

ecoinvent Newsletter No. 3



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EcoSpold data format gets raising interest

Two international EcoSpold data format workshops were held in the first term of 2006. The workshops attracted the interest of participants from industry, government, administration, consultancies and research institutes from Europe, Asia and the Americas. The participants learned about the basic requirements and the structure of well documented life cycle inventory datasets and successfully created their first own EcoSpold datasets.

Jacob Madsen, Senior Consultant at ERM in the UK, comments on his successful short course participation: *"The EcoSpold data format provides a great opportunity for me to import my self-created EcoSpold datasets into any of the leading software tools we are using in our LCA-related daily work. The EcoSpold format supports the documentation of the relevant information on the data compiled in an ideal way."*

Further EcoSpold workshops will be held in future. For more information, please contact support@ecoinvent.org.

ecoinvent data in ISO 14048 and SPINE format

ecoinvent LCI data and ecoinvent impact assessment files are now available in ISO 14048 and the SPINE format. Chalmers Industrial Environmental Informatics (IMI) developed and offers a free web-based conversion tool to easily translate between the EcoSpold, ISO/TS 14048, and SPINE formats. The conversion results provide printable reports that facilitate review of data according the ISO 14040 standards, and additional exchange files that enable import into software. The free conversion service is available at: <http://databases.imi.chalmers.se/imiportal/>

InLCA/LCM conference with a special panel session on national database initiatives

On Thursday, October 5, 2006, a special panel session on national LCA database initiatives will be held during the InLCA/LCM conference in Washington D.C., USA. Rolf Frischknecht, ecoinvent Manager is invited to elaborate on the experiences of establishing the ecoinvent database, the most successful and acknowledged international LCA database worldwide.

Scientists prefer transparent LCA databases

Leading LCA scientists esteem transparent and flexible LCA databases in their scientific work. Gjalt Huppes, head of the Industrial Ecology Department at the Institute for Environmental Sciences in Leiden (CML) says:

"In environmental systems analysis for sustainability the use of consistent and transparent databases is essential, with as much openness to methods choices as is feasible. This holds especially for base processes which in many instances will determine the outcomes of case studies, surely in combination with methods choices as on allocation. A broad database currently coming closest to the ideal seems ecoinvent database. Tedious work on further improvements and expansions, and on updating, will remain a sine qua non for sustainability analysis. Why not join forces at a European or even a global level?"

Rolf Frischknecht, Annette Köhler, ecoinvent managers
ecoinvent Centre

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September 26, 2006