

Bridging the gap between LCA scientific research and application by practitioners

CHAIRS: Sebastien Humbert



Wednesday 14th May 2014, 13:55 – 16:00, room: Shanghai 3/4

For today's society to become more sustainable, science needs to work hand in hand with practitioners. Therefore, LCA science will become considerably more efficient if it addresses needs from industry. Industry, on the other hand, has to reach out to science in order to implement the latest scientific findings in everyday practice. SETAC conferences are usually attended mainly by scientists with presentations on methodological developments. SETAC Case Study Symposium conferences are mostly attended by practitioners who present their case studies. This situation leads to research that is not efficiently transferred from the universities to industry, as well as research projects in universities that do not optimally address the needs of the industry. Therefore, we would like to propose a session to better align industry and academia. We are inviting presentations that show how academic research projects have been successfully transferred into applications in industry or consultancy, as well as presentations from industry that highlight practical needs that have been solved by contributions from academic research projects. These presentations may be on aspects related to LCI or LCIA, and can also address process-related questions (such as, how to meaningfully simplify the LCA process so that it remains scientifically "valid", yet is sufficiently easy to apply). We will put special emphasis on presenters to respect their scheduled presentation times to make sure the time for discussion can be used to fruitfully exchange between scientists and practitioners. We would also like to keep one presentation slot available at the end of the session for a broader discussion of where the LCA research should focus in the future to better address industry needs. The broad attendance of the SETAC Europe annual conference with high level scientists involved in research planning, as well as key stakeholders from industry and consultancy makes this conference the ideal platform for such a session. We are convinced that such a session would be of great value for the scientific community to better understand the current limitations of LCA for application in industry. Industry representatives would benefit by seeing examples of recent LCA research projects that have been directly applied in industry.

SESSION TYPE: Platform (invited speakers)