



## 84<sup>th</sup> LCA Discussion Forum – LCA development – Did we forget about data? Challenges and needs

Thursday, 21 September 2023, ETH Zentrum campus, GEP-Pavillon and online

We cordially invite you to the **84<sup>th</sup> Discussion Forum on Life Cycle Assessment**  
Presentations will be held in English

The use of Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) is increasing in all economic sectors, in policy and in public procurement. The quality and credibility of LCA-studies strongly depends on transparent Life Cycle Inventory (LCI) datasets.

The sharp increase in demand for LCA in the last years has not yet led to a corresponding increase in available LCI datasets. In other words, the datasets from LCA studies that could be used by many other actors for further work are rarely integrated into publicly available LCI databases.

The development of transparent, up-to-date or time representative, reproducible, quality controlled and consistent datasets is indispensable for reliable LCA-studies. Nevertheless, dataset developments and more generally discussions on background data tend to be somehow left behind by the LCA development. Collaborative data collection and/or dissemination platforms are now largely deployed in many other domain. In the domain of LCA there are only a few emerging projects based on collaborative data collection.

This Discussion Forum aims at drawing a panorama regarding publicly available LCI data. It also aims to discuss innovative solutions relying on collaborative, transparent and open-source concepts and their contribution to quality and credibility of LCI data and LCA.

In a nutshell, the forum will address the following topics:

- Data acquisition for LCA today and in the future – Situation, needs and challenges;
- Trends to foster and ease the data collection and quality control processes;
- Initiatives, emerging concepts and successful examples for collaborative work in data gathering;

Finally, a workshop will be proposed to participants to collect ideas and needs regarding the future development in data collection and quality assurance in the LCA domain.

We look forward to meeting you in Zürich

Pierryves Padey  
Swiss Federal Office for the Environment

## Programme

Time		Speaker [Chair]
08:30	Registration, coffee & croissants	
09:00	Welcome and introduction into day	
<b>Subject – Where we stand, where we could go</b>		
09:15	A historical perspective on the database development	Treeze – R. Frischknecht
09:40	Background database: central piece of the ecosystem	Ecoinvent – E. Moreno Ruiz
10:05	Beyond static inventory datasets	Cauldron – C. Mutel
10:30	Discussion	
10:45	Coffee break	
<b>Subject – Trends for data in LCA</b>		
11:15	International initiative regarding data accessibility and interoperability – GLAD	Life Cycle Initiative - Llorenç Milà i Canals
11:40	The future of LCI DBs: ADEME vision for 2030 ( <i>Online</i> )	ADEME- O. Réthoré
12:05	LCA in EU policy and the role of LCA data	DG-Environment – A. Boyano Larriba
12:30	Discussion	
12:45	Lunch	
<b>Short presentations</b>		
14:00	Short presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Updating LCA datasets of the ICT sector: insights and intricacies when using public data</li> <li>- 25 years experience in LCI modelling for oil and gas extraction: developments and challenges in updating LCI data</li> <li>- Life-Cycle Analysis as Code: Bringing Software Practices to LCA Data Engineering</li> <li>- Issues and challenges regarding specific data for background database*</li> <li>- A tailored LCA database for the chemical value chain – cm.chemicals for robust environmental decisions</li> </ul>	Empa - R. Adrianto - ESU-services - N. Jungbluth Kleis Technology - P. Blanchard Sphera – L. Thellier Carbon Minds - R. Meys
<b>Subject – Emerging concepts &amp; application examples</b>		
14:45	Collaborative Platform in data exchange – OpenLCA	Greendelta – A. Ciroth
15:05	U.S. Federal LCA Commons: Publishing Open and FAIR data for LCA ( <i>Online</i> )	USDA, Agricultural Research Service, National Agricultural Library – P. Arbuckle
15:25	Simplifying the consistency check and translation of different data sources in the context of various evolving GHG assessment frameworks	Empa – D. Beloin Saint Pierre
15:45	Coffee break	
16:05	Discussion in breakout groups ( <i>on site</i> ) on the topic of data in LCA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How to foster the development of datasets in LCI databases?</li> <li>- Which roles for whom? Key actors and implications</li> <li>- What are the future trends for LCI background databases?</li> <li>- What are the needs of LCA practitioners regarding background data? (up-to-date data, adaptative system model, new processes for data collection, etc.)</li> </ul>	
16:35	Reporting back to plenary and discussion	
<b>Synthesis and Conclusion</b>		
17:05	Synthesis and conclusions of the day	
17:20	<b>Farewell</b>	

\*Title subject to change.

