



Grocery Bags

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Background & Motivation

- Many different types of grocery bags:

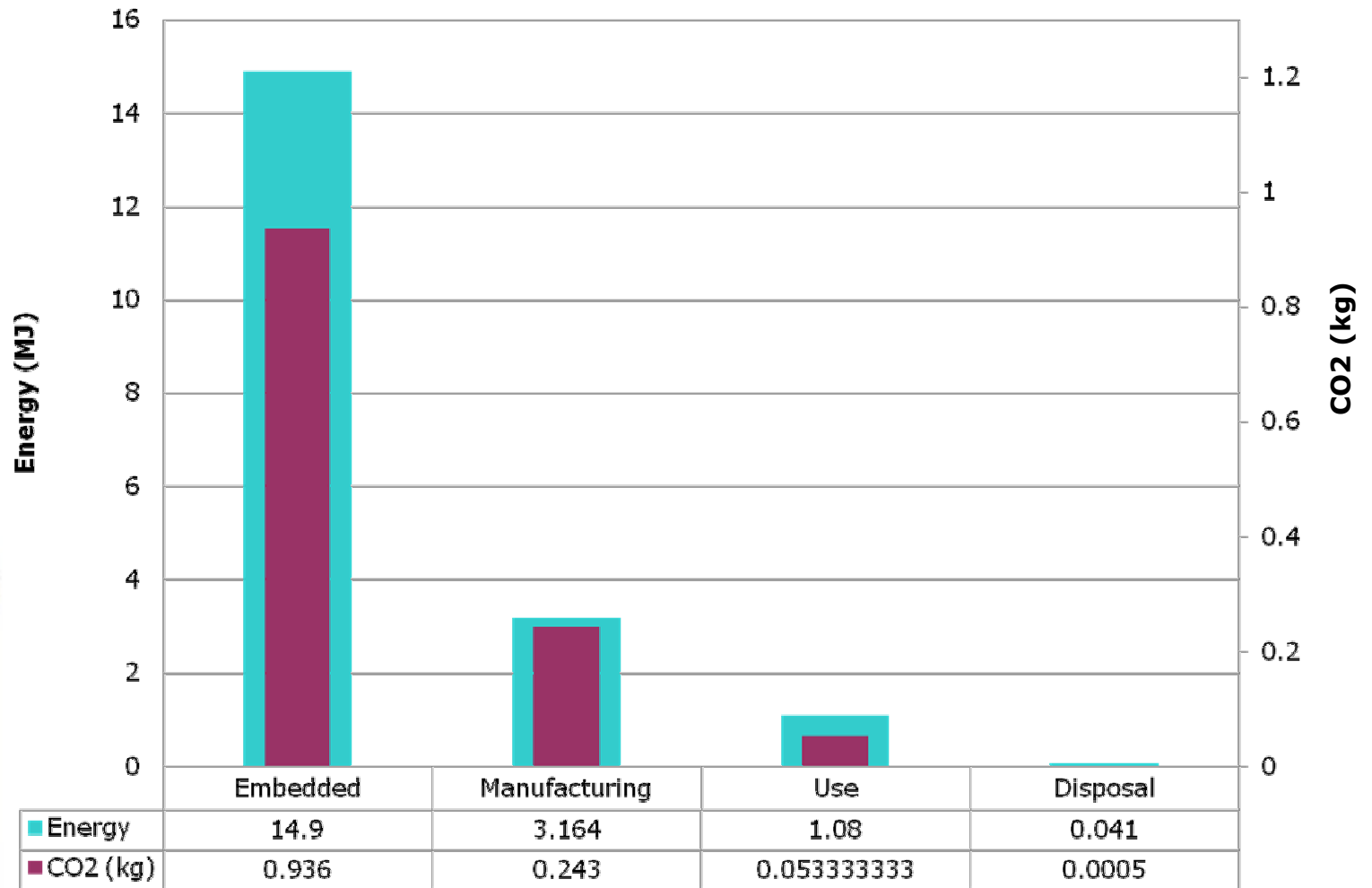
- Reusable Cotton
- Reusable Polypropylene
- Paper
- HDPE
- PLA



