LCM2007

Eco-efficiency in life cycle management

Eco-efficiency is becoming a tool for sustainable management of firms, both in their product and technology development and in their day-to-day operations. The ultimate aim is to align activities to economic and environmental sustainability. The challenge is a double one. Firstly, how can we establish a stable practice for eco-efficiency analysis, both to measure current and expected future performance and to measure improvements? Learning by doing seems a most relevant approach. So case studies and experiences based on these are most relevant for this session. Secondly, how can this analytic tool establish the comparative eco-efficiency of product systems and firms beyond the case level? This requires adequate methods, as in using external normalization in stead of case dependent internal normalization, which is usual in multi-criteria analysis and decision theory. Also, many choices are open, as on which cost or value concept is to be used; which impact categories to apply, according to which modelling methods; how to aggregate these into an overall score; and which data sets to use. Standardisation of such issues is one step too far now but transparency and transformability between methods seem good options on the short run already. Contributions on these subjects are welcome.

Instructions for submission of papers will be made available in July 2006 on www.lcm2007.org. Further information regarding the session is available from:

Dr. Gjalt Huppes
CML, Department Industrial Ecology
Leiden University
PO Box 9518
NL-2300RA Leiden
Netherlands
Email: huppes@cml.leidenuniv.nl