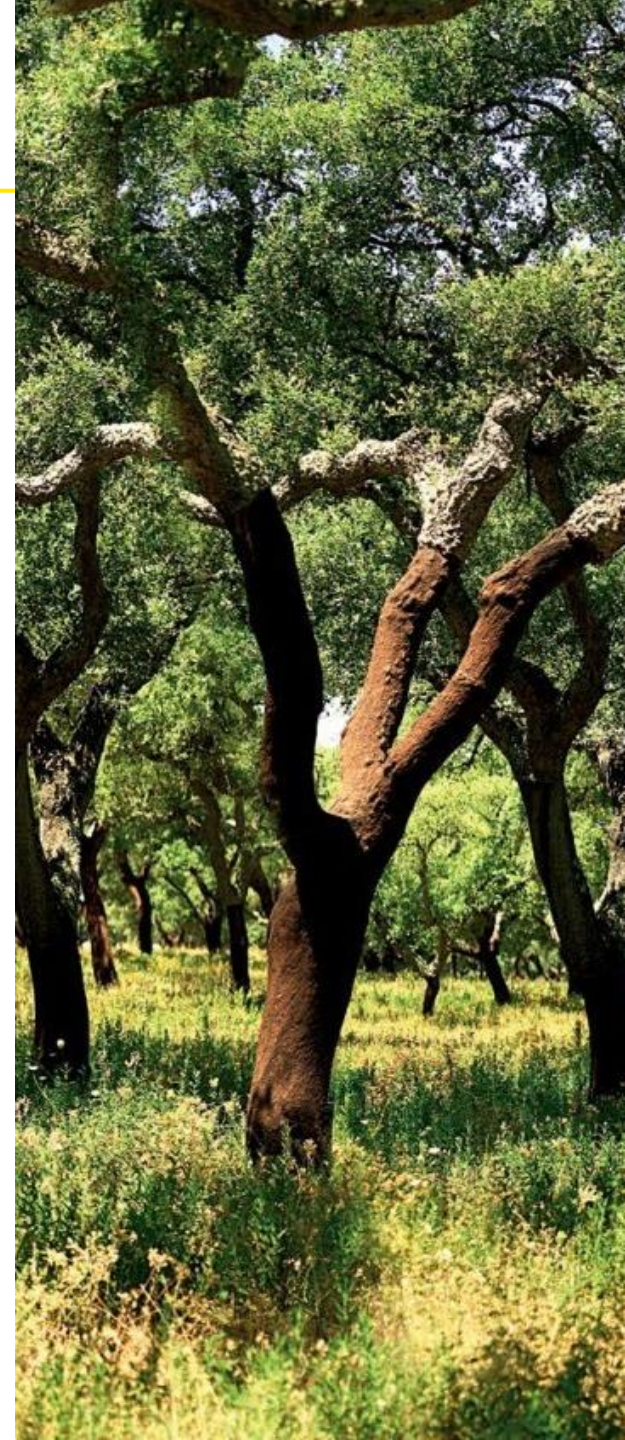
\* scenario analysis based on well-managed cork oak montado

- **73 t CO<sub>2</sub>/t cork**

Maximum ecosystem CO<sub>2</sub> uptake registered (14,7 tCO<sub>2</sub>/ha) (Costa-e-Silva et al., 2015).

