

Implementation and management of life cycle approaches in business – Challenges, opportunities, business learnings and best practice

Chair: Lena Landström, Vattenfall and Swedish Life Cycle Center, Sweden

Co-chair: Sara Palander, Swedish Life Cycle Center and Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden

During the latest decades, companies have implemented life cycle assessment into business management processes, e.g. in marketing, purchasing, investments and strategies etc., with the objective to increase the environmental performance of their products and services. In the latest update of the standard ISO 14001:2015 (environmental management systems, EMS), companies shall use a life cycle perspective to fulfill the requirements when for instance identifying the most important and relevant environmental impacts. Also the European Environmental Footprint process will affect the international market and business to apply the life cycle approach in decision making and communication.

Both the updated ISO 14001 and the Environmental Footprint process will influence management processes in industry. This session invites industry to present different ways of implementation of the life cycle perspective into their EMS, what are the learnings and best practices? The session also invites presenters to take up from results and learnings from the Environmental Footprint process. What are the next step for businesses, policy-makers and the LCM community in order to create a more sustainable industry and communicate results to customers, citizens and other stakeholders? What actions have been seen and will be seen? What are the opportunities and challenges?

The session will start with presentations and end up with a panel discussion to debate around how to gain benefit from the ISO 14001 and the Environmental Footprint process and their role for the implementation of the life cycle perspective in business.