

Minutes LCI Meeting, Camp Long 3 October 2008

A group of about 50 people attended the meeting held at Camp Long, Seattle to discuss the data quality and funding for the US Life Cycle Inventory. The list of attendees is appended. The meeting was jointly sponsored by the Institute for Environmental Research and Education (IERE) and Sylvatica.

There were several presentations about existing efforts in the US and the EU and elsewhere, to set the stage for our discussions. Of particular interest is the European Platform on LCA and the two decades experience of the Ecoinvent database, the Japanese database and that of PE International. There are many efforts around the world to develop national databases: Australia, Brazil, and many other countries are working to develop them. There is a great need for transparent, credible, high quality national data for average common unit processes. Since our goods are made and shipped globally, data systems should be developed so that data can be shared among the different data formats being developed around the world.

There was an extensive discussion about data quality and data quality management systems. A data quality management system should have:

- Clear guidance about quality
- A validation system that grades data quality
- Registration of reviewers (ACLCA's system can accommodate other registrations, but the data quality guidance must be in place in order to provide the reference against which registration is made).

Some of the characteristics of data quality include:

- Naming conventions (which may be layered)
 - Named by outputs, not inputs
 - Agreed-upon names wherever possible
 - Distinctions between technosphere and ecosphere flows
 - Clear identification of ecosphere flows (e.g. CAS numbers)
- Common unit process boundaries
 - Especially for horizontally-aggregated data
- Meta data, including
 - estimates of uncertainty and variability
 - age
 - geographic boundaries
 - representativeness

The group agreed that there were four major tasks that needed to be developed and implemented to accomplish the goal of a high-quality transparent US LCI database.

- Develop a data quality management system: All issues described above, plus
 - Prioritization of updates
 - Version control
 - Dealing with duplicate processes

- Complete Documentation
- Coordinate with efforts elsewhere to assure data acceptance and transferability
 - Compatibility with other national databases
 - Linkage to other datasets, to capture international chains
 - Ways for internationally prioritizing data needs
 - Alliances, common cause, openness
 - Collaboration with other communities with needs for this data, e.g., chemicals policy, ASHRAE standards
- Communication
 - Telling users about updates when they become available
 - User-friendliness of the data;
 - Documentation (e.g. fact sheets on what the database is for)
 - PR strategy for data; identifying audiences and appropriate communication mechanisms and topics (e.g. how to communicate limitations without confusion)
- Develop a long-term sustainability plan for the database
 - Funding, even after “the honeymoon”, in a stable, sustained way

The group brainstormed potential funding approaches for these efforts. How to do the funding will depend upon the infrastructure that is developed to support these efforts, but the ideas included:

- Various US Federal government agencies (DOE, USDA, EPA, Commerce & others): Wal-Mart may help move the effort in DC
- Foundations
- Industry
- A donation of 1% of all LCA study fees

It was agreed that a subset of this group should be formed to develop the organizational structure.

The group agreed on several next steps:

1. Minutes for the meeting should be developed and shared (met by this document).
2. A declaration for all attendees to sign, signifying support for this process (to be developed by Wayne Trusty, Michael Deru, Martha Leflar and Rita Schenck).
3. Development of an organizational structure document (to be developed by a committee including Jeff Rice, Rita Schenck, Nuno da Silva, Michael Deru, Lise Laurin, Wayne Trusty, Martha Leflar, Neil Huizenga, Marc Goedkoop, Mike Levy and Jon Dettling). This document should describe how to accomplish the four points described above.
4. Starting the development of the data quality system at a meeting at the University of Arkansas on 30 October (per Jeff Rice).

IERE/American Center for Life Cycle Assessment (ACLCA) will act as the secretariat for these efforts.

Rita Schenck
IERE/ACLCA

(With assistance from Greg Norris, Sylvatica)

Attendees		
<u>First name</u>	<u>Last name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Evan	Andrews	Sylvatica
Jungan	Bae	U. Minnesota
Gontran	Bage	ellipos
Catherine	Benoit	Sylvatica
Michael	Betz	PE International
Larry	Brown	Seattle and King County HWMP
Lindita	Bushi	Athena Institute
Andreas	Ciroth	Green Delta
David	Cockburn	Tetrapack
Nuno	da Silva	PE Americas
Michael	Deru	NREL
Jon	Dettling	ecoincesys
Carol	Diggelman	Milwaukee School of Engineering
Marylène	Dussault	Sylvatica
Bill	Flanagan	GE Research
Mark	Goedkoop	PRé Consultants
Gretchen	Govoni	SABIC Innovative Plastics
Evan	Griffing	Environmental Clarity
Neil	Huizenga	Microsoft
Doug	Huizenga	IERE
Sebastien	Humbert	UCLA, Ecoincesys
Shawn	Hunter	The Dow Chemical Company
	Landfield	
Anne	Greig	Four Elements Consulting, LLC
Martha	Leflar	GreenBlue
Pascal	Lesage	Sylvatica
Mike	Levy	ACC
Deanna	Lizas	ICF International
Susan	Long	Starbucks Coffee Company
Medgar	Marceau	Morrison-Hershfield
Manuele	Margni	CIRAIG
Laurel	McEwen	Earthshift
Mistry	Minal	GreenBlue
Chris	Mutel	ETH Zurich Ökologisches Systemdesign

<u>First name</u>	<u>Last name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Katsuyuki	Nakano	JEMAI
Greg	Norris	Sylvatica
Bruno	Pereiro	Dow
Ana	Quiros	Ecoglobal & ALCALA
Jeff	Rice	University of Arkansas
Carolina	Santiago	Coca-Cola
Beverly	Sauer	FAL
Rita	Schenck	IERE
Oliver	Schuller	University of Stuttgart
Kiyotaka	Tahara	AIST (Japan)
TBD	TBD	Earthshift
Wayne	Trusty	Athena Institute
Hongtao	Wang	Sichuan University
Bo	Weidema	ecoinvent
Gregor	Wernet	ETH Zurich
Hiroko	Yamanaka	Tokyo Private