

Current Trends in LCA/Ecolabels

US LCI Database Meeting 18 February 2009

Rita Schenck

American Center for Life Cycle
Assessment, IERE

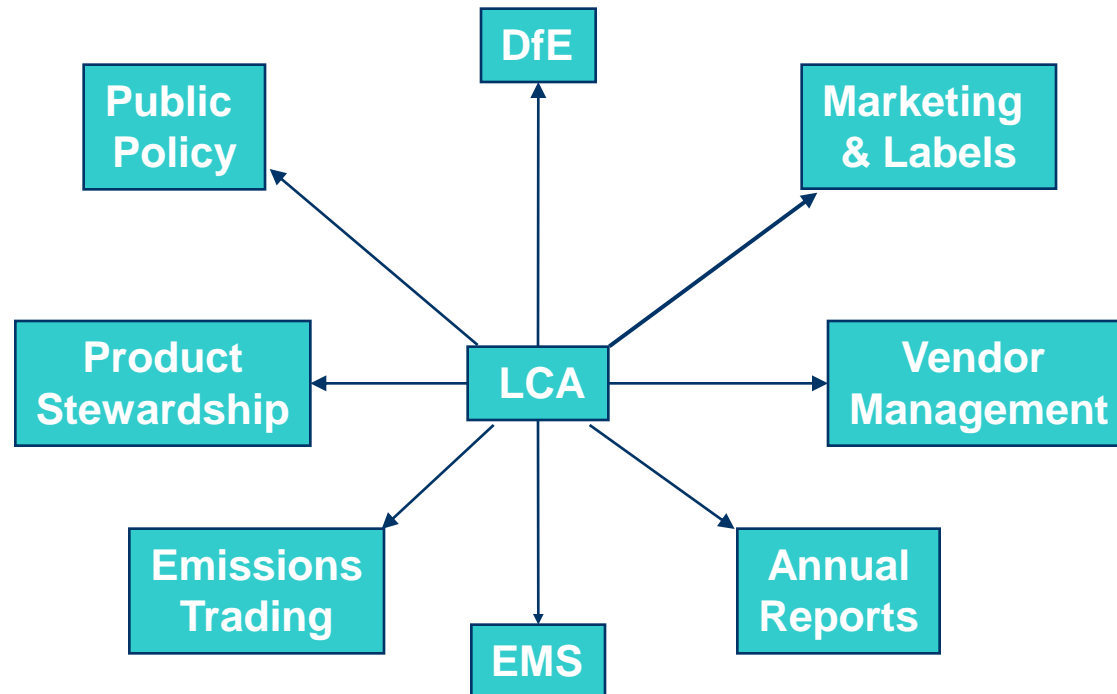
rita@iere.org 206-463-7430



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Some Uses of LCA



Sea Change in the LCA field in the USA

- From LCA primarily as internally tool focused on process improvement (DfE), with some use for product stewardship
- To an externally focused tool for the purpose of marketing, vendor management & policy



Acceptance of Climate Change as a Real Issue

- *An Inconvenient Truth*
- IPCC's reports in 2007
- Carbon footprinting efforts
 - Carbon Disclosure Project
 - Carbon Offsets
 - Chicago Climate Exchange
 - PAS2050 Voluntary standard from UK
 - Many more
- Cap-and-trade schemes underway in California and West Coast



Business recognition of marketing opportunity inherent in Sustainability

- Google search on ‘sustainable business’ got 17.8 million hits
- **Retail**
 - Wal-Mart’s Sustainability Program
 - Other Big Box stores like Home Depot
- **Investment**
 - 16.7 million hits
 - SRI Funds
- **Consulting**
 - <http://www.sustainablebusiness.com/>
 - Sustainable Business Institute
 - Sustainable Business Alliance
 - Etc...



LCA community coalescing around US LCI database



- Meeting October 2008

- Camp Long declaration
 - Develop a quality management system for the U.S. Life Cycle Inventory Database;
 - Collaborate with international efforts to facilitate data transfer among Life Cycle Inventory databases;
 - Develop systems to assure the ongoing sustainability of the U.S. Life Cycle Inventory Database; and
 - Communicate these efforts to all interested parties.
- For more info, see <http://www.lcacenter.org/database.html>





Education over a wide population

- New LCA-based environmental education being developed and delivered for adults & children
 - Seattle Parks
 - San Diego Zoo
 - Tree People, Hollywood
 - Bainbridge Graduate Institute
 - Many others...



Policy



- **USDA Bio-based Products Program**
 - Use of BEES since the 2002 Farm Bill
 - Expanded BEES use for Bio-based label in 2009
- **Energy Independence & Security Act of 2007**
 - Required EPA do LCAs of Biofuels
 - In the last month a wide variety of business & environmental groups have demanded that the LCAs be done (AMI, Clean Air Task Force, FOE, NRDC, EDF, NWF)
- **New Energy Bill** under development currently has LCA Provisions
- **Congressional Recycling Caucus** also seeking LCA legislation



Ecolabels

- ISO Standards on ecolabelling (ISO 14020 series, also 21930 for building products)
- Three kind of ecolabels
 - Type I (a trust seal)
 - Type II (a self-declaration, e.g. chlorine free)
 - Type III (LCA-based)
- Organizations for Ecolabelling
 - Global Ecolabelling Network www.globalecolabelling.net
 - Ecologo.org ID's 309 ecolabels globally