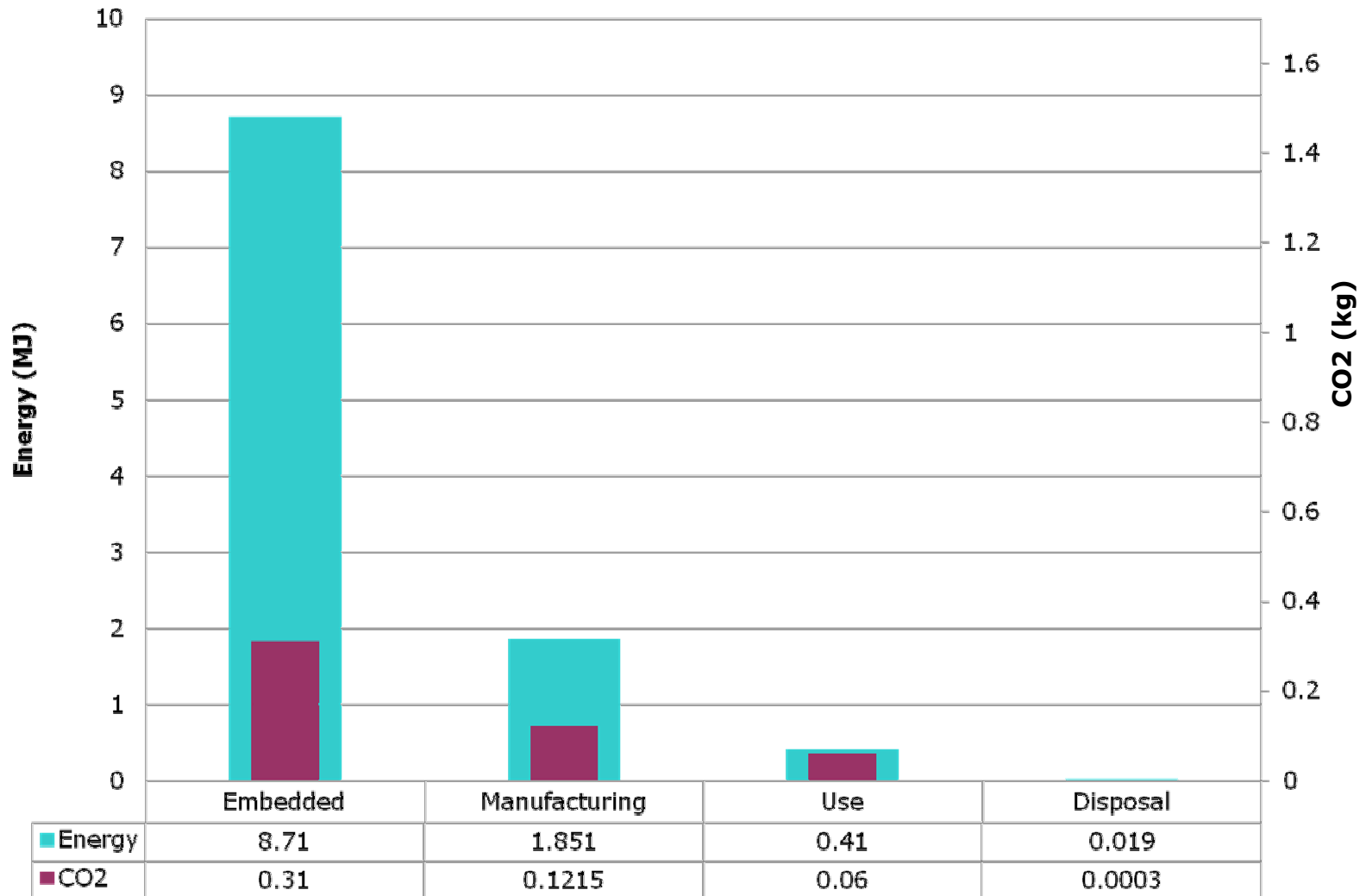
- Comparison based on bag *volume*

What is the environmental cost (energy, CO₂) of using different types of grocery bags?

