



Tools and databases

If lifecycle management is to cover the three pillars of sustainability, the tools and databases need to reconcile the different characteristics found in the pillars. Not all issues can be quantified, the less is better principle, does not always apply in social issues, time discounting is a normal procedure in economic modelling.

The collection of data over the lifecycle is also challenging in many ways.

Environmental data can often be linked to a type of process or product; data on steel from different companies will have many common characteristics. Data on social aspects is more related to culture, level of economic development, etc. Social data from SME's from India may have many similarities irrespective if the data covers manufacturing transport, or even services.

In this session we shall discuss how we can integrate these different aspects in tools and databases. Specific topics are:

- How to make the transition from current practice in LCA data towards a broader approach
- How to handle non linear and non quantifiable data types
- How to describe the quality of such different data types
- How to handle different system boundaries
- How to aggregate, interpret and present data

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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