

DF 55: Abiotic resources: new impact assessment approaches in view of resource efficiency and resource criticality

April 11th, 2014, Zürich (in English)

Abiotic resources have become a growing political concern with increased focus on resource scarcity, natural availability and dependency on foreign supply. For a near-future time horizon, both the USA and the EU have identified so-called "critical raw materials" (including platinum group metals, rare earth elements, niobium, and tungsten), and resource efficiency has become one key element of the sustainability policy of the EU and Switzerland. For the long time horizon, new as well as updated approaches for abiotic resource impact assessment have recently been developed within the context of life cycle assessment. This development has been extremely diverse with no unifying practice on how to assess resource extraction from the natural environment. The goal of this discussion forum is to present and discuss these different approaches with respect to, for example, the relevance of resources as a separate safeguard subject in environmental assessment, and their interpretations of the environmental mechanisms related to resource extraction.

DF 56: Are Environmental Declarations of Products and Organisations the way to harmonise LCAs?

September 9th, 2014, Zürich (in English)

In the last years, several initiatives were taken in order to harmonise the LCA methodology for products and organisations. A recent example is the EU environmental footprint initiative "Single Market for Green Products". It is a voluntary initiative with the goal of enabling comparison of environmental performances between similar products and companies active in a similar sector. In this context

methodological guidelines are developed such as PEF, PEFCR, OEF, OEFCR and ENVIFOOD protocol. Which other initiatives aiming at harmonisation of LCA are currently under development? Are the expectations of the stakeholders met? Is harmonisation of LCA on track? The discussion forum will give the floor to European and Swiss legislators, LCA researcher, LCA practitioners and industries participating in the 3-year pilot phase of the initiative, to discuss the harmonisation of measuring and communicating life cycle environmental performance of products and organisations.

DF 57: Life cycle assessment in the building sector: analytical tools, environmental information and labels

December 2nd, 2014, Zürich (in English)

Buildings are an important consumer of energy and an important source of greenhouse gas emissions. In the last decade buildings and their environmental impacts are getting more and more attention. Analytical tools are being developed, environmental information based on environmental product declarations is being standardised and several sustainability and environmental labelling schemes are being used in Switzerland, including BREEAM, LEEDS, DGNB, SGNB, SNBS, and Minergy-eco. The labels partly rely on life cycle assessment data or environmental product declarations. The discussion forum will provide a systematic overview on different tools, information and labelling schemes, highlighting common aspects and main differences.

Workshops will be organised to discuss needs and expectations from the viewpoint of building owners, planners and architects, and suppliers, respectively. The goal of the discussion forum is to enable informed decisions about appropriate labelling schemes.

Registration form

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2014

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in English
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Mission and organization

Mission

The LCA Discussion Forum is a platform for the exchange between LCA practitioners working in industry, consulting companies and 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. Its content is defined by its board. Proposals are always welcome.

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Call for short presentations

You work on a topic relevant for one of the Discussion Forum in 2014 and wish to present your findings?

"Open floor" sessions for short presentations will be available in each forum. Please contact the LCA Discussion Forum secretariat – the sooner the better.

Fees

(lunch included, videos documentation included)

For the whole year

Standard fee: 700 CHF / 580 €

For a single Forum

Standard fee: 300 CHF / 250 €

Reduced fee: 90 CHF / 75 €

for PhD students and students

Online access: 150 CHF / 120 €

Contact

For more information and to receive news on the LCA

Discussion Forum, please contact:

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Website

To download the full program and presentations and/or papers of past and future forums:

<http://www.LCAforum.ch>