

How to Write the Perfect LCA Conference Abstract

Writing a perfect abstract is easy if you follow these directions.

- 1) Write 1-2 sentences describing the issue you are addressing.
- 2) Start a new paragraph
- 3) Write a few sentences describing your approach to the issue. Make sure that this approach is LCA related.
- 4) Start a new paragraph
- 5) Provide some results that describe the key outcomes of your work. If your analysis was measurable, provide key numerical results. A small table may be appropriate. If your results are preliminary, that is fine, in fact we are especially interested in new ideas. That is why this conference has a compressed timeline between abstract submission and the conference—we want your new ideas.
- 6) Start a new paragraph.
- 7) Tell us why your results are important. If this has policy implications, say which ones might be affected. Remember that as LCA professionals we are interested in sustainability (especially environmental sustainability). Tell us how your results help make the world a more sustainable place, or how they give us a new way to think about sustainability or sustainability analysis.

Other things to do

USE spell check and grammar check.

Properly cite works, using the citation system.

If your work is a life cycle management study (describing how you are applying LCA in your organization, or approaches to life cycle thinking or some other non-numerical study) be sure to select the LCM track for your abstract. This will help the reviewers to understand where you stand.

Things not to do

DO NOT provide an abstract of work that was published elsewhere.

DO NOT focus your abstract on a commercial product developed by your organization. If a new commercial product was used or developed, focus on the issues it addresses, and the results obtained from the use of the product. If your abstract seems like a sales pitch, it will be rejected.

DO NOT exclusively cite your own work. If you must cite your work, make sure that your abstract is building on it, not repeating it.

DO NOT leave out your results! The absence of results is the most common complaint of reviewers, who especially like to see numbers.