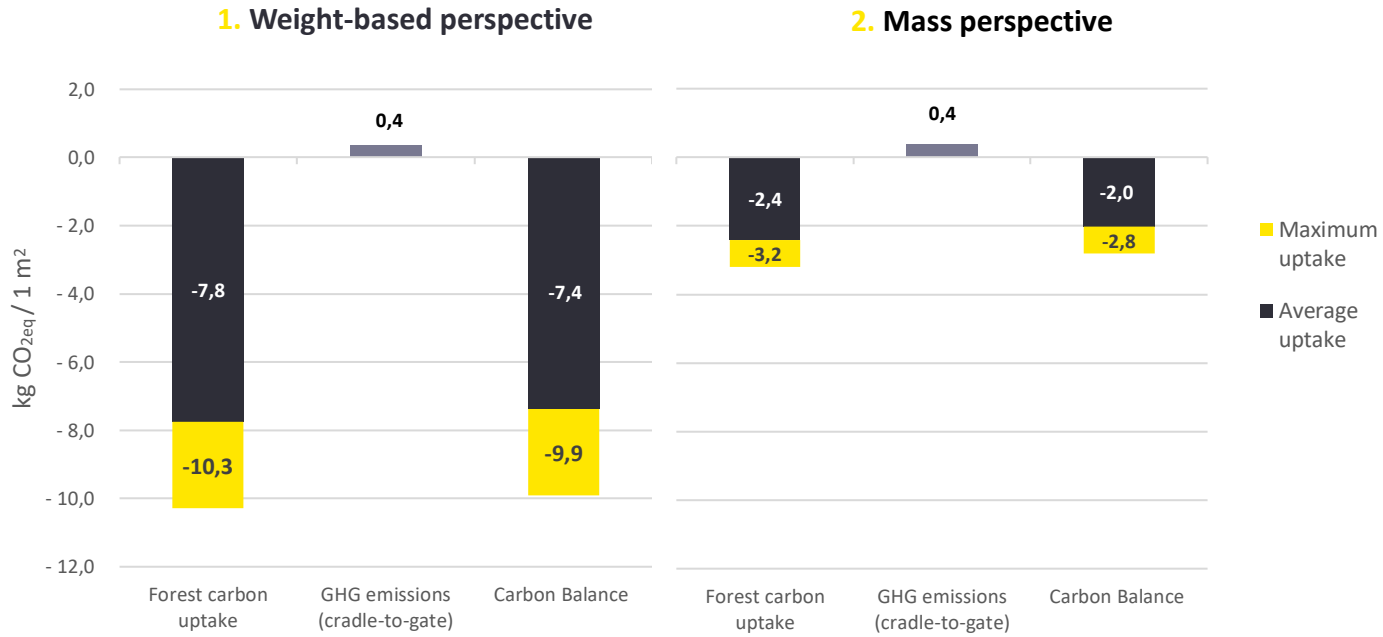
with the average ecosystem CO<sub>2</sub> uptake being - 55 t CO<sub>2</sub>/t cork, considering wet and dry years in well managed forests (11 t CO<sub>2</sub>/ha).<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> figures used in "The value of cork oak montado ecosystem services, EY 2019"





# Carbon balance: Underlay Plus 5080

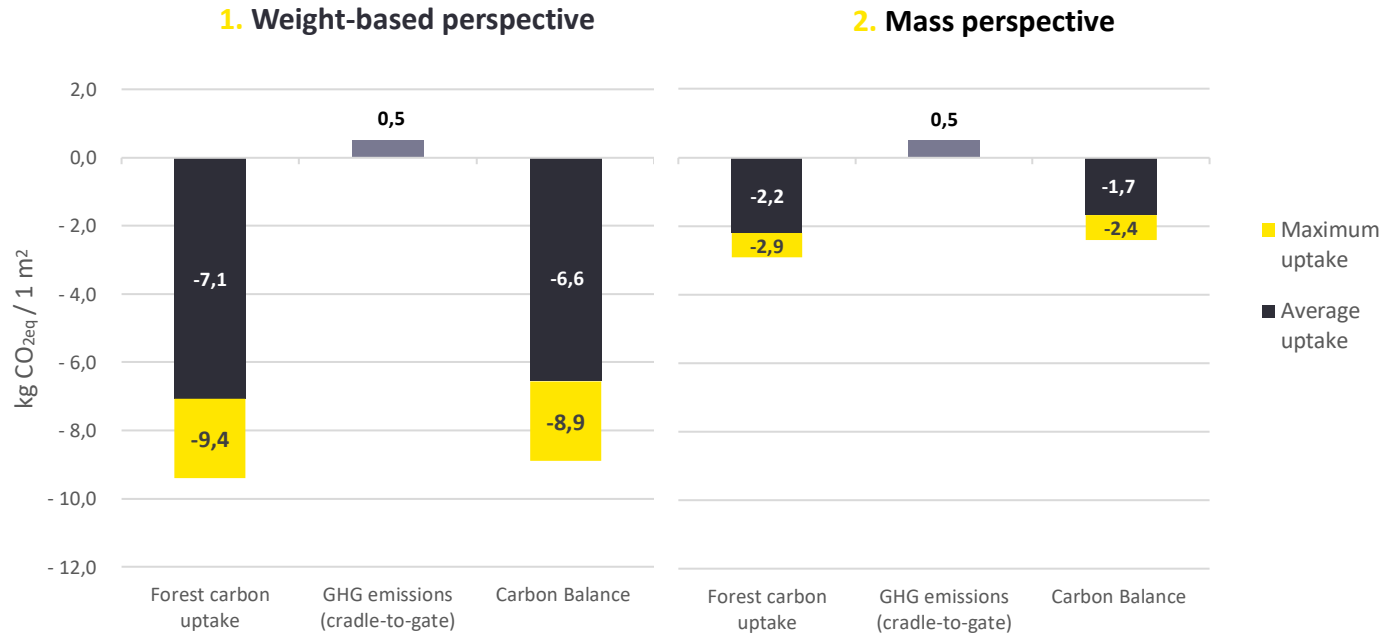


Carbon balance reaches up to:

