Life Cycle Initiative

A joint organisation of
UNEP and SETAC

UNEP   SETAC

LC Net • Newsletter of the Life Cycle Initiative

Life Cycle Events, Announcements and more! January/February 2016 Edition

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LC Net Focus

2015, a momentous year

In the face of extraordinary challenges the world has come together in two unprecedented agreements: the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within the 2030 Development Agenda adopted in September, and the "monumental triumph" of the Paris Climate Change Agreement adopted last month.

These agreements focus on the result that is to be achieved, the goals: the Paris Agreement aims among others to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C. The SDGs put poverty eradication and sustainable development at the core of the 2030 development agenda.

The vision of the goals provides an overall direction and brings everyone together around the same compass, but how do we get there? This is where Life Cycle Thinking (LCT) is needed, supporting our steps towards sustainable development by identifying priorities of interventions based on the areas for highest opportunities and managing potential trade-offs. Read the full article.

Life Cycle in Action: Case studies from our network

Rural Community in Development

Rural Community in Development (RUCID) is specialised in organic agriculture and food processing. It started to implement life cycle thinking in 2014, thanks to a UNEP / SETAC Life Cycle Initiative capacity development project. Funded by the European Commission, the project specifically targeted small businesses willing to implement a life cycle approach.

A "hotspot" strategy, focused on waste and energy, enabled RUCID to reduce energy use and related costs, and to better utilise waste. The programme enabled better-informed decisions and sustainable innovation, develop the company's capacity, build a culture for continuous improvement, get ready for export, and improve its reputation. The cost savings and improvements enabled RUCID to increase its annual revenue by 25% between 2012-2013 and 2013-2014.

"*Implementing a life cycle approach helped us improve processes and profits, while respecting environmental and human resource*", commented Samuel Nyanzi, RUCID's CEO.

Read the full case study.

Consult RUCID's website.

A Look Inside: profiling our sponsors and partners

The Indonesian Life Cycle Assessment Network holds its 1st Annual Meeting!

What is the status of LCA research and application in Indonesia? The Indonesian Life Cycle Assessment Network (ILCAN) focused on the issue with its first national workshop and annual meeting, held on 24-25 November 2015 in Puspiptek, Serpong, Indonesia.

100 active participants from academia, government, and private sectors joined in. It was a success for this young network, which was established in December 2014 by researchers and lecturers from Indonesia.

ILCAN, a voluntary, non-profit organization, aims to promote LCA research and application to support sustainable development in Indonesia. Its main programs are to share information on LCA methodology and to develop capacity on LCA of interested parties such as academia, government, and industry.

Read the full article.

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Our Calendar: Where we and our partners will be in the coming months

For a full calendar of life cycle events, see our *Events page* on our website.

The Pellston workshop on environmental indicators guidance • 24-29 January 2016 - Valencia, Spain

The Initiative's flagship project on "Global Guidance for Life Cycle Impact Assessment Indicators and Methods" will organize this one-week workshop, covering the work of the Task Forces on Climate Change, Respiratory Organics, Land use, Water use, and cross-cutting issues. The overall objective of the Pellston Project is to provide the scientific ground for harmonised environmental impact indicators, which are suited for use in life cycle assessment studies.

5th Meeting of the International Forum on Life Cycle Assessment Cooperation • 14-16 March 2016 - Brasilia, Brazil

UNEP will be co-organising this 3-day event jointly with the Brazilian Institute for Information in Science and Technology (IBICT). The first two days will be focused on global cooperation around LCA data, with the meeting of the Global Network of Interoperable LCA databases; this Network has the objective to facilitate the access to existing LCA databases for all LCA practitioners and does so by coordinating representatives from governments, academia, database owners, as well as from businesses and industries. The third day of the meeting will be targeted at government officials, and focus on experience sharing of implementation of LCA/LCT in policy, and on further defining/strengthening the role of international cooperation in LCA/LCT.

