

## 34<sup>th</sup> Discussion Forum

### LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT VERSUS CO<sub>2</sub> FOOTPRINT

13<sup>th</sup> March 2008 Lausanne, 9 h 00, Hôtel Alpha Palmier (in front of the railway station)

We are pleased to invite you to the **34<sup>th</sup> discussion forum on Life Cycle Assessment on March 13<sup>th</sup> 2008**. The forum will be followed by the *2<sup>nd</sup> Internationalecoinvent Meeting on Friday March 14<sup>th</sup> 2008 in Lausanne*, at the Polydôme, EPFL. Both events will be held in English.

The importance of the climate change issue has grown impressively these last months. Companies and authorities today deal with carbon footprint assessment, carbon labelling, carbon offsets and other instruments.

Currently, there are two different approaches to assess the climate impact of processes and organisations: either with Life Cycle Assessment (**LCA**) **methods**, or based on the **greenhouse gas protocol** ([www.ghgprotocol.org](http://www.ghgprotocol.org)) and its 'partners' e.g. the GRI Global Reporting Initiative and the WBCSD World Business Council for Sustainable Development. The two approaches use different concepts and therefore may yield different GHG emission results. In addition, LCA is not limited to climate change but includes other impacts on the environment. Does the fact that climate change is the current prime subject allow or justify not to consider other impacts?

The DF 34 will discuss the following questions:

- Which are the relevant differences between the two approaches of LCA and GHG protocol concerning GHG accounting? Is GHG accounting an "LCA light"?
- In which cases is it useful to focus the environmental assessment on GHG emissions only?
- How should GHG emission certificates be considered in an LCA / Ecobalance?
- What are the implications of the GHG methodology development on the life cycle assessment methodology?

The floor is open for short presentations (10 minutes). If you are interested, please submit an abstract before March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

We hope that this forum will be of interest for you and we are looking forward to welcoming you in Lausanne.

Arthur Braunschweig, Sarra Harbi and Yves Loerincik

**Preliminary Program:**

Time	Title	Orators
9:00	Welcome	Yves Loerincik & Arthur Braunschweig
9:10	The relation between LCA and GHG accounting (14040, 14064, GHG protocol, Kyoto rules, GHG credits accounting)	Arthur Braunschweig, E2
9:30	Comparing carbon footprint with impact-oriented life cycle methodologies: a meta-analysis	Mark Huijbregts, Radboud University Nijmegen (NL)
10:00	The GHG protocol – a stable framework or bound for development?	to be confirmed
10:30	Break	
11:00	How are the GHG credits calculated? How should an institution calculate its credit demand?	David Wettstein, MyClimate
11:30	The French GHG calculation tool for companies – an "LCA light" or a new approach?	to be confirmed
12:00	Labelling of food products: based on LCA or what...?	Pascal Greverath, Nestlé Coop
12:40	Break	
14:00	Scoping and calculation issues of "climate neutral products", a Swiss multi-stakeholder project	Daniel Lehmann, Rainer Zah KlimaPro
14:20	<b>Short presentations:</b> The 'carbon footprint' – an unreliable indicator of environmental sustainability	Guy Castelan, Plastic Europe
14:40	An authority's view (on the relation between GHG accounting and LCA)	Norbert Egli, Federal office for the environment
15:10	An NGO's view (on the relation between GHG accounting and LCA)	to be confirmed
15:40	Break	
16:10	Implications on GHG accounting and LCA / Ecobalancing methods	Discussion
16:50	Good-bye	