

Why submit data to the ecoinvent database?

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ETH

PSI

EPFL

EMPA

ART

What is the ecoinvent centre?

The ecoinvent Centre is the world's leading supplier of consistent and transparent life cycle inventory (LCI) data of known quality.

We are a not-for-profit competence centre of five leading Swiss research institutes (ETH Zurich, EPFL, PSI, EMPA and ART).

What is the ecoinvent database?

The ecoinvent database contains international industrial life cycle inventory data on energy supply, resource extraction, material supply, chemicals, metals, agriculture, waste management services, transport services and other industrial sectors. Our goal is to provide accurate, reliable and transparent background data for LCA, LCM, Integrated Product Policy (IPP), Environmental Product Declaration (EPD), Design for Environment (DfE) and other sustainability services. To this end, we have collected data on over 4'000 processes and continue to update and expand the database. The ecoinvent database is used by more than 2'500 users in more than 40 countries worldwide and is included in the leading LCA software tools as well as in various eco-design tools for building and construction, waste management or product design. The ecoinvent database is used by corporations, scientists, government agencies, NGOs and sustainability consultants worldwide due to its high data quality and transparency. All datasets are fully documented and referenced and are reviewed by independent experts before their publication.

Why provide production data for use in the ecoinvent database?

Providing environmental performance data on their production processes can be very advantageous for corporations and many have helped to generate inventory data for the ecoinvent database. Due to its position as an independent, not-for-

profit organization with a scientific background, the thorough review structure of the ecoinvent database and the full transparency and documentation of all datasets, ecoinvent is one of the most trusted sources of LCA data. The availability of independently reviewed and accepted inventory data on your products and supply chain offers many benefits:

- The independence and the thorough review procedure of the ecoinvent database guarantee a broad acceptance of the data.
- The ecoinvent centre provides the review process for free, therefore the costs of submitting datasets are low. The ecoinvent centre also co-ordinates and assists data collection efforts.
- By following the ecoinvent code of practice and data quality guidelines – supported by ecoinvent reviewers and editors – companies gain easy access to Life Cycle Assessments of their products and supply chains. Since providing data to ecoinvent is free, the ecoinvent centre has no financial interest in the results of such studies and is therefore a very trustworthy source of LCA results.
- By following the established methods of ecoinvent, companies can provide data in a form that respects their concerns about confidentiality issues. Often, industry associations facilitate a joint dataset of several companies to ensure the safety of the original production data. On the other hand, companies that prefer to be directly identified have the option of providing branded datasets to demonstrate the sustainability of their production. Unit process information may also be kept confidential by submitting datasets as restricted datasets, in which case only the cradle-to-gate results will be visible for the database users.
- Providing data to an initiative like ecoinvent demonstrates the environmental commitment of a company and it greatly simplifies future inquiries about the sustainability standards of a company.

If you are interested in the possibility of providing data to the ecoinvent database, please contact us at support@ecoinvent.org.