DISCUSSION FORUM ON LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT

LCA Fora 2023 in Zurich

DF 83, 7 June 2023

Scope 3 Data in LCA of organisations
Between Simplification, Overwhelming and Greenwashing

DF 84, 21 September 2023

LCA development
Did we forget about data? Challenges and needs

DF 85, 9 November 2023

Electricity in buildings LCA
State of the art, challenges, and ways ahead

Sponsors 2023

carbotech Environmental Projects and Consulting · Empa Materials Science and Technology · ecoinvent · ETH zürich

DF 83

Scope 3 Data in LCA of organisations –
Between Simplification, Overwhelming and Greenwashing

organised by Arthur Braunschweig & Roland Hischier
7 June 2023, Zurich

Increasingly organisations use carbon and/or full LCA to assess their footprint across their value chain. In a GHG analysis, these ‚Scope 3' areas are often the most relevant, but also the most complicated elements along the supply chain.

Available data sources, i.e., process-based LCI databases and extended I/O-databases, and other GHG-emission factor lists, are the bread and butter for such work, but in practice often leave us half satisfied, e.g., because of

- how to match scopes (e.g., 14040 vs. 14064)
- incomplete data in any LCI or GHG database
- the issue of whether and how to mix databases
- the worrying choice between «GHG only» or «full environmental» analysis, and maybe more.

This forum will address the following questions:

- What is a good practice for scope 3 analysis?
- Where are limits and pitfalls of today's «Scope 3 analyses», from a practitioner's point of view?
- How can the (data) situation be improved?
- How do Scope 3 results focusing on GHG vs. full LCA influence decision making?

This first DF of 2023 will combine practical and conceptual presentations, and group discussion.

Note: If you are interested in describing your current practice, issues, or improvement ideas, then do get in touch with us asap.
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DF 84

LCA development –
Did we forget about data? Challenges and needs

organised by Pierryves Padey
21 September 2023, Zurich

LCA use is increasing in all economic sectors, in policy and in public procurement. In the LCA domain, re-searchers and experts have developed many metho¬dological innovations and tools to ease interpretation and to increase the robustness. In contrast, the transfer of datasets from studies to LCIs databases that could be reused for further works occurs rarely. Furthermore, the development of the databases' content needs to be enhanced, with new datasets representing the current technological developments; updating datasets is of high priority to provide up to date information for the LCA studies.

The background data to perform LCA seems to have been left behind from the domain's development.

Collaborative data collection and dissemination plat¬forms are now largely deployed in many other fields than LCA. Moreover, several successful examples have proven that a wide collaboration enables efficient developments, high quality information and better level of confidence of the provided data or tools. In general, there is thus a trend towards publicly available information, open source and collaborative approaches.

The forum will address the following topics:
- Expectations and needs of the LCA community regarding data development
- Bottlenecks and pitfalls limiting the development of dataset publication
- Innovative options (collaborative approach, open source, etc.) and their potential benefits for LCA

The goal is to have transparent and constructive discussions; thus presentations, small workshops and debates will be mixed during this forum.

DF 85

Electricity in buildings LCA: State of the art, challenges, and ways ahead

organised by treeze Ltd.
9 November 2023, Zurich

With buildings, electricity consumption in construction, product manufacture and in the use phase is an important contributor to their environmental impacts. The forum will address electricity mix modelling issues in LCAs of buildings.

Several different models to represent the electricity consumed during the use phase of buildings are app¬lied in European countries: (1) the current national electricity consumer mix according to national statistics; (2) the electricity mix of the supplier, based on guarantees of origin (GO), (3) a (quasi dynamic) future electricity mix based on a national official energy scenario, (4) an individual electricity mix which covers the use profile of the building under assessment.

Companies in the supply chain of construction products purchase «green» electricity products to lower the environmental footprint of their products. These green electricity products are often based on GO or similar certification schemes. Physical production of electricity and electricity quality (GO) are then traded independently on different markets. This unique feature is a challenge for process based LCA.

The forum will discuss the following questions:
- What is the current state of electricity mix modelling for construction products and buildings' use phases?
- How do different modelling approaches influence the transition of the electricity sector of a country to renewables?
- Which modelling approach is offered by leading LCA databases?

Breakout groups will allow for in depth discussions and identifying areas of consensus.

Fees

(lunch (on site only), videos and documentation included)

For a single forum

On site participation

Standard fee:	300 CHF
Reduced fee:	90 CHF for PhD students and students

Online access

Standard fee:	150 CHF
Reduced fee:	50 CHF for PhD students and students

Annual registration (for standard fee only)

On site:	700 CHF
Online acccess:	350 CHF

Registration and payment

To register for a LCA Discus¬sion Forum, please use the following link: https://ethzurich.eventsair.com/lca-2023/reg

To register you need to create a profile, which takes a few steps and is self-explanatory. If you are not able to pay by credit card, please send an e-mail to: lcaforum@ethz.ch with a short notice that you want to receive an invoice instead. Please provide the full invoice address as well as the chosen fee type.
For all questions regarding the registration process, please do not hesitate to contact: lcaforum@ethz.ch

Call for short presentations

You work on a topic relevant to one of the Discussion Fora in 2023 and wish to present your findings?
An «Open floor» session for short presentations will be available in each forum. Please contact the LCA Discussion Forum secretariat – the sooner the better.

Contact

For more information and to receive news on the LCA Discussion Forum, please contact the secretariat: lcaforum@ethz.ch

Website

To download the full program, presentations and/or papers of past and future forums: https://lca-forum.ch/

Mission and organization
The LCA Discussion Forum is a platform for exchange between LCA practitioners working in industry, consulting companies, administrations and LCA scientists. Each LCA forum is dedicated to a specific topic of immediate interest related to

- experiences and challenges with LCA application in industry and administration
- scientific questions in life cycle inventory and life cycle impact assessment methodology development
- dissemination of new scientific findings and results of relevant LCA studies.

Internationally renowned speakers are invited according to the topic to present their work. Each forum offers an „open floor" session for short presentations. The LCA forum is dedicated to people interested in the field of LCA, working in Switzerland and abroad. Contents of the fora are set by the board. Proposals are always welcome.

Board of the Association