

UNEP Technical Support Project for Data Publication and Capability Development – Road testing

Call for expression of interest to become reviewer

Background

The Flagship Project 2a of the UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative has as its main objective to support the development of databases and contained datasets according to the Global Guidance Principles (GGP) for LCA Databases (Sonnemann and Vigon, 2011)¹ and in line with emerging procedures and practices for review. Following on the desire to operationalize the Global Guidance Principles and to allow systematic review of databases and datasets, the Flagship Project is committed to build and validate a consensus set of criteria for assessment and review at the database and data levels to both confirm the adherence to the good management practices in the GGP and to support review of data according to a rigorous set of criteria.

To evolve toward consolidated review criteria, first drafts of data review criteria and GGP conformance criteria have been formulated in 2015. The data review criteria are developed by an independent set of experts who have received input during the criteria refinement process from a number of stakeholders. A first round of reviews has taken place, and feedback on the review criteria and the review process has enabled to improve both. The project has now reached the road-testing phase where the applicability and usefulness of the developed conformance criteria will be tested on datasets from national databases of Australia, Thailand and Chile.

The ambition is to review 10 representative datasets per database covering different product groups and priorities sectors of the country. The aim is to have two reviewers per dataset, at least one knowing also the sector and/ or the county. The reviewers will review the datasets according to the criteria and check the applicability and usefulness of the conformance criteria. Performing the review in a way that allows for both LCA methodology and technical (sector) expertise to be utilized and in the process realizes a capability development opportunity for personnel in the three countries and the region.

The intent of the review feedback is to encourage improvements on the datasets, either prior to publication of the datasets or as part of a continuous improvement cycle. Besides, the feedback will be used to further optimize the review process.

Task description

- Reviewing the dataset(s) according to a provided set of review criteria
- Check the applicability and the usefulness of the conformance criteria
- The rationale behind the evaluation of the reviewer will need to be explained in a small report

¹ Sonnemann, G. and B. Vigon (2011). Global Guidance Principles for Life Cycle Assessment Databases: A Basis for Greener Processes and Products, UNEP/SETAC Lifecycle Initiative, United Nations Environment Programme, ISBN: 978-92-807-3174-3, DTI/1410/PA, 156 pages.

- Reviewers might be asked to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement between the data provider and the reviewer to protect the confidentiality of the datasets
- Most datasets will see a pairing of two reviewers. One will focus on LCA methodology and the other will focus on technical aspects of the processes within the system boundary and their correct representation in the data model. The reviewers will be asked to collaborate and fill in a joint review report
- Reviewers are asked to be available for follow-up, to provide clarifications to the project coordinators in case of ambiguities in the review report, or to discuss improvement options in the reviewing process
- After the provision of the data, the final review criteria and the guidance to the reviewers on the procedures, the work should be carried out within one month

Requirements reviewers

Reviewers should have a proven track record on LCA methodology, or have a strong technical background in one of the key sectors that will be represented by the datasets of the aforementioned countries.

Contact

If you are interested, please email your CV and a description of your background to Feng.Wang@unep.org before 30 July 2016.