



41th LCA Discussion Forum

Discussion forum on Life Cycle Assessment

ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT INFORMATION AND LCA

June 22nd, 2010, Ittigen, Verwaltungszentrum des UVEK

We kindly invite you to the 41st discussion forum on Life Cycle Assessment

«This event will be held in English »

In the recent past, several initiatives were launched to show the carbon footprint or other life cycle based environmental information for consumer products. While the provision of environmental product information (EPI) may contribute to more informed purchase decisions and would help to increase the attention of companies towards environmentally more efficient products and production processes, several key aspects still need clarification. During this forum we discuss the strengths and weaknesses, the opportunities and the limits of environmental information for products in detail.

In a first part expectations of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment are outlined. Therefore, key issues like transparency, international collaboration or comprehensiveness of the indicator are mentioned. Results of a Swiss feasibility study investigating a possible concept for EPI are presented in a second presentation. This shows the main challenges for meaningful information that should direct consumer decisions. A special issue of EPI is the consideration of the use and end-of-life phase. These phases may be very important, depending on the type of product. However, the use phase often shows a high variability and different end-of-life options exist. Furthermore, the use and the waste management of a product can only partly be influenced by the producer. One has to decide also about the level of decision making addressed by the approach and thus about the functional unit for which information can be shown. The presentations evaluate also which environmental indicators are sufficiently comprehensive and accepted internationally. The reaction of consumers on such information and the best ways of providing complicated interrelations in a simplified way will be presented in the next presentation from a psychological perspective.

Then different approaches developed in neighbouring countries are presented for providing environmental information on products based on life cycle thinking. These presentations should highlight the differences as well as similarities in the development of concepts for EPI.

Within the third part we present practical examples of EPI or environmental product declarations for single products or product groups. From these problems we can learn more about the challenges while providing such information. It is evaluated how far such examples can be generalized in order to establish one type of environmental information for all types of products.

Some participants of the forum will present their experiences on EPI in short presentations.

We look forward to meeting you in Berne!
Niels Jungbluth (ESU-services) and Anna Wälty (FOEN)

Final Program

Time	Title	Speaker	Company
8:30	Registration		
9:15	Welcome	Swiss Federal Office for the Environment	FOEN
	Swiss perspectives on EPI		

9:20	Expectations of the FOEN regarding environmental product information	Anna Wälty	FOEN
9:40	Feasibility and challenges for providing environmental product information based on LCA	Niels Jungbluth	ESU-services
10:10	Environmental product information from the psychological point of view	Christina Tobler	ETH Zurich
10:35	Discussion		
10:45	Coffee break		
	Concepts developed in other countries		
	Product Carbon Footprinting – A suitable way for fostering the consumption of products with low CO2-emissions? (cancelled, slides should be available on the DF homepage)	Jenny Teufel und Ran Liu	Öko-Institut, Germany
11.15	Environmental Product Declaration in France: Legal context and technical challenges - illustration for the food sector	Gérard Gaillard	Agroscope Reckenholz- Tänikon ART
11.40	Austrian Initiatives on Environmental Product Information	Eva Burger	SERI, Austria
12.05	Development of PCR and EPD: experiences in Italy on furniture and other products	Leo Breedveld	2B, Italy
12.40	Lunch Break		
13.40	Short presentations of experiences with LCA based environmental information on products.		
	The importance to consider functional unit and use phase instead of mass at gate in declaration: The example of coffee	Sébastien Humbert	Quantis
	Eco-Footprint to talk Life Cycle Thinking to Public	Guy Castelan	PlasticsEurope France
	Using EPDs and generic LCI databases to assess the environmental impacts of buildings in a French context: current practices and perspectives	Sébastien Lasvaux	Centre Scientifique et Technique du Bâtiment, FR
	Environmental Product Declaration: industry perspective	Zhang Qi	Nestle
	Key factors for a successful EPD scheme: experiences of the IBU-scheme for construction products	Roland Hischer	ecoinvent Centre
	Industry implementation and case studies		
14.20	Environmental information for consumers about energy products sold in the City of Zurich	Gerhard Emch	ewz Zurich
14.40	Criteria for energy efficient and low emission vehicles (KEEF, Umweltetikette)	Norbert Egli, Lionel Cretegnny	FOEN
	Coffee break		
15.00	Panel discussion	Moderation: Kathrin Schlup	FOEN
15.30	- Environmental indicators to be used - System boundaries of EPI - System boundaries of EPI	All Presenters, (except these of short presentations)	
16.20	Feedback, wrap-up and farewell	Niels Jungbluth and Carole Dubois	