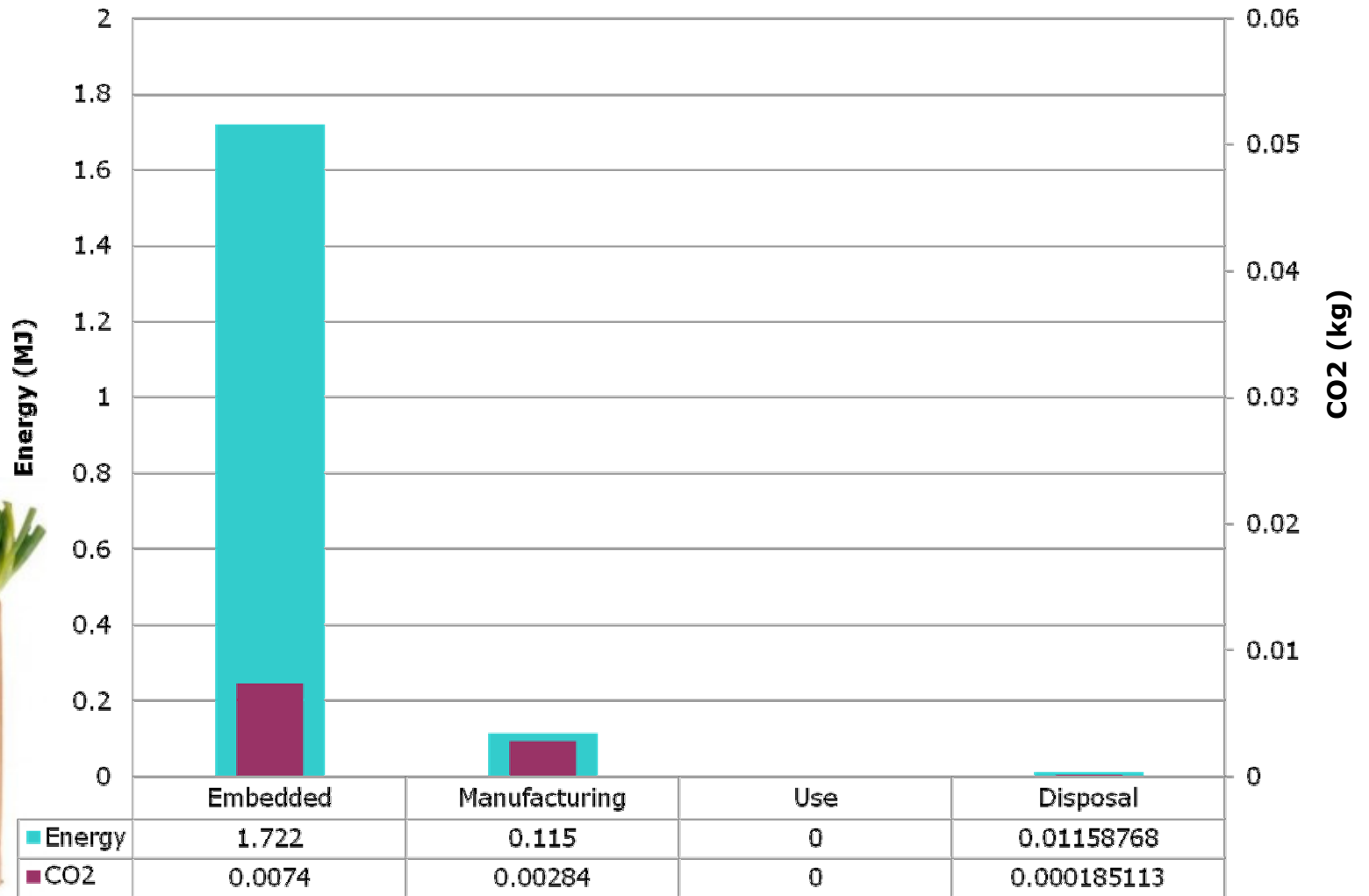
Reusable Cotton Bags



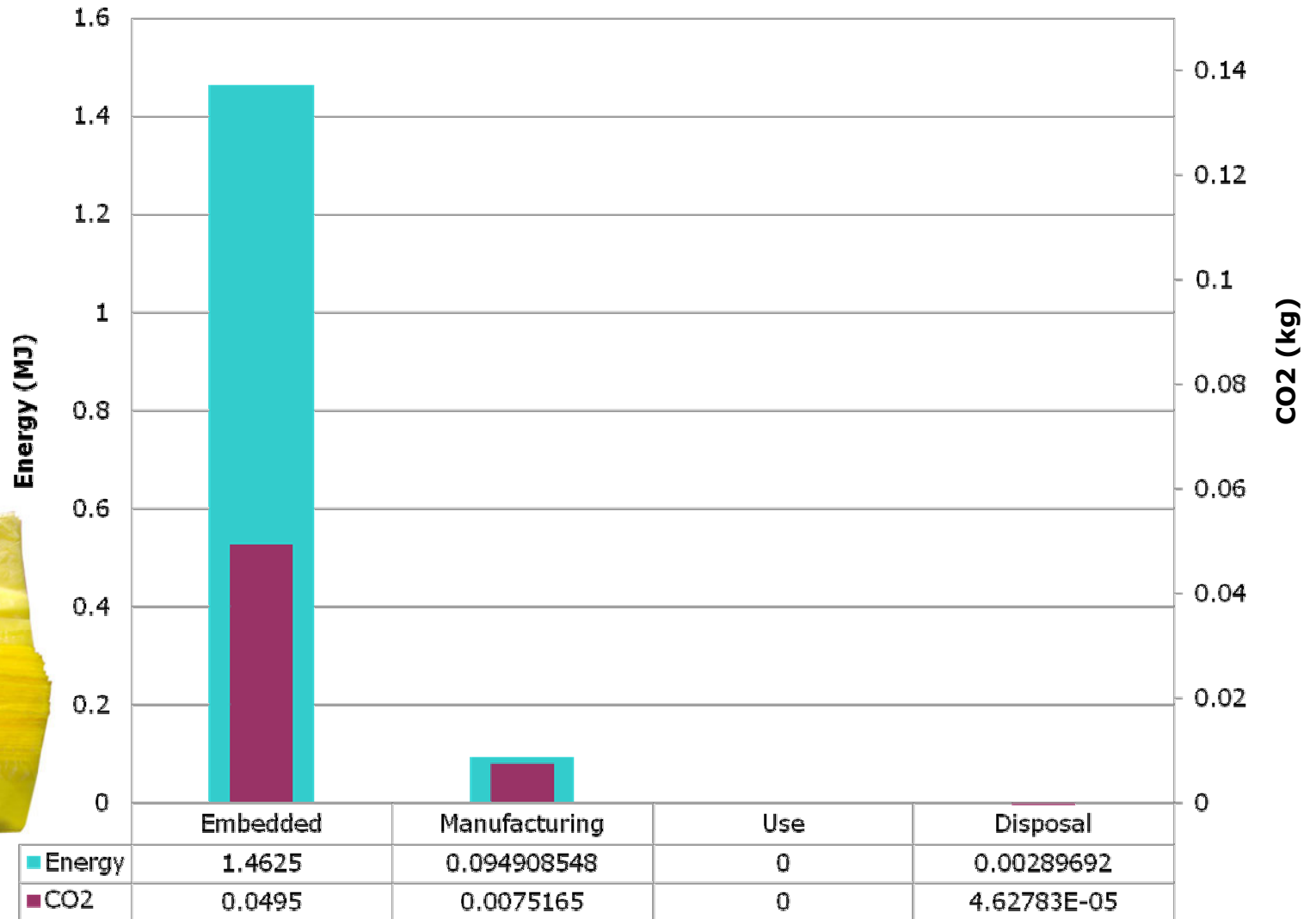
