

Special Session: International Reference Life Cycle Data System (ILCD) Handbook and Data Network

Basis for quality-assured and consistent LCAs for decision support in policy and business

Background

The ILCD is one of the most important science-based advances in moving Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) into the mainstream in business and policy in the EU and internationally. The ILCD has been developed in coordination by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC), Institute for Environment and Sustainability (IES) together with Directorate-General Environment. It delivers ISO-conform but further detailed guidance for LCA and facilitates access to quality data in response to the Integrated Product Policy (IPP) Communication of 2003 and to support the implementation of Sustainable Consumption and Production / Sustainable Industrial Policy (SCP/SIP) policies. The ILCD hence provides scientific and technical support to a growing number of life cycle based policies and instruments in the EU but also internationally. Equally, private-sector up-take is expected to be high with 16 European Business Associations contributing as a core Advisory Group to the developments and providing related data to the European Reference Life Cycle Database (ELCD). The ELCD is just one contribution to the broader ILCD Data Network that is open to all data providers globally and currently under Beta Testing. The EU focus is complemented by close interactions during the developments with 7 national database projects (Brazil, China, Japan, ...) as well as with UNEP, to achieve as far as possible a common international approach. Many of the activities have built on deliverables of SETAC. This relationship will be highlighted.

Please see also the separate short course on the "International Reference Life Cycle Data System (ILCD) Handbook" on the preceding day, Sunday 15 May, in the afternoon (short course No 2).

Program: Monday 16 May 2011, 10:45 - 12:50

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| 10:45 - 11:05 | LCA and the ILCD in the context of Sustainability Assessment (Constantin Ciupagea, EC, Joint Research Centre) |
| 11:05 - 11:25 | The role of the ILCD Handbook as methodological basis for robust life cycle based environmental policies (Michele Galatola, EC, DG Environment - tbc) |
| 11:25 - 11:45 | Overview of the ILCD system (Marc-Andree Wolf, EC, Joint Research Centre) |
| 11:45 - 12:05 | Steel industry requirements on the methodological basis for life cycle assessment - the role of the ILCD Handbook and Data Network (Clare Broadbent, worldsteel association - tbc) |
| 12:05 - 12:25 | Plastics industry needs for a common method basis in life cycle assessment for Ecoprofiles and Environmental footprinting - the role of the ILCD Handbook and Data Network (Aafko Schanssema, PlasticsEurope) |
| 12:25 - 12:45 | Environmentally friendly vehicle design throughout the life cycle - expectations of Volkswagen on the ILCD Handbook and Data Network (Stephan Krinke, Volkswagen Group) |
| 12:45 - 12:50 | Summary of the Special Symposium on the ILCD, Outlook (Michele Galatola, EC, DG Environment - tbc) |