USLCI General Survey Results

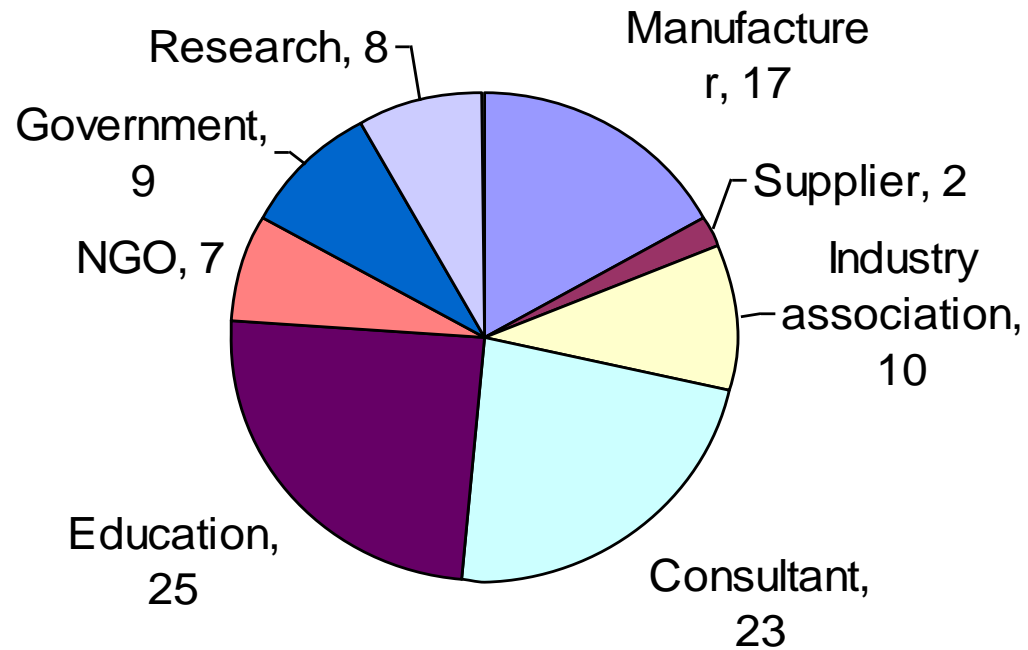
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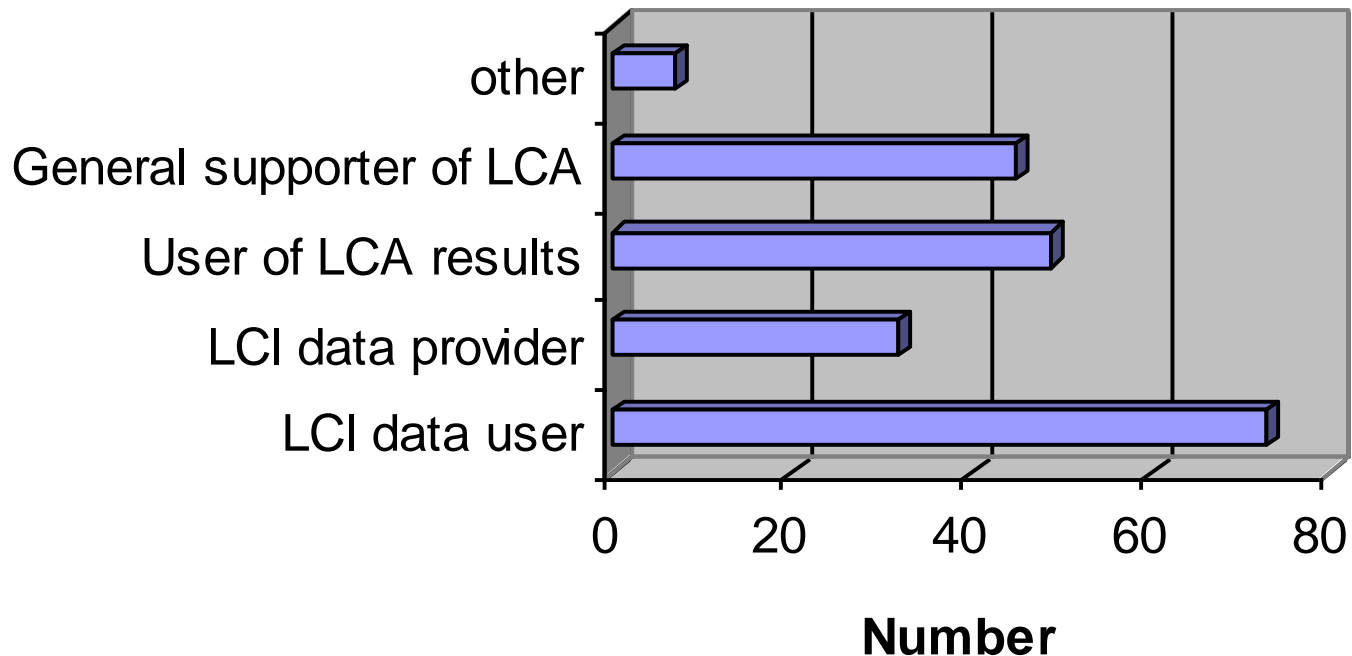
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Employer Organization



How Database is used