Reusable Polypropylene (PP) Bags



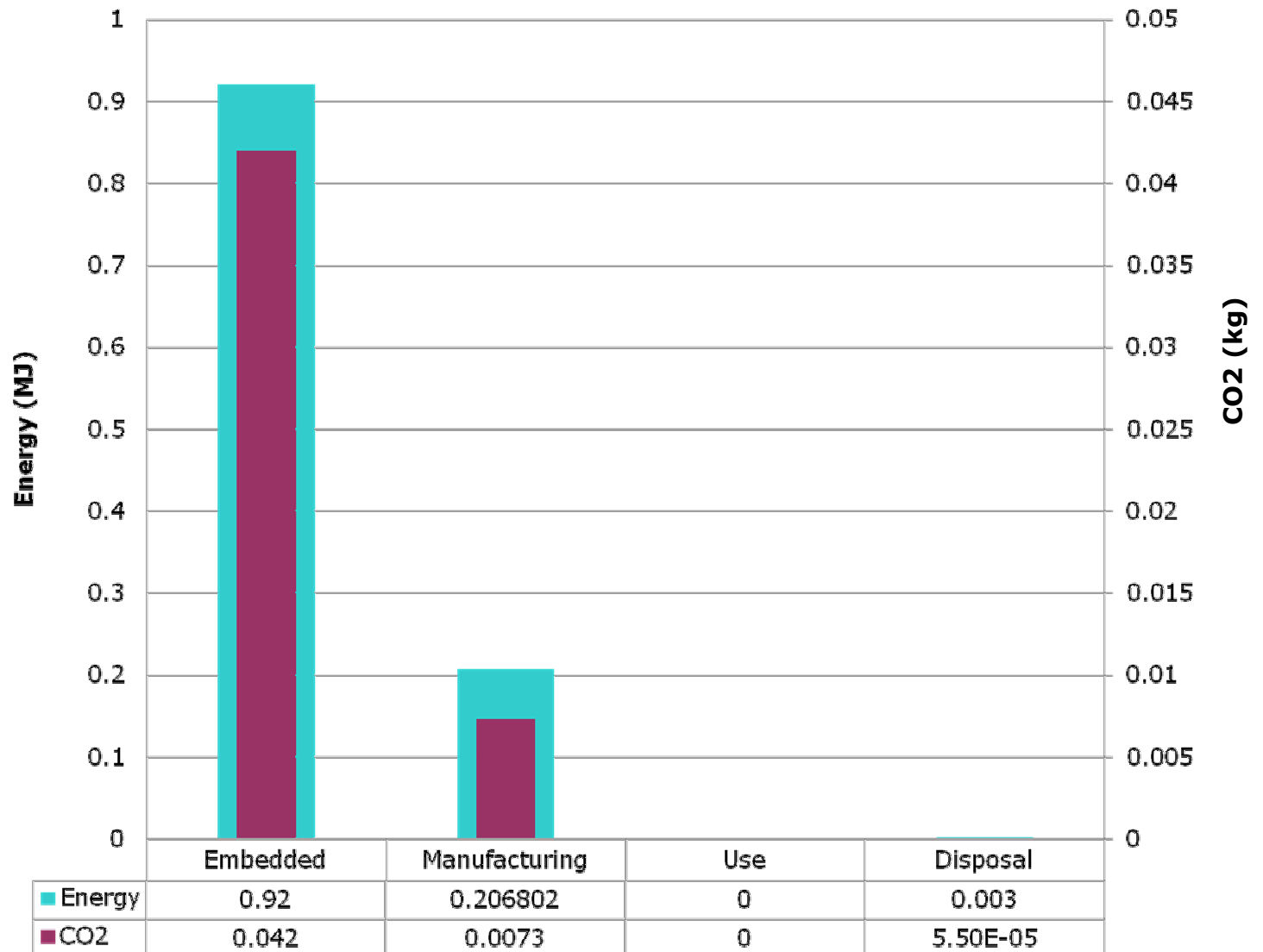
Paper Bags



