

The LCA Data Library -A result of National LCA Project in Japan

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The LCA National Project in Japan funded by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) since 1998 has been completed at the end of March 2003, in which (1) LCA methodologies, especially the LCIA method and the practical LCI method for recycling, (2) LCA database for Japan and (3) a network system to show the results of (1)&(2) have been developed.

The project has been conducted by the Steering Committee, under which three committees conducted the specific researches: the Inventory Study Committee, the Impact Assessment Study Committee and the Database Study Committee.

In the Inventory Study Committee, the LCI data for approximately 200 products were collected based on the sub-system, i.e. from Gate to Gate, by 22 industrial associations joined to the project officially, and by around 30 industrial associations contributed to the project unofficially. The inventory data such as resource exploitation and oversea transportation were prepared by the survey of the literatures. These LCI data were deployed into the system together with the LCIA characterization and weighting factors, which was developed to be operated easily at the website by users.

This system will be called as the LCA data library in Japan. We are now discussing the operation rules of the system. It will be opened soon to the public with some restrictions for users.