

Meeting on LCI Data and LCI Databases

Friday October 3rd 2008

Almost everyone you talk to in the North American LCA community will tell you that these are exciting times. There demand for LCA-based information has increased very rapidly in a very short amount of time, and, by most accounts, this is only the beginning. One of the resources that the North American LCA community needs to appropriately respond to this demand is high quality, representative LCI data. Although there are some sources of LCI data in North America, we have much more work still to do to develop data repositories and to accumulate and validate LCI data.

Many people placed much hope in the US LCI database, expecting it would become the main repository of high quality, validated LCI data in North America. Seven years after its inception, it is our main data repository, but it has no data validation protocol in place, only a modest core set of data so far and very little funding to keep the project in motion.

We are taking advantage of the In Life Cycle Assessment VIII Meeting in Seattle to convene people from diverse fields, including academia, data providing industries , data using industries and database and software suppliers to discuss how to overcome these barriers. We invite you to participate in this meeting to:

1. Discuss the potential role of the US LCI in assisting the North American LCA community, evaluate whether expectation have changed, and look for strategies to allow it to fully take on this role.
2. Learn about different LCI database efforts, and see if they can inform strategies for the US LCI or support the US LCI database effort through direct collaboration.
3. Share ideas on LCI data and databases that could help the field evolve.

A tentative agenda is attached. At this stage we are still open to suggestions for changes to better help us meet the objectives of the meeting. If you would like to participate in this meeting, please send an email to plesage@sylvatica.com. If you would like to present (see below for details on presentation), please also send a title and a short description of the topic you would like to present.

This meeting is sponsored by Sylvatica and the Institute for Environmental Research & Education.

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Seattle, Friday October 3rd 2008

Tentative agenda

<i>Time</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Objective</i>	<i>Format</i>
9:00-9h30	Status of the US LCI database	Give a transparent overview of the current status of the US LCI database, touching on topics like influx of new data, data validation and funding.	Presentations from people directly involved in the management of the US LCI database, followed by a question period.
9:30-10h00	Revisiting expectations with regards to the US LCI database	Get a sense for what expectations are with regards to the US LCI database. Should it be the major data repository in North America? Should all its data be validated? What are the major challenges it needs to surmount to meet these objectives?	Presentation of an informal survey, done on the site of the LCA VIII conference. Series of 5 minute Ignite ¹ format presentations, followed by a discussion period.
10h00-10h30	Data validation	With the aim of having an established validation protocol for the US LCI, discuss the following: Purpose of validation; Overview of existing schemes; The role of uncertainty analysis in data validation; Proposed plan for US LCI.	Presentations from people directly involved in the management of the US LCI database, followed by a discussion period.
10h45-12h00	Learning from and links with other databases	Have representatives of other major database initiatives expose their models and show how they have themselves been able to meet the challenges now faced by the US LCI. Find possible avenues for collaboration between major database initiatives for mutual support.	Presentations from major database providers, followed by a discussion period.
12h00-13h00	Lunch		

¹ Ignite format presentations, developed in Seattle by the computer programming community, are meant to provide a platform for people in one field to present their ideas. They are fast-paced, very short and accompanied with powerpoint presentations where the slides advance automatically. For this meeting, presentations should be 5 minutes, and slides should advance automatically after 30 seconds (total of 10 slides only per speaker).

<i>Time</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Objective</i>	<i>Format</i>
13h00-15h00	Open discussion on LCI data	<p>Give the floor to participants to discuss LCI data in general. Possible subjects include (but are not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCI data adaptation: Data augmentations; Data recalibration; Crossing over from attributional to consequential (or vice versa); Buffet-style data creation; Joining of whole LCI databases; Role of uncertainty analysis in LCI data adaptation. • Data formats: Data exchange; Data tagging vs. data classification; Electronic certification of data. • Data dissemination: Data registries; LCI data and the Web 2.0; Proprietary vs. public vs. open data. 	Series of 5 minute Ignite ¹ format presentations, followed by a discussion period.
15h15-16h00	Concluding discussions	<p>Discussion on strategies to allow the US LCI database to meet its goals.</p> <p>Planning of possible follow-up discussions on topics discussed during the various sessions.</p>	Open discussion.