LC Net Focus

The first session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC)
From 28 November to 2 December 2022, the first session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC-1) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution will take place at the Punta del Este Convention and Exhibition Center in Uruguay. The preceding multi-stakeholder forum and regional consultations will take place on 26 and 27 November 2022 at the same venue.

The session is open to all Member States of the United Nations and members of United Nations specialized agencies, to regional economic integration organizations and to relevant Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS). The importance to consider a full life-cycle approach to plastic pollution has already been highlighted in previous communications on this topic, and is well reflected in the “Plastics science” document prepared to inform the negotiations.

- More information on INC-1
- More information on the multi-stakeholder forum

We look forward to seeing many of you in Uruguay or virtually!

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**Announcements**

**Join the GlobalABC Building Materials Working Group!**

In view of the increased overall attention and interest in addressing embodied carbon in the buildings and construction sector, the UNEP-hosted Global Alliance for Buildings and
value chain in decarbonizing buildings across their whole life cycle. The Life Cycle Initiative is co-chairing the working group, which includes four sub-working groups: 1) Policy briefs - Building materials and embodied carbon; 2) Global information hub on building materials and products; 3) Building materials & circularity; 4) Support roadmap development. The Building Materials working group is open to all stakeholders active in this field and is looking for members with an LCA background.

The objectives of the working group are to:

- Shape a common vision and approach for the decarbonization of building and construction materials including a full life-cycle perspective of their use in buildings and infrastructure.
- Make the case for action by governments and other decision makers to accelerate building materials decarbonization to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.
- Facilitate shaping and exchanging of best practices and cross-fertilization of ideas for building materials decarbonization.
- Put forward solutions to overcome barriers to reducing the impact of the building materials sector in both developed and emerging economies.
- Promote and develop tools to support analysis/data collection and prioritization for the decarbonization of building materials in Buildings and Construction roadmaps modelled on the GlobalABC roadmaps.

If you’d like to join the Building Materials working group or need more information, please contact Mona Mohammed, Jonathan Duwyn, and Pauline Guerecheau.

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Call for Funding: a new project to develop consistent guidelines to model and consider Biogenic Carbon in LCA

The Life Cycle Initiative is seeking funding partners to develop a new project on Biogenic Carbon in LCA!

The Life Cycle Initiative has already received initial funding pledges to implement a new project on Biogenic Carbon in LCA, and we are looking for additional funding partners. This two-to-three-year project answers the demand for global consistent guidelines to consider biogenic carbon in LCA. Consult the project overview for more information.

If you are interested, please send an email to Claudia Giacovelli with the subject line: Biogenic Carbon Project: interest in funding.
UNEP’s newest report on "Single-use supermarket food packaging and its alternatives: Recommendations from life cycle assessments" draws recommendations for policy makers and LCA practitioners on what are the supermarket food packaging solutions that have the least environmental footprint. The launch event took place on 11 October 2022, during the 13th International Conference on Life Cycle Assessment of Food held in Lima, Peru.

This report is the last of a series of meta-analyses of LCA studies on single-use plastic products and their alternatives, in response to Resolution 9 of the fourth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA4), on “Addressing Single-use plastic pollution”.

- Access the advance copy of the ‘Supermarket food packaging meta-analyses’
- Access all Single-use plastic product (SUPP) publications
- Access the launch webinar recording

The MarILCA working group is advancing well on their objective of providing Characterization Factors (CF) for plastic emissions!
The characterization factors (CFs) for microplastic emissions to marine environment were presented at LCA Food in Lima on October 12th, and include 9 polymer types, 3 shapes and 5 sizes. CFs for resource depletion linked to plastic waste dissipation were also presented at the conference. It should be noted that for the first time, in this edition of the LCA Food conference a parallel session was devoted to the role of macro- and microplastics in LCIA. CFs for microplastic emissions were applied to case studies and integrated into the UN *Single-use supermarket food packaging and its alternatives: Recommendations from life cycle assessments report*, which was also launched in Peru as a workshop at LCA Food. The CFs are expected to be submitted for publication this year and included in the GLAM project deliverable. CFs for macroplastics emissions are also in development and are expected to be ready by the end of this year.

8th International Conference on Social Life Cycle Assessment

The International Conference of Social Life Cycle Assessment is the main event to present current methodological developments and best practices in social life cycle assessment (S-LCA). It also allows different stakeholders to discuss and exchange on important topics such as Human and labour rights.

