

Workshop on Governance and Life Cycle Analysis

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Policy Integration and Life Cycle Analysis in Ecological Sustainability

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- The daunting policy problem of climate change: no more than a 2°C temperature increase, CO₂ concentration of no more than 450 ppm, and reducing emissions by >50-80% by 2050
- Framing policy strategies and options: the role of LCA
- Institutionalizing LCA: borrowing from the National Environmental Policy Act and the Environmental Assessment/EIS process

Responding to the policy challenges of climate change

- Sustainable development, policy integration:
 - Little US experience; lessons from Europe
- Making markets work by determining true costs
 - Extended Product Responsibility (EPR)
 - DuPont, Ford, Georgia-Pacific use to minimize wastes
 - LCA and energy policy
 - (U.S. Department of Energy, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, LCInventory database)
 - Challenges in doing LCA
 - Disclosure v substantive standards
 - Defining cradle to grave
 - How to assess and compare impacts
 - 3rd party verification/certification

Institutionalizing LCA

- National Environmental Policy Act
 - Applies to all major federal actions that have a significant impact on the environment
 - Environmental Assessment must be conducted before projects can be funded or permitted
 - If significant impacts, must do Environmental Impact Statement
 - Advantages
 - Disadvantages
 - Impact requirements have been extended to other areas:
 - Federalism
 - LCA?

Thank you.

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