SETAC Europe 26th Annual Meeting • 22-26 May 2016 – Nantes, France

The 2016 Annual Meeting of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) unit in Europe will be dedicated to "Environmental contaminants from land to sea: continuities and interface in environmental toxicology and chemistry". The Life Cycle Initiative will lead 3 sessions: *From streamlining LCA to new concepts of hotspots analysis; Life cycle data developments; and Consensus building in life cycle impact assessment.* We also plan to share exciting updates from our capacity development activities, among others, through the Life Cycle Initiative booth: watch this space!

A one-day, back-to-back workshop will also be dedicated to international discussions on LCA data review on Friday 27 May 2016.

LCA Food 2016, 10th International conference on Life Cycle Assessment of Food • 19-21 October 2016 – Dublin, Ireland

The call for abstracts is open for the 10th International Conference on Life Cycle Assessment of Food 2016 which will take place in Dublin from the 19th - 21st October, 2016. The four main themes of the conference are Impacts and Environmental Processes, Animal Products: Meat, Dairy & Seafood, Human interactions in the food chain; and Using LCA. The scene will be set with keynotes by some of the world's leading experts on the topic. Deadline for Abstract Submission is 14th February 2016! For more information visit www.lcafood2016.org.

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Announcements

Including abstract deadlines, publications, and other interesting news

Newsletter readership survey: we need 5 minutes of your time!

Please answer our online survey, so we can have a better understanding of your appreciation of our newsletter, and of your interest areas. It will only take 5 minutes of your time, and the more responses we have, the better we will be able to improve according to your needs.

Thank you so much in advance!

Flashback: Recent Life Cycle Initiative Events & Activity

5th International Conference on Green and Sustainable Innovation (ICGSI 2015)

8-10 November 2015 - Pattaya, Thailand

The conference covered important topics regarding innovation and eco-innovation in particular, for which life cycle thinking is essential.

Llorenç Milà i Canals, from the Initiative and UNEP, led a keynote speech about "*Integrating Life Cycle Thinking in Sustainable Consumption and Production for a Green Economy: update on UNEP activities*". Jim Fava, co-chair of the Initiative's hotspot analysis flagship activity, spoke on "How can we create both environmental and social improvement and business value from use of life cycle information".

Jim and Llorenç animated a workshop on potential collaboration activities in South East Asia, with a focus on capacity development, LCA data, and hotspots analyses.

All the presentations from the conference are available here.

Flagship Activity Feedback - A selection

The carbon and water footprint training materials are online!

• The carbon footprint training material provides an overview regarding carbon footprint, and how it can contribute to improve the environmental performance of products and organisations. It is accessible for people with no carbon footprint or LCA experience, who want to understand how carbon footprint can help reduce the greenhouse gas emissions.
• The water footprint training material includes two different modules. An introduction to the

basic concepts of water footprint aims to raise awareness, and was designed to be accessible for a non-expert public. A more advanced training module, better fit for LCA practitioners and method developers, covers all the aspects of water footprint to perform or critically review water footprint assessment.

We invite you to use, disseminate and share your feedback with us on the usefulness of these materials, which add to the resources available through our website.

Review of 40 LCA datasets from Malaysia, Brazil and Thailand completed

The Life Cycle Initiative has been supporting UNEP in technical support to national LCA databases since late 2014. One of the key requests from countries has been for technical support on the peer-review of their LCA datasets. This particular effort had to be organized and completed over a constrained timeline of six months and covered 40 datasets from several emerging economies -- Malaysia, Brazil and Thailand. It consisted in developing a set of review criteria, establishing a review process including legal aspects (non-disclosure agreement), and reviewing and reporting on each dataset.

This hands-on activity provided valuable insights into gaining global consensus and creating guidance on data review. Further discussions will follow-up in SETAC Nantes (see above).

Read the full article.

More information on the flagship activity here.

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Secretariat of the UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative

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