U.S. Life Cycle Inventory Database Stakeholder's Meeting
18 February, 2009, Washington, D.C.
Minutes

The Department of Energy hosted a meeting of stakeholders seeking input on the U.S. Life Cycle Inventory Database. The purpose of the meeting was to assemble a diverse group of LCA supporters to share experiences and gather feedback to help guide the development of the U.S. Life Cycle Inventory Database Roadmap. This document will present a vision for LCI data in the U.S., define the needs of users, define short-term (2-3 year) goals, define long-term goals, and layout paths to achieve these goals.

The agenda and the attendee list for the meeting are attached to these minutes. The presentations from the meeting are available for download at www.lcacenter.org/database.html.

1. The meeting was started with comments from Dru Crawley, the Program Manager for Department of Energy Commercial Buildings Technologies.
2. Introductions
3. Michael Deru presented an overview of the U.S. LCI Database project
4. Greg Norris presented on international activities in LCI data
5. Rita Schenck presented on current trends in LCA
6. Rita Schenck presented a summary of the premeeting survey
7. The attendees were divided into LCI data suppliers, LCA practitioners, and end users of LCA; and the first break-out groups discussed current and potential future uses of LCA.
   a) Current uses and drivers of LCA:
      i) EPP programs
      ii) Carbon/GHG reporting
      iii) Product development
      iv) Policy
      v) Marketing
      vi) Corporate goal setting/management
   b) Uses of LCA that may see more attention in the near future:
      i) Whole systems analysis
      ii) Use phase LCA
      iii) Benchmarking – carbon trading
      iv) End of life LCA
      v) Global trade requiring global LCI data
8. The top issues from the premeeting survey:
   a) Data quality
   b) More data
   c) Transparency
9. Lise Laurin led a brainstorming session on "thinking outside the box" on what is possible and what is desired with LCI data and LCA applications
   a) Simple data roll-up tool
   b) Develop a simple LCI data collection tool for input to the database
   c) Use and maintain LCI data over the life of a building – incorporate with BIM
   d) Work with manufacturers to ease collection and housing of LCI data
   e) Better data and tools for LCA of buildings – "are material selections a distraction?"
   f) Sustain the database

g) Include uncertainty bounds
h) Need consistency, comparability, and transparency
i) Support a global data system
j) Support of EPDs
k) Support product quality improvement
l) Sustainability of the database and updating data

10. The second break-out group was asked to discuss how the U.S. LCI Database can support LCA activities and what issues need to be addressed.
    a) Expand the database – the database needs to expand tremendously in order service basic needs. Near term priorities should be to fill in the dummy processes and end of life data.
    b) Complete quality control on the data – this is essential to provide credibility to the database. Maintain transparency and implement tiers of data quality.
    c) Develop an arbitration system to handle discrepancies and disputes.
    d) Sustainability of the data and the database overtime are very important.
    e) International compatibility of the data is a priority.
    f) Maintain the unit process approach to the database
    g) Work with LCIA tools (TRACI) in order to coordinate the reported flows.
    h) Modify the database structure and interface to ease and enhance the usability. Allow viewing results based on averages and ranges.
    i) Develop a systematic method or prioritizing near-term activities.
    j) Ensure quality water consumption data are included.
    k) Include risk, social benefits, and downstream impacts
    l) Provide clear uncertainty metrics
    m) Provide more regional data
    n) Encourage other groups to use the database
    o) Need better education about the database, LCI data, and LCA

11. The final section was led by Michael Deru to bring summarize the main themes from the meeting.
    a) Build the database – expand the database. The current database is limited in size.
    b) Improve data management
        i) Data quality
        ii) Maintain transparency
        iii) Documentation of data
        iv) Include uncertainty
        v) Keep data up-to-date
    c) Build on existing data and activities – take advantage of existing LCI data and other comparable data sources.
    d) Market the database – make this the place to go to for industry average LCI data.
    e) Improve ease of use – streamline data entry, data review, data use
    f) Support whole system analysis – feed into product design tools, BIM tools
    g) Develop plans for long-term sustainability of the database
    h) Work with international efforts to ensure compatibility of data systems

12. Follow-up to the meeting will include distribution of these minutes and a summary of the premeeting survey. The draft Roadmap document will be distributed for comment in late March.

Agenda
U.S. LCI Database Stakeholder's Meeting
February 18, 2009
950 L'Enfant Plaza, room 6099
Washington, D.C.
Call-in number: 202-287-1088

Meeting Objective:
Assemble a diverse group of LCA supporters to share experiences and gather feedback to help guide the development of the U.S. Life Cycle Inventory Data Roadmap. This document will present a vision for LCI data in the U.S., define the needs of users, define short-term (2-3 year) goals, define long-term goals, and layout paths to achieve these goals.

I.	Sign-in	8:00
II.	Welcome / Purpose of meeting	8:30
	a. DOE comments (Crawley)	8:40
	b. Introductions	8:50
III.	Overview	
	a. U.S. LCI Database overview (Deru)	9:00
	b. International views of LCI data (Norris)	9:20
	c. Current trends in LCA / Eco-Labels (Schenck)	9:40
IV.	Summary of pre-meeting survey (Schenck)	9:55
V.	Break	10:05
VI.	Break-out groups – Uses of LCA	10:20
VII.	Report out from break out groups	11:20
VIII.	Comparison with survey details (similarities/differences)	11:45
IX.	Lunch	12:00
X.	Facilitated general discussion (Laurin)	1:00
XI.	Second Breakout – LCI Data needs to support LCA activities	1:30
XII.	Break	2:30
XIII.	Report out from break-out groups	2:45
XIV.	Facilitated general discussion (Deru)	3:20
XV.	Wrap-up (Deru)	4:00
XVI.	End	4:15

LCI Database Stakeholder's Meeting Attendees

Organization	First Name	Last Name
NAIMA	Paul	Bertram
Shaw, Inc.	Steve	Bradfield
USDA Forest Service R&D	Marilyn	Buford
National Trust for Historic Preservation	Barbara	Campagna
National Center for Manufacturing Sciences	Paul	Chalmer
Steel Recycling Institute	Greg	Crawford
DOE	Dru	Crawley
American Institute of Steel Construction	John	Cross
PE Americas	Nuno	da Silva
EPA	Jim	Darr
NREL	Michael	Deru
ecointesys	Jon	Dettling
USGBC	Tom	Dietsche
Decra Roofing Systems	Meridith	England
UC Santa Barbara	Roland	Geyer
Franklin Associates	Melissa	Huff
The Carbon Trust	Scott	Kaufman
GSA	Ann	Kosmal
Metal Construction Association	Scott	Kriner
Earthshift	Lise	Laurin
EPA	Angie	Leith
Sylvatica	Pascal	Lesage
ACC	Mike	Levy
NIST	Bobbie	Lippiatt
Concurrent Technologies Corporation	Shannon	Lloyd
NREL	Maggie	Mann
GreenBlue	Minal	Mistry
Sylvatica	Greg	Norris
Metal Building Manufacturers Associations	Charles	Praeger
University of Arkansas	Jeff	Rice
National Association of Home Builders	John	Ritterpusch
USDA Forest Service R&D	Robert	Rummer
IERE	Rita	Schenck
Green Building Alliance	Aurora	Sharrard
BD Medical	Karen	Sohn
Navarro Research & Engineering	Bryce	Stokes
Black & Veatch	Stephen	Tarallo
NREL	Paul	Torcellini
Athena Institute	Wayne	Trusty
ANL	Michael	Wang
The Aluminum Association	Marshall	Wang
Green Seal	Nana	Wilberforce