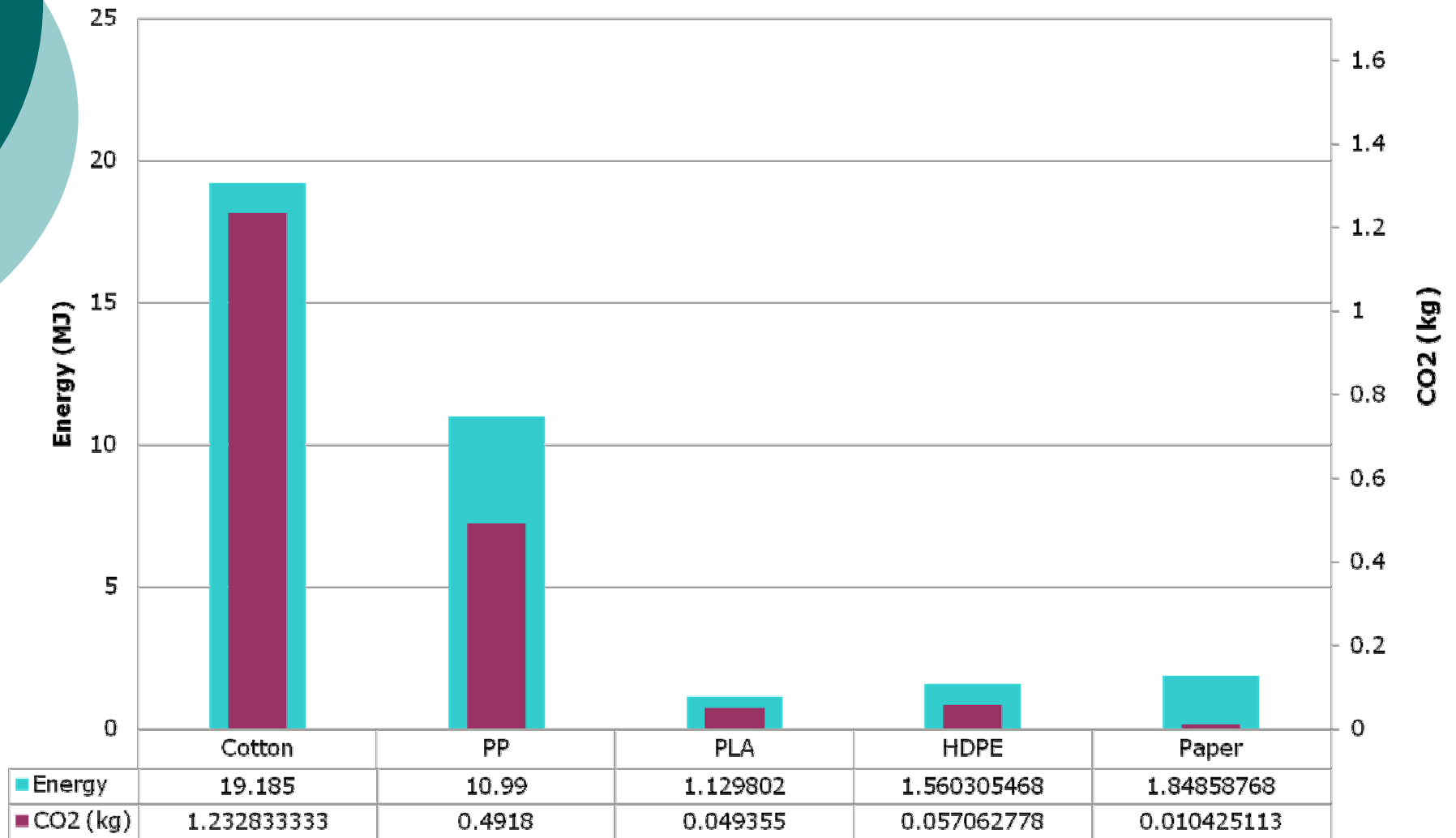
High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) Bags



