

# European Platform on Life Cycle Assessment

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### European Platform on LCA - update

#### Handbook on recommended LCA practice - project started

Reflecting the need for recommended practice in a number of key methodological issues, a project on developing goal-dependent guidance on the ISO 14040 - 44 standards was started early August. Strongly building upon established practice and experience in industry and research, practical and effective recommendations on issues ranging from allocation / recycling to LCA results interpretation will be developed. This will substantially increase the comparability and hence acceptance of LCAs.

The work is supported by an experienced contractor. The handbook will be both developed and implemented online. Extensive consultation of the European Platform's Advisory Groups and other stakeholders will take place as well as a subsequent public consultation. Final delivery is foreseen for July 2008.

## **Recommended LCIA methods and factors - project started**

On July 18th the kick-off meeting for a new project of the European Platform on LCA was held. It will identify a recommended LCIA framework, models and impact factors with global and with European reference. These will strongly build on established impact assessment approaches and models and consider the outcome of consensus-building among the European Platform's Advisory Groups and other stakeholders with subsequent public consultation. The impact factors will be appropriately documented and distributed via the European Reference Life Cycle Data System (ELCD), the LCIA models and framework reports will become part of the series of European Technical Guidance Documents for LCA.

The project is substantially supported by an external service contract with a consortium of leading LCIA experts. The final deliverables are foreseen for August 2008.

## **Enhancement of ELCD core database - project started**

In mid August, the project of a two-step enhancement of the first version of the European Reference Life Cycle Data System (ELCD) core database has started. It will among others extend the content of the database from presently 115 to about 300 to 400 LCI data sets with a focus on industry-owned or approved high quality data sets of the European Platform's Business Advisory Group members, who are making these data available free of charge to LCA practitioners world-wide. The existing data sets will also be further harmonised and the first version of a set of several thousand reference elementary flows will be created and made available; the list will later be maintained and expanded by the JRC as a continued service.

Also this project is supported via a service contract with a consortium of experienced contractors. Final delivery is foreseen for August 2008.

## European Business Advisory Group – new member

One new EU-level association has joined the European Business Advisory Group: the Industrial Minerals Association - Europe aisbl (IMA-Europe).



We welcome this pro-active association that joins ACE, CEWEP, EEA, ECI, EUROFER, FEFCO, MARCOGAZ and PlasticsEurope.

Members of this and of the other two Advisory Groups of LCA tool and database developers and of LCIA method developers can be found via <http://lca.jrc.ec.europa.eu/EPLCA/stakeholder.htm>

## Meetings, visits, presentations

In June and July 2007, staff of the European Platform on LCA organised or participated in the following meetings:

**02 August 2007:** Publication of the results of the public stakeholder consultation on the ELCD reference format (see <http://lca.jrc.ec.europa.eu/EPLCA/stakeholderForm.htm>).

**04 July 2007:** Meeting with Prof. Dr. Alexander Wokaun, Chair of the ecoinvent board, to continue discussions on a potential cooperation between the European Platform on LCA and the ecoinvent centre (Swiss Centre for Life Cycle Inventories).

**29 June 2007:** One-day technical meeting with the European Business Advisory Group in Brussels.

**15 June 2007:** Presentation and life cycle expert input provided to DG Research during an expert workshop in Brussels towards the development of a Sustainability Assessment of Technologies (SAT) approach.

## LCT in European Policy – news

### Towards Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and Sustainable Industry Policy (SIP) Action Plans – public consultation

In response to the call of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) Plan of Implementation for the development of a 10-year framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, the European Union commits itself to implement an Action Plan, aware of the need to change consumption and production patterns to reach the overarching objectives of sustainable development.

The Action Plan will built on and further develop existing initiatives to reinforce them and give a better coherence of the overall strategy; focusing, in particular, on the most relevant product categories: food, building and personal transport. For further information on SCP you can visit the new website [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eussd/escp\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eussd/escp_en.htm)

Early 2008, the Commission will present Action Plans on Sustainable Consumption and Production, and on Sustainable Industrial Policy. Their aims are improving the production, the design of products available on the market, and the way to consume them. A background document describes the options, which could be considered at EU level to achieve these aims. The Commission launches a Public Consultation to gather feedback from the public, the consumers, companies and organisations on barriers and possible actions to be considered. Interested parties are invited to participate to the on-line consultation. It is also possible to send written contributions.

Further information, the background documents, the **consultation form**, and addresses are available at [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/environment/sip\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/environment/sip_en.htm). Responses to the questions are asked for **by 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2007**, exclusively via the means given in the above website (please note that this consultation is NOT linked to the European Platform on LCA).

The answers will provide background for the impact assessments of the action plans, both in terms of analysis of the problems and for the identification of the most important options. The results will be published in the SCP webpage.

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If you would like to stay informed about the Platform activities and deliverables via our 1-3-monthly email update / newsletter, please fill in the Excel form accessible at <http://lca.jrc.ec.europa.eu/lcainfohub/index.vm> and send it back to [LCA@JRC.it](mailto:LCA@JRC.it).

In case you want to be removed from the distribution, please send us an email with "remove" in the subject.

### Contact and impressum:

European Platform on Life Cycle Assessment  
European Commission  
Joint Research Centre, Institute for Environment and Sustainability (IES)  
H05 - TP 460  
Via E. Fermi 1  
I-211027 Ispra (VA), Italy

Fax: +39 0332 78-5601  
Email [lca@jrc.it](mailto:lca@jrc.it)

<http://lca.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

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