**-9,9** kg CO<sub>2eq</sub> / 1 m<sup>2</sup>

considering maximum ecosystem CO<sub>2</sub> uptake registered in a well managed cork oak montado **-73 t CO<sub>2</sub>/t cork**

# Carbon balance: Underlay Plus 5080 VB



Carbon balance reaches up to:

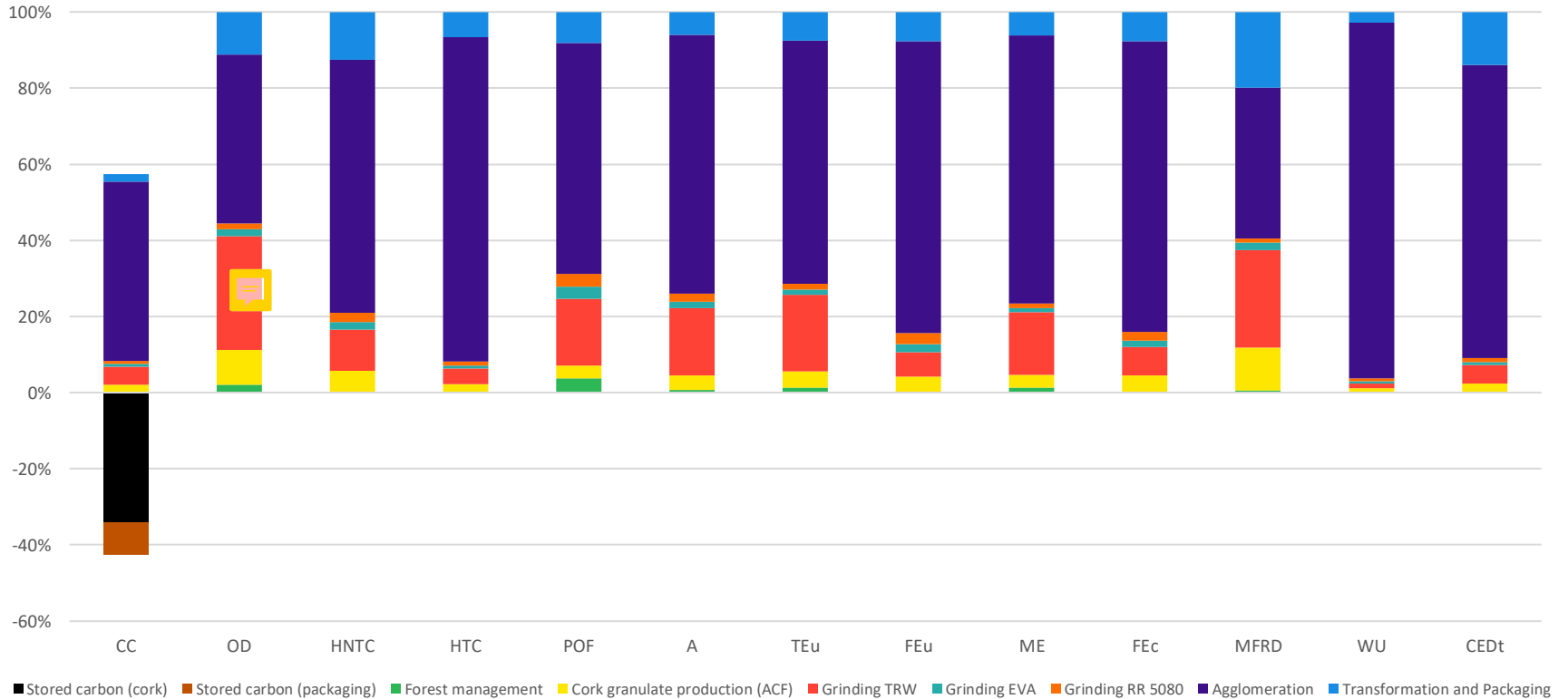
**-8,9** kg CO<sub>2eq</sub>/1 m<sup>2</sup>

considering maximum ecosystem CO<sub>2</sub> uptake registered in a well managed cork oak montado **-73 t CO<sub>2</sub>/t cork**