Polylactic Acid (PLA) Bags

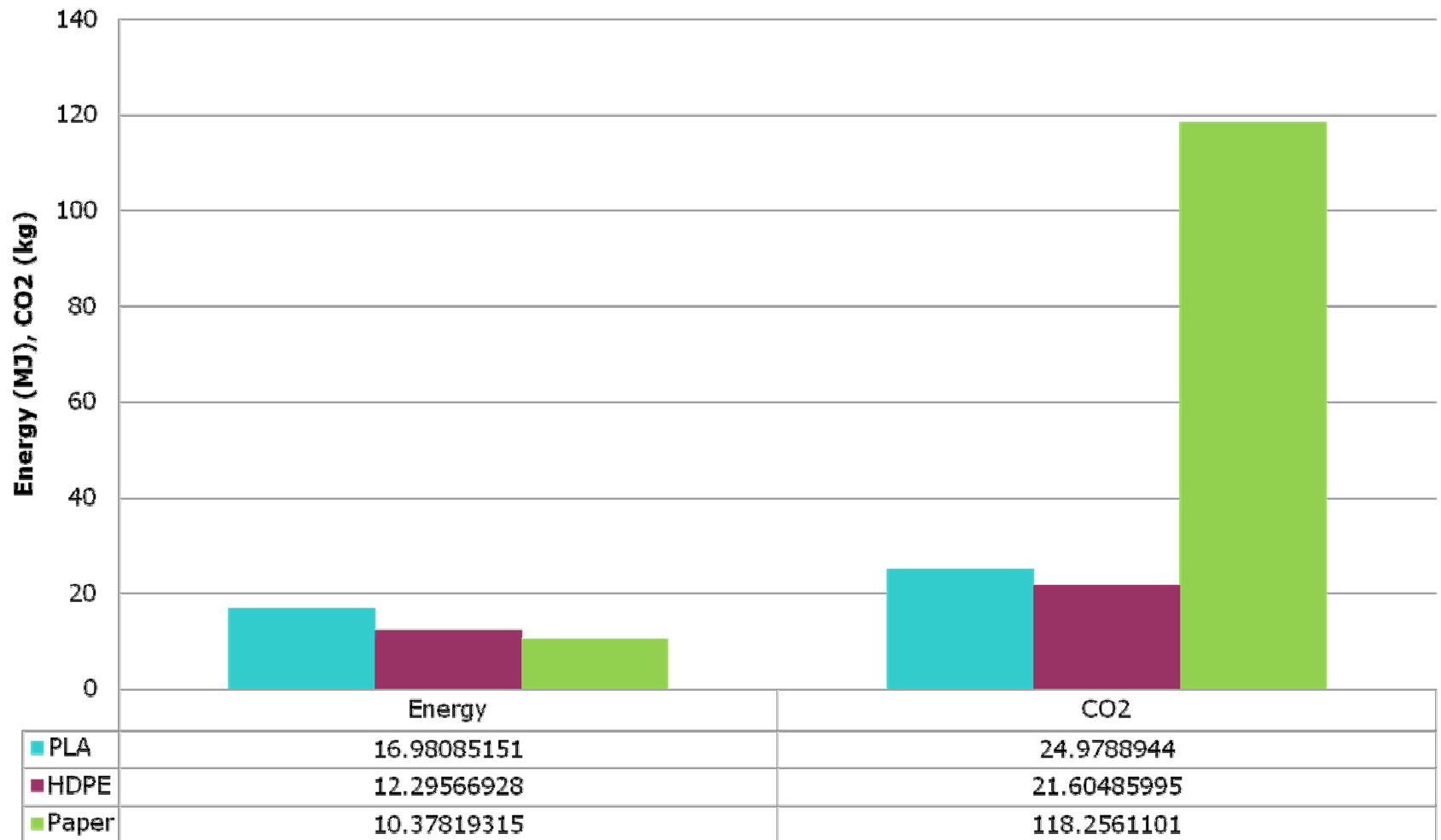


