1

Gain **VISIBILITY** as a supporter – through conferences, reports, our website and newsletters

2

Exert **INFLUENCE** – maintain close links to the debate, the discussion spaces and Assembly

3

Access **ADVICE** and **EXPERTISE** – through a global forum of experts and practitioners

# THREE REASONS TO BECOME A FUNDING PARTNER

# JOIN US AND BECOME A LIFE CYCLE INITIATIVE FUNDING PARTNER*

**Platinum** Partners

European Commission

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Liberté • Égalité • Fraternité
RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

MINISTÈRE DE LA TRANSITION ÉCOLOGIQUE ET SOLIDAIRE

**Gold** Partners

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

SimaPro

Unilever

Life Cycle Initiative

hosted by

UN environment programme

### Our Mission:

The Life Cycle Initiative works in partnerships to apply life-cycle approaches in sustainable decision-making for a just transition for the well-being of people and the planet, without unintended environmental and social trade-offs.

### Our Approach:

The Life Cycle Initiative works to build international consensus, improving access, understanding and application of science-based life-cycle knowledge for its private and public stakeholders while focusing on high-impact sectors like Textiles, Plastics, Buildings/ Construction and Mobility.

### Our Offer to the life cycle community:

- Strengthen coordination between LCA practitioners

- Global guidance on LCA data and tools

- Capacity Development

# WHAT DOES THE LIFE CYCLE INITIATIVE OFFER?

## THE LIFE CYCLE INITIATIVE FUNDING RULES

4.3. Funding principles of the Life Cycle Initiative
Sponsors may provide core funding and additional, programmatic funding to the Initiative. Core funding is required as this provides more autonomy to the Initiative, and devolves all the decision making capacity on the use of the funds to the Initiative's Steering Committee. In addition to the following funding principles, funding rules are in place to ensure transparency in the manner funds are managed, and decisions made in the Life Cycle Initiative:

- A sponsor of the Initiative provides funds towards achieving the vision and mission of the Life Cycle Initiative, and renounces to pursue any of its own goals through that funding unless these are aligned with those of the Initiative.
- Sponsors of the Initiative's core funding are acknowledged in all communication materials.
- Sponsors of specific activities are explicitly acknowledged in the communication materials related to those activities funded.
- Sponsoring does not give any decision-making power to the sponsor, nor does it automatically provide a seat on any of the Initiative's bodies.
- A sponsor of the Initiative cannot be funded to implement work for the Initiative.
- A member who fundraises for a specific project of the Initiative shall do so in collaboration with the Steering Committee, to ensure that the project proposal is fully aligned with the Initiative's goals, and that the steering of the project is conducted by the Steering Committee and programme chairs.

4.4. Rules for funding
It is essential to ensure a transparent funding/ spending structure, and provide firewalls between the different functions such as steering, coordinating, execution or review. For example, the UN Environment may participate simultaneously as member of Steering Committee, Secretariat and implementer, or a specific country or business may be a sponsor and in the Steering Committee.

These situations are possible and clear rules are needed to avoid any perceived conflicts of interest impacting on the reputation and credibility of the Initiative. Specifically, a partner planning to become an implementing partner within the Life Cycle Initiative may not be elected as member of the Steering Committee, and a public or private sponsor that is in the Steering Committee does not have more decision making power than other elected Steering Committee members. All cash contributions to the Life Cycle Initiative are subject to deduction of UN Environment's Programme Support Cost. In any case, reporting to the sponsors is always "as contribution to the overall progress of the Initiative towards its vision".

4.4.1. Core Funding
The core funding is needed to run the structure of the Initiative (Secretariat staff, travel, communication, evaluation and administration costs) as well as to have available (limited) budget to provide seed funding to get projects off the ground. All Initiative sponsors shall contribute to the core funding of the Initiative and shall be listed on the website and all communication materials.

4.4.2. Programme Funding
In addition to providing core funding to the Initiative, it is likely that some sponsors may want / only be able to fund specific programmatic elements directly. This may be done, for example, by earmarking a certain percentage of their contribution to a specific programme of the Initiative. The funds contributing to core funding must be at least 15% of the contribution or USD 25,000 per annum for any given sponsor – whichever is higher. Once the core budget is covered, all contributions are treated as programme funding. Programme funds are considered separately to core budget funds in the host's accounts in order to provide a firewall between the coordinating and implementing roles.

A partner may also "bring in" a project aligned with the Initiative's programmes, funded through sources external to the Initiative.

This kind of programme funding may be allowed and the result may be communicated as the output of the Initiative, as long as it is approved and governed by the Steering Committee as part of the Initiative's programme of work (i.e. the steering of such projects need to be also linked with the steering of the Initiative). Such "external projects" should also provide some funds for the Initiative's core funding following the minimum of USD 25,000 or 15% of overall budget – whichever is higher.

Finally, direct funding by a sponsor to a specific activity of the Life Cycle Initiative (e.g. a workshop or publication) is possible, even without contribution to the core funding. In this case the sponsor is acknowledged in the communication materials linked to that specific activity, but is not considered a sponsor of the Initiative (i.e. it is not listed alongside Initiative sponsors in the website and general communication materials). This modality is considered useful mainly for one-off and high visibility activities requiring significant concentration of resources, which may attract sponsors not able to fund the Initiative overall or long term.

| *Annual funding partner category obligations in USD | Platinum Partner from 50k | Gold Partner from 25k |
|---|---|---|

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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Life Cycle Initiative

See https://lifecycleinitiative.org/funding-partner for details on funding partner category obligations and benefits