

Executive Summary, PCR Workshop 4-5 October 2009

The U.S. EPA Region 10 and the Institute for Environmental Research and Education co-sponsored a workshop to discuss Product Category Rules (PCRs), and the need to address them in the USA. The discussion focused on the application of product category rules in the building product industry, but some of its outcomes are applicable to all industries. The intent of the workshop was to engage interested parties to help develop a bottoms-up approach to managing PCRs.

IERE is developing a project with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians to build a commercial building that will have LCAs on all its components and it intends to develop PCRs and provide Type III environmental product declarations as part of that effort.

The workshop was held in Seattle October 4-5, and was attended by about 30 people representing government at the federal, state and local levels, NGOs interested in LCA, green buildings, ecolabelling and standards, and the building industry, represented by both industry groups and individual companies. All the attendees were familiar with LCA, but there was a range of experience on PCRs, and the environmental product declarations based upon them, from none at all to program operators.

After a visioning exercise, the group developed a strong consensus on these points:

- 1) There is a need for a single national repository for product category rules (possibly within DOC)
- 2) The repository should coordinate with international efforts
- 3) There is a need for demonstrations of building PCRs and LCAs
- 4) There is a need for clear guidelines for program operators and related PCR/LCA issues.

Several groups were formed to move these issues forward.

- 1) A group to do outreach on a PCR repository
- 2) A group to write documents laying out the value proposition for PCRs and EPDs
- 3) A group to work on demonstrations
- 4) A group to plan the next meeting

EPA Region 10 agreed to host a follow-on meeting on PCRs.

The full report of the meeting and the visioning exercise can be found at

<http://iere.org/documents/PCR-Workshop%20Notes.pdf>

http://iere.org/documents/Visioning-Exercise_Flip-chart-notes.pdf