Summary



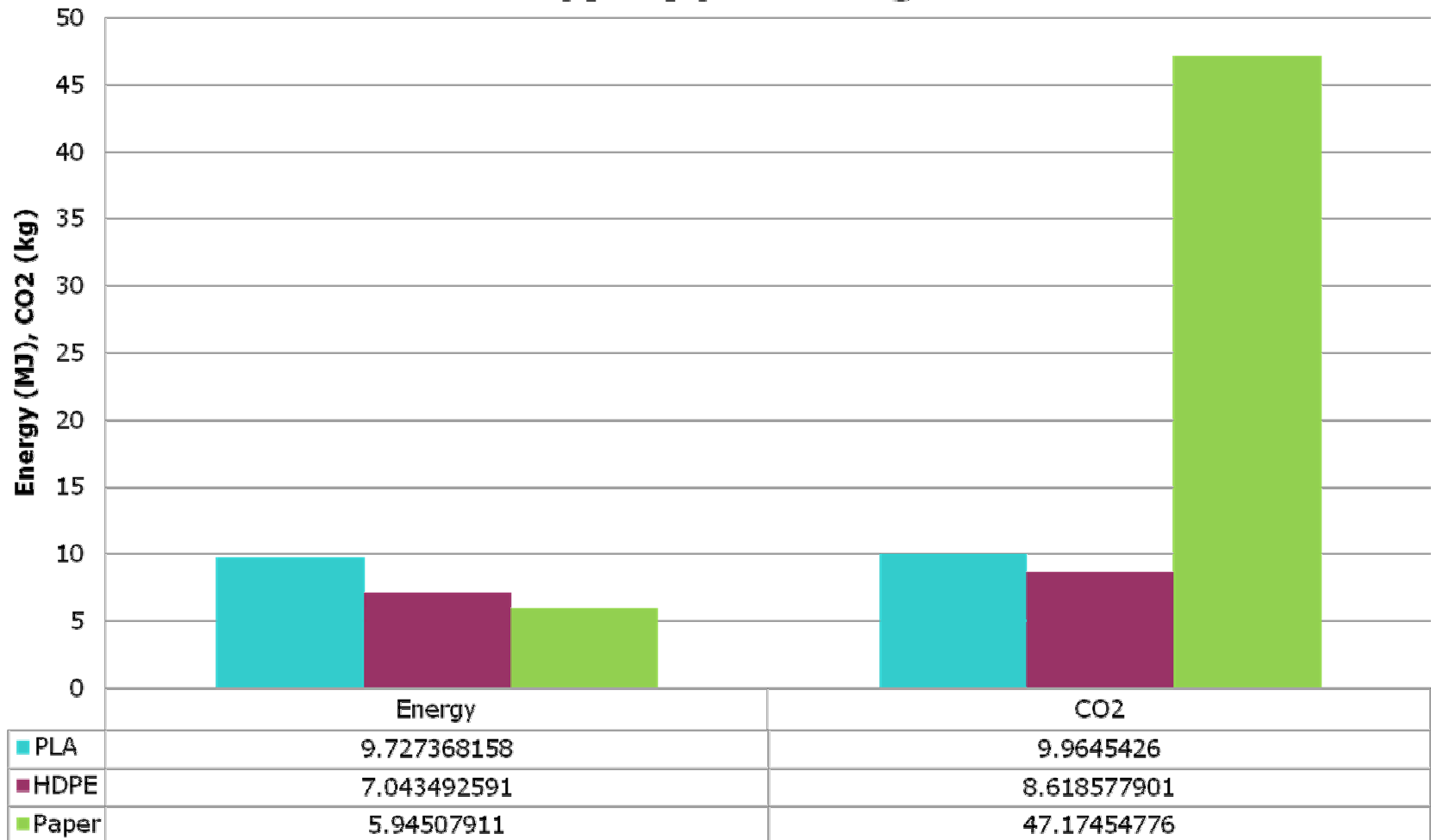
In Order to Break Even...

