LCM2007

Simplified methods and tools for industry

Life Cycle Management comprises many approaches and tools to both more strategic but also everyday task in the management of environmental and social issues in industry. For the people in charge the challenge is to choose the right tool or rather tools for the problem to be solved – and to be able to do it quickly but also with confidence.

Some of the tools like Life Cycle Assessment or Life Cycle Costing often looks very challenging both from a technical and from an economical perspective and for many industries the only choice is to look for outside assistance e.g. from researchers or consultants – if the organization is not big enough to have its own in-house expertise.

One approach to meet these challenges have been the quest for simplified methods and tools i.e. procedures, databases, standard, impact assessment methods etc. that will produce results of the needed quality but with much lower consumption of time and money. A well-known example is the SETAC manuals on simplified or screening LCA developed by two parallel working groups in Europe and US. Both manuals give examples and suggestions on how to simplify but the do also stress that the results will be only an extract of the results achievable using more detailed and resource consuming tools. Recently methodology and database developments within LCA show promising opportunities to simplify without missing the quality and robustness of the results by using standardized impact assessment methods and hybrid databases to generate screening LCA results for (design) briefs, environmental product declarations etc. Use of standardized indicators of environmental (and social) performance in life cycle management could similarly be an approach to simplifying. In the workshop experiences with simplified methods and tools as well as discussion of these approaches will be discussed.

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

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