The 8th conference took place in a hybrid format from 5-8 September 2022 in Aachen, Germany, and had 150 participants (the most in presence), 17 sessions, 3 workshops, 2 side events and a BarCamp. The theme chosen for this edition was “Leave No One Behind”, reflecting the central role that stakeholders play.

Two important keynote speakers presented at the conference: Mrs. Zakia Khattabi - Belgian Minister of Climate, Environment, Sustainable Development and Green Deal; and Mr. Nathan Fabian - Chief Responsible Investment Officer at PRI and Chairperson at European Platform on Sustainable Finance. The speeches are publicly available on the [conference website](#).

USEtox: scientific advancements and new communication material
The next official version of USEtox is currently being prepared for release. Part of the package is an extension from 400 to 8000 non-cancer chemicals for human toxicity, including now an indicator for reproductive/developmental effects, and going from 2000 to more than 7000 chemicals for ecotoxicological impacts, based on a species sensitivity distribution (SSD) approach (Owsianiak et al. 2022). USEtox will be expanded to not only characterize chemical life cycle emissions, but also chemicals inside consumer products, such as children’s toys (Aurisano et al. 2021) and building materials (Huang et al. 2022) and many more. For each product category covered, a specific user interface will be developed, as part of a new user manual, which will be available under https://manual.usetox.org.

GLAM: producing initial characterization factors for multiple impact categories

After years of intense collaboration, consensus building and new development to address main gaps in LCIA, the project on Global Guidance for Life Cycle Impact Assessment (GLAM) is producing initial characterization factors for multiple impact categories, addressing human health, ecosystem quality, as well as natural resources and ecosystem service. These were presented in a stakeholder meeting held on 3 November in conjunction with the Ecobalance conference. This opens an intense test phase, to ground-truth the obtained characterization factors, evaluate the magnitude of impacts for total world emissions, and test the robustness of the developed methods on specific case studies. A systematic approach will also be used to enable an easy use of these factors via implementation in LCA software and systematic documentation of the underlying data and models.

Life Cycle Community News

Call for Abstracts: The 11th Australian Conference on Life Cycle Assessment

Responding to the climate emergency: metrics and tools for rational action

19 - 20 July 2023 | Twin Towns, Coolangatta QLD
Join the Australian Life Cycle Assessment Society (ALCAS) for the 11th biannual LCA Conference on the Gold Coast, Australia. The topic of the conference is “Responding to the climate emergency: metrics and tools for rational action”, bringing together climate and energy practitioners, green building designers, product manufacturers and suppliers, industry users of LCAs and EPDs, government, researchers and LCA professionals to network, learn and debate.

Abstract submissions can be made for two outcomes:

- Peer-reviewed conference papers or posters, due by 15 November 2022.
- Non-peer reviewed conference papers, posters or presentations, due by 19 March 2023.

The conference is calling for abstracts: not exceeding 300 words are to be submitted using the conference tool. More information can be found on the conference website.

Life Cycle Event Calendar

Life Cycle Talks

Upcoming Life Cycle Talks on 14 December • 10AM -10:30 AM (CET)

- Life cycle assessment of emerging technology, with Matty Janssen, Chalmers University of Technology.

Earlier Life Cycle Talks:

- How can social life cycle assessment address social sustainability? with Mathias Lindkvist,
- How can we reach a sustainable consumption? With Göran Finnveden,
- Life Cycle Talks I How green is your business? With Henrikke Baumann,
**LCA Discussion Forum**
4 November 2022 • Zurich, Switzerland and online

Join this discussion on the developments of the LCA community to address the impacts of plastic pollution. The audience will be composed of researchers, companies and non-governmental actors. The head of the Life Cycle Initiative Secretariat, Llorenç Milà i Canals, will be participating in the discussion "Addressing the issue of plastic pollution: status quo and the way forward".

[More information.](#)

**The American Center for Life Cycle Assessment (ACLCA) Conference**
8-11 November 2022 • Virtual

The ACLCA 2022 Conference will provide programs, facilitated discussions and events to share, discover, and provide the tools and insights to transform environmental sustainability using LCA and life cycle thinking.

[More information and registration.](#)

**LCA at COP 27**
16 November 2022 • Sharam El Sheikh, Egypt and online

Join this side event on the use of Life Cycle Assessment and Environmental Product Declaration. The discussion will focus on how life-cycle-based information can promote sustainable building markets. Here you will find the challenges and opportunities in conducting a proper LCA in Egypt, and how to create an enabling environment to facilitate the development of LCAs in Egypt, the Middle East and Africa.

