

**DF 74: LCA in the National Research  
Programme NRP 73 «Sustainable Economy»**

29 June 2020, **ZHAW Wädenswil**

The growing global economy relies on unsustainably sourced and used natural resources to produce goods and deliver services. In order to generate scientific knowledge about a sustainable Swiss economy, the National Research Programme (NRP) 73 was launched. It aims to provide a holistic perspective including environmental, economic and societal implications along the whole value chain and while also including the Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030.

The Discussion Forum gives an opportunity for representatives from economy and academia to discuss the role of life cycle thinking and LCA results in various economic sectors relevant for the NRP 73, including construction, mobility, health, nutrition as well as sustainable behavior of different stakeholders.

The research projects within the NRP 73 not only focus on establishing the knowledge base, but also aim at analyzing the effects of measures and instruments as well as applying life cycle management in the Swiss economy.

The 74<sup>th</sup> LCA Discussion Forum will show the diversity of life cycle based approaches applied within the NRP 73 and address the following overarching issues:

- How can decision-makers use life cycle based approaches to boost sustainable decisions?
- Which life cycle based approaches are best suited to reveal opportunities and risks for sustainability within the different economic sectors?
- Which instruments are most useful for combining environmental, economic and societal aims?

**DF 75 Jubilee:  
Life Cycle Thinking = Lower Footprint?  
Or: Is LCA relevant?**

14/15 September 2020, Zürich **University**

LCA is supposed to help us tackle the huge global environmental challenges, as the necessary improvements of our global environmental performance (impacts on climate, biodiversity, water, toxic effects, etc.) and the global trends don't yet match at all. LCA alone cannot do the trick, but we would expect LCA to be an important tool supporting economy and society to identify ways how to operate within planetary boundaries. But is this the case? Which big decisions did make use of LCA and led to substantial environmental improvements? And what can we learn from them?

You are cordially invited – as presenter and/or participant, from industry, administration, science, or NGO – to discuss:

- How much does LCA really help in reducing pressure on the environment?
- Which important decisions were based on life cycle thinking and analysis?
- How can LCA become more effective for big and relevant issues?

Keynote speeches of **Kora Kristof** from German UBA and **Thomas Vellacott**, CEO of WWF Switzerland, will set the floor for an exciting two day 75<sup>th</sup> jubilee LCA forum, included a surprise evening get-together.

Interested to present?

Submit your abstract until **7 February 2020** to:

[lcaforum@ethz.ch](mailto:lcaforum@ethz.ch)

**DF 76: The use of LCA as a development tool  
for emerging technologies /  
How to deal with forecasts in LCA?**

19 November 2020, **ETH Zürich**

In light of developing innovative technologies with improved environmental performance, LCA comes as one of the tools to steer and guide environmental design at early technology-development phases. Introducing LCA and its implementation at the early design stage, however, is not a straightforward task as there are a variety of issues that need to be resolved first. A valid assessment needs to take into account the maturity of the technology development, upscaling and industrial learning, gaps in inventory data, and temporal system changes (such as e.g. energy transition, circular economy or emission regulation developments) that could change inputs (e.g. in foreground or background life cycle inventories). We have seen many developments in the past few years related to this topic and this DF will represent a perfect platform to share and discuss recent insights.

State-of-the-art approaches will be presented that aim to perform prospective LCA for new and innovative technologies. Furthermore, tools and frameworks that might support the modelling of future technologies including interpretation of various aspects (such as e.g. scenario analysis or incorporation, open-source software, uncertainties handling, etc.) will be highlighted as well.

To summarize, this DF will culminate in discussions about prospective LCA methods and recommendations for improvements in order to accelerate prospective LCA practices on emerging technology developments.

## Fees

(lunch included, videos and documentation included)

### Annual pass (for all fora in 2020)

Standard fee: 850 CHF (incl. the 2-day DF 75)

### For a single forum (Jubilee DF 75 in brackets)

Standard fee: 300 (520) CHF

Reduced fee: 90 (100) CHF for PhD students and students

Online access: 150 (230) CHF

## Registration

To register for the whole year or a single LCA Discussion Forum, please use the following link:

<https://ethzurich.eventsair.com/lcaforum/reg>

To register you need to create a profile, which is done in very few steps and is self-explanatory. In case you are not able to pay by credit card, please send an e-mail to: [lcaforum@ethz.ch](mailto: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](mailto:lcaforum@ethz.ch)

## Call for short presentations

You work on a topic relevant to one of the Discussion Fora in 2020 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](mailto:lcaforum@ethz.ch)

## Website

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

[www.LCAforum.ch](http://www.LCAforum.ch)

## Mission and organization

### Mission

The LCA Discussion Forum is a platform for an 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. Its content is defined by its board. Proposals are always welcome.

### Board of the Association

- Stefanie Hellweg, ETHZ/IFU (president)
- Arthur Braunschweig, E2 Management Consulting Ltd.
- Norbert Egli, Federal Office for the Environment (BAFU)
- Rolf Frischknecht, treeze Ltd.
- Gérard Gaillard, Agroscope
- Roland Hischier, Empa
- Mischa Zschokke, Carbotech



# 2020

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«Sustainable Economy»

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