Cotton Bags

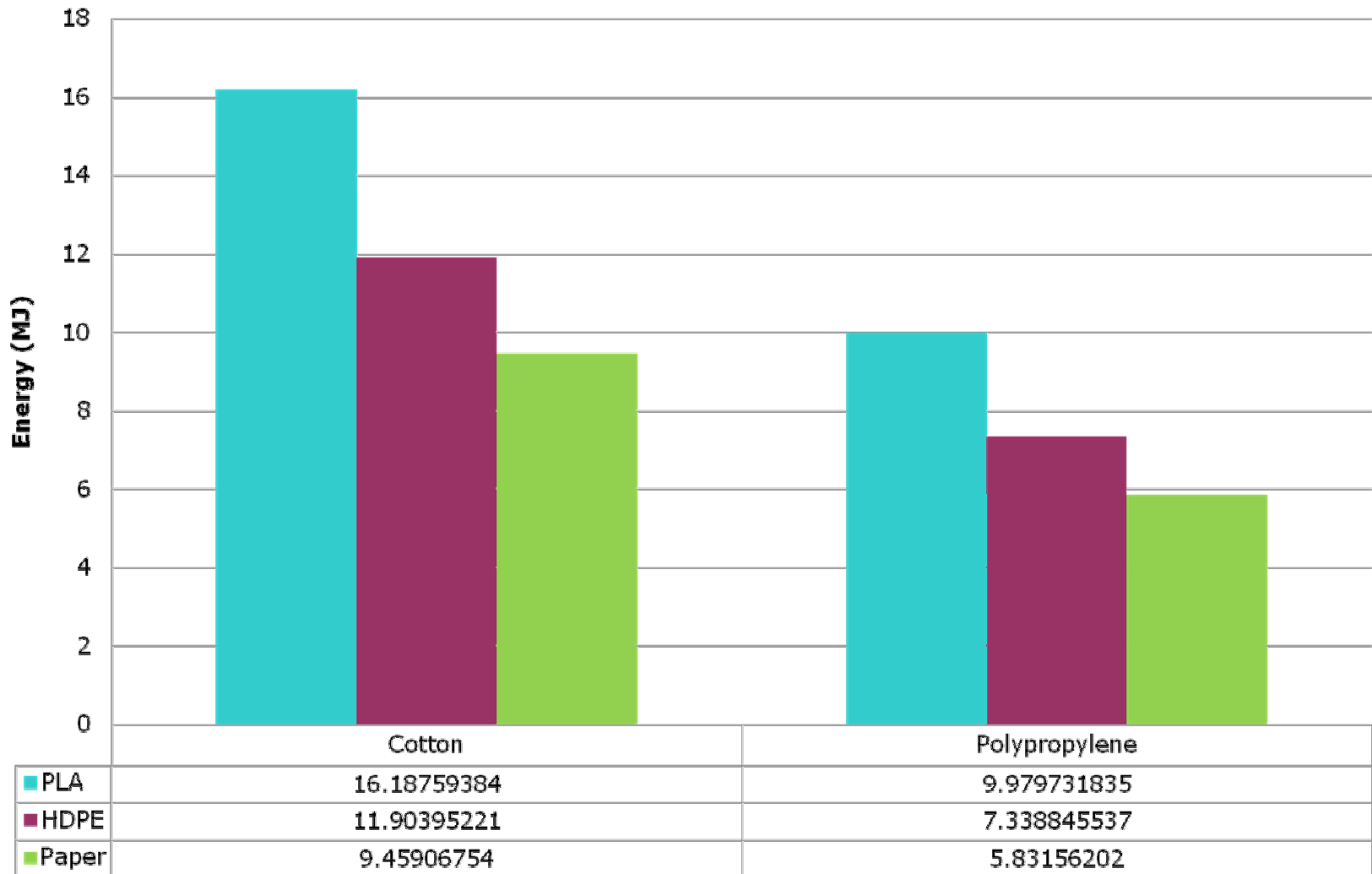


In Order to Break Even...

Polypropylene Bags



What about Recycling?





Conclusions

- Polypropylene is the best (most environmentally friendly) grocery bag to use.
- In order to break even (energetically) with disposable grocery bags, polypropylene bags need to be used 5 – 10 times.
 - If not reused, cotton and polypropylene bags are even worse than disposable bags.
- It's easy to make a huge impact on the environment on a daily basis!



Questions?
