

How to Use the US LCI Database

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A project is underway in the US which is developing a publicly available life cycle inventory database to track the pollution and resource consumption consequences of commonly used materials, products, and processes within the US and North America. The project receives funding from various US government agencies and the private sector. The project has developed a web-based system for making the resulting peer-reviewed LCI data and accompanying documentation transparent and available to the widest possible user base.

This presentation is intended to inform LCA practitioners how to make use of the data, how to contribute to the database. The presentation will begin with a brief status update on the project. It will then describe the outcome of a process that led to selection and implementation of an internationally compatible data documentation and formatting system. This documentation format allows exchange of data from the US LCI database with other international LCI databases such as the EcoInvent 2000 project in Switzerland; it also allows download of files that are ready for import into a wide set of popular LCA software tools. Finally, a streamlined format was created specifically for the North American LCA market, to enable LCA practitioners a simple, straightforward way to make data available for publication and dissemination via the US LCI database website.