# LCA results

# LCA results: Underlay Plus 5080

## Carbon footprint for 1 m<sup>2</sup> of Underlay Plus 5080

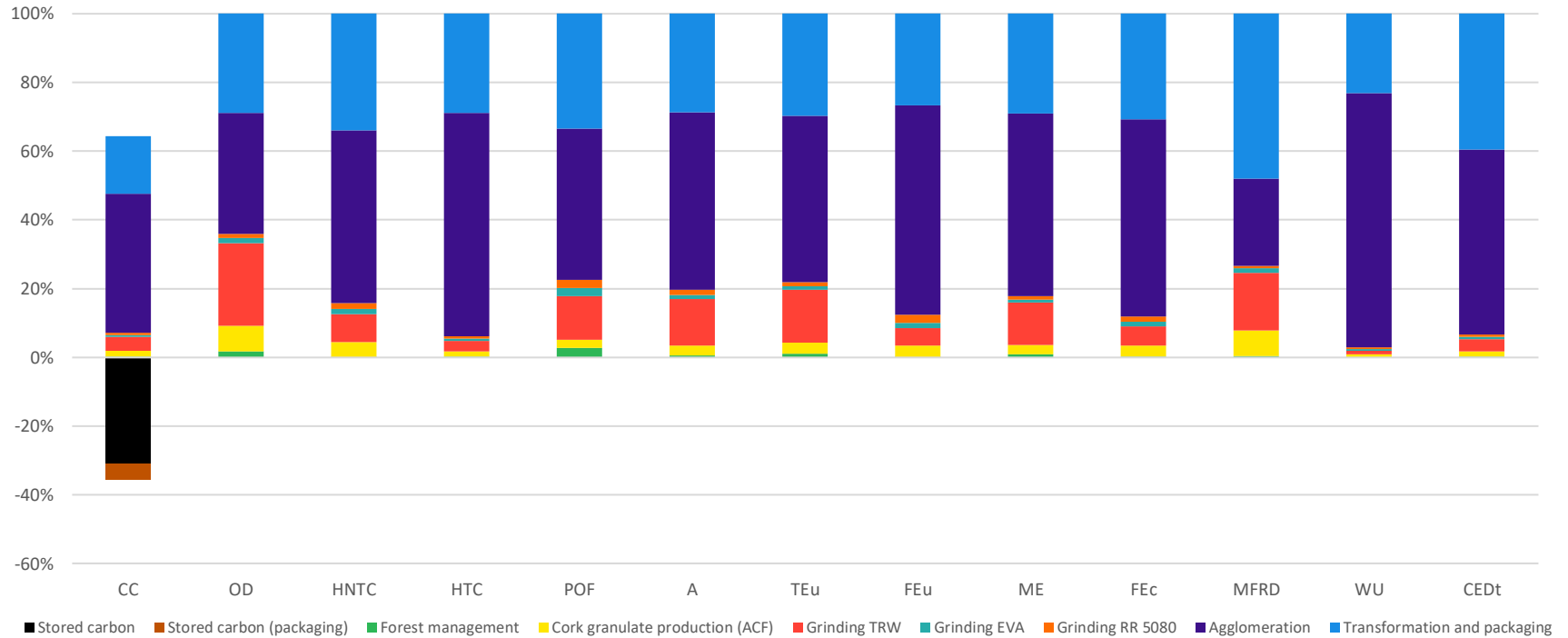


► The agglomeration binder components (polyol and isocyanates) present the highest impacts across impact categories;

**LCA Indicators** : CC=Climate Change; OD=Ozone Depletion; HNTC = Human Toxicity: Non-Cancer Effects; HTC=Human Toxicity: Cancer Effects; POF= Photochemical Ozone Formation; A=Acidification; TEu=Terrestrial Eutrophication; FEu=Freshwater Eutrophication; ME=Marine Eutrophication; FEc=Freshwater Ecotoxicity; MFRD=Mineral and Fossil Resource Depletion; WU=Water use; CEDt=Cumulative Energy Demand - Total

# LCA results: Underlay Plus 5080 VB

## Carbon footprint for 1 m<sup>2</sup> of Underlay Plus 5080 VB



- ▶ The agglomeration binder components (polyol and isocyanates) and the PE film present the highest impacts across impact categories;
- ▶ The PE film, binder and energy consumption account for the most relevant impacts of transformation stage

**LCA Indicators** : CC=Climate Change; OD=Ozone Depletion; HNTC = Human Toxicity: Non-Cancer Effects; HTC=Human Toxicity: Cancer Effects; POF= Photochemical Ozone Formation; A=Acidification; TEu=Terrestrial Eutrophication; FEu=Freshwater Eutrophication; ME=Marine Eutrophication; FEc=Freshwater Ecotoxicity; MFRD=Mineral and Fossil Resource Depletion; WU=Water use; CEDt=Cumulative Energy Demand - Total

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