

LCAccess: An On-Line Directory for Global Life Cycle Assessment Information and Data

Timothy J. Skone

Science Applications International Corp., 11251 Roger Bacon Drive, Reston, Virginia 20190;
skonet@saic.com

Mary Ann Curran

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency/National Risk Management Research Laboratory, 26
West Martin Luther King Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45268; curran.maryann@epa.gov

Evaluating environmental impacts holistically from raw material acquisition, through manufacture, use and disposal using a life cycle perspective is gradually being viewed by environmental managers and decision-makers as an important element in achieving environmental sustainability. However, the lack of readily-available, quality data can hamper the incorporation of life cycle considerations into the environmental decision-making process. A major barrier to using life cycle assessment tools is the difficulty in obtaining viable data for completing the analysis, called the life cycle inventory (LCI). *LCAccess* is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sponsored website intended to help overcome this barrier and promote the use of life cycle assessments in business decision-making by facilitating access to data sources that are useful in developing an LCI.

LCAccess serves as a central source for life cycle assessment information. The main goal of the website is to promote the use of life cycle thinking in decision-making by facilitating access to resources and data sources useful in developing a life cycle inventory. It accomplishes this goal by providing information on EPA's role in life cycle assessment, the benefits of life cycle assessment, what is life cycle assessment, a brief overview of how to conduct a life cycle assessment, how to find data sources (through the LCI Global Directory), available resources (i.e., documents, software tools, other related links), on-going efforts in the field (e.g., EPA, other US efforts, international efforts), and upcoming events (i.e. conferences and workshops). While *LCAccess* does not itself contain data, it is a searchable global directory to potential data sources. From the results of a key word search on an industry sector, data profiles on individual data sources are generated to give the user an idea of what each data source contains. To find the *LCAccess* web-site go to: <http://www.epa.gov/ORD/NRMRL/lcaccess>.

LCAccess is currently soliciting organizations that have completed life cycle assessment studies to provide their data sources for reference in *LCAccess*. Inquiries should be directed to the development manager, Mr. Tim Skone (703/318-4604) and/or the EPA Sponsor, Ms. Mary Ann Curran (513/569-7782).