

Making Product LCAs Useful and Used

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This presentation by both Robert K. Watson and Kirsten Ritchie. will explore how to make product Life Cycle Assessments (LCAs) useful to a broad range of building professionals – from manufacturers of products used in building construction and furnishing to architects, engineers, contractors, facility managers and interior designers. While LCA is featured in many conferences, its application to brand products needs to be expanded significantly for its value in promoting holistic thinking on product design and use to be fully realized.

The presenters will put forth a process for making broad use of product LCAs a reality by outlining new kinds of collaboration among academic institutions, business and industry, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations. They will identify opportunities for LCA tool developers and users to contribute to a common data format making the interface of datasets more cost and time efficient. As well the presenters will outline possibilities for various LCA based tools to be used together productively to advance a sustainable world through the ways products are designed, manufactured, selected, used and recycled.

