

LCA as Input to LCC

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From a methodological aspect, LCC is well developed with respect to conventional costs. However, when it comes to costs related to environmental issues, neither the items, nor their estimation is well developed.

In the EU project DANTEs, (Eco-Efficiency evaluation of new and existing products), an attempt is made to use LCA information to identify and estimate environmentally related costs and benefits in an LCC. Case studies will be performed at ABB and Akzo Nobel. The methodology presented here is being developed at Chalmers.

Some of the items of an LCC have to do with increased/decreased sales, others with goodwill. Both are difficult to estimate, but LCA or LCA-like investigations may be used for benchmarking and trend analysis.

Future costs to the product system may also be estimated, e.g. with a distance-to-target type of weighting, like in the DESC model.

LCA may be used to estimate risks, especially together with those LCA impact assessment methods that model damage. Such an item in the LCC can be dealt with as an insurance fee or in case the risk is too high, as a way to include necessary preventive actions.

In today's cost accounting it is often difficult to find environmental related costs. An LCA helps in identifying many of these costs.

LCA data may be difficult to make public and LCC data are even worse. Therefore a procedural methodology for the use of LCA as input to LCC is developed as a first step.