

The European Platform on Life Cycle Assessment a project to support life cycle thinking in business and policy making in Europe

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The “European Platform on Life Cycle Assessment” is a project of the European Commission (EC). This project supports life cycle thinking in a broad range of European policies and in product development. It addresses the life cycle related needs of European policy makers and of European business. The project is conducted in the context of the EC’s Thematic Strategies on Waste Prevention and the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources, as well as the Integrated Product Policy (IPP).

The first key deliverable is the European Reference Life Cycle Data System (ELCD). The ELCD is based on data of European business associations and contains core Life Cycle Inventory (LCI) data for main commodities, energy carriers, transport, and waste management in a common reference LCA format. These inventory data will be accompanied by recommended life cycle impact assessment factors. The ELCD is published via the EC’s LCA information hub on the web, which also hosts an independent and detailed, searchable directory of LCA services, tools, databases, and providers. The first version was online in June 2006.

The second main deliverable is a handbook on recommended LCA practice for data collection, modeling, analysis, interpretation and documentation. This will be based on a best attainable consensus within the initial 3-year duration of the project. The deliverables are being developed through a series of studies, meetings, and workshops, complemented by the outputs of national and international projects.

See also <http://lca.jrc.it>.