[More information.](#)

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**Life Cycle Job Announcements**

**Circular Economy Consultant at United Nations Environment Programme**

United Nations Environment Programme is seeking a Circular Economy Consultant to join the Consumption and Production Unit and support the work of the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE)
Assistant Professors at the Technical University of Denmark (DTU)
The Department of Environmental and Resource Engineering at the Technical University of Denmark offers three full-time Assistant Professor (tenure track) positions in Sustainability Assessment. Expected start date is 1st February 2023. Please know that your complete online application must be submitted no later than 15 November 2022 (Danish time).

More information.

Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) Analyst/Practitioner at Unilever
Unilever is looking for a Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) Analyst/Practitioner to conduct research to help advance life cycle and related approaches needed to improve the assessment of environmental impacts related to business actions.

More information.

Senior Life Cycle Assessment Expert at SIEMENS
SIEMENS is looking for a Senior Life Cycle Assessment Expert to work on the product carbon footprint exchange mechanisms.

More information.

PhD position on LCA related topic at Eindhoven University of Technology
Are you eager to understand transition pathways of electrification of shipping? Are you interesting in impact and circularity assessment, and combining this with a responsible research and innovation approach? We are looking for a multidisciplinary researcher for our program on Maritime Batteries, funded by NWO KIC program ‘Zero-emission and circular shipping’. Eindhoven University of Technology is leader of the work package on exploration and assessment of different battery-circular pathways. This PhD research will involve (1) the assessment of environmental impact of batteries in maritime application by Life Cycle Assessment; (2) exploring circular pathways of batteries and their impact; (3) exploring transition pathways, like future scenarios, and different stakeholder roles in this
Postdoctoral Research Associate at Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Oak Ridge National Laboratory is seeking a Postdoctoral Research Associate who will support the Manufacturing Energy Efficiency Research & Analysis (MEERA) Group on Life Cycle Assessment Research.

More information.

Life Cycle Analyst at Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation from Australia is seeking a Life Cycle Analyst who will be part of CSIRO's Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Team, and undertake research to develop integrated assessments and advise industry, government and community on how to increase the sustainability of our built environments. Applications will close on 6 November 2022, 11:00 PM (AEDT).

More information.

Energy Systems Analyst at Argonne National Laboratory

The Fuels and Products Group within the Energy Systems Division at Argonne National Laboratory is hiring Energy Systems Analysts to study the life cycle environmental effects of fuels and products and to understand the potential for technologies to contribute to economy-wide decarbonization.

More information.

PhD position opening – Peruvian Life Cycle Assessment Network (PELCAN)

The Peruvian Life Cycle Assessment Network is currently collaborating with European institutions in two projects, BAMBOO and RAINFOREST, both financed by the EU Horizon-RIA programme, and seeking a PhD student for these endeavors. The PhD position will focus on research linked to develop models to quantify biodiversity impacts using life-cycle indicators as applied to the seafood and fisheries sector in Peru.

More information.
Volkswagen (VW) Investment Co., Ltd. of China is seeking expert to support the VW Group de-carbonization strategy within China via life cycle assessments.

More information.

Life Cycle Assessment Lead at Mondelēz International

Mondelēz International is looking for a Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) Specialist to lead the LCA practices for the Research & Development function.

More information.

Become a Funding Partner

The work of the Life Cycle Initiative would not be possible without the support of its sponsors. By contributing to the Initiative, organizations not only gain access to unparalleled expertise in how to align their activities with their United Nations Environmental and Social Development commitments, but they also play a role in transforming their activities, as models of Life Cycle Thinking. With the new 2022-2027 strategy of the Life Cycle Initiative, funding partners will also get significant visibility through the Initiative’s support to UNEP projects in high-impact sectors such as plastics, textiles, buildings and construction, mobility, etc. If you are interested in becoming a funding partner, please get in touch!

Yes, I'm interested to contribute as a Funding Partner

Ongoing call for LC Net contributions

Members of the Life Cycle Initiative, please feel free to submit your event, job vacancy, news, capacity development opportunities, topics and stories related to life cycle thinking and LCA, to be shared with the global life cycle community. We are always looking for featured coverage on the experience how life cycle thinking contributes to different policy agendas, sustainable business and decision making, in various countries and regions.

Note that we cannot accept contributions of a commercial nature. LCNet is released bimonthly in the beginning of January, March, May, July, September
and November; please send us your piece approximately two weeks before the release date. We look forward to your contributions in disseminating life cycle knowledge from global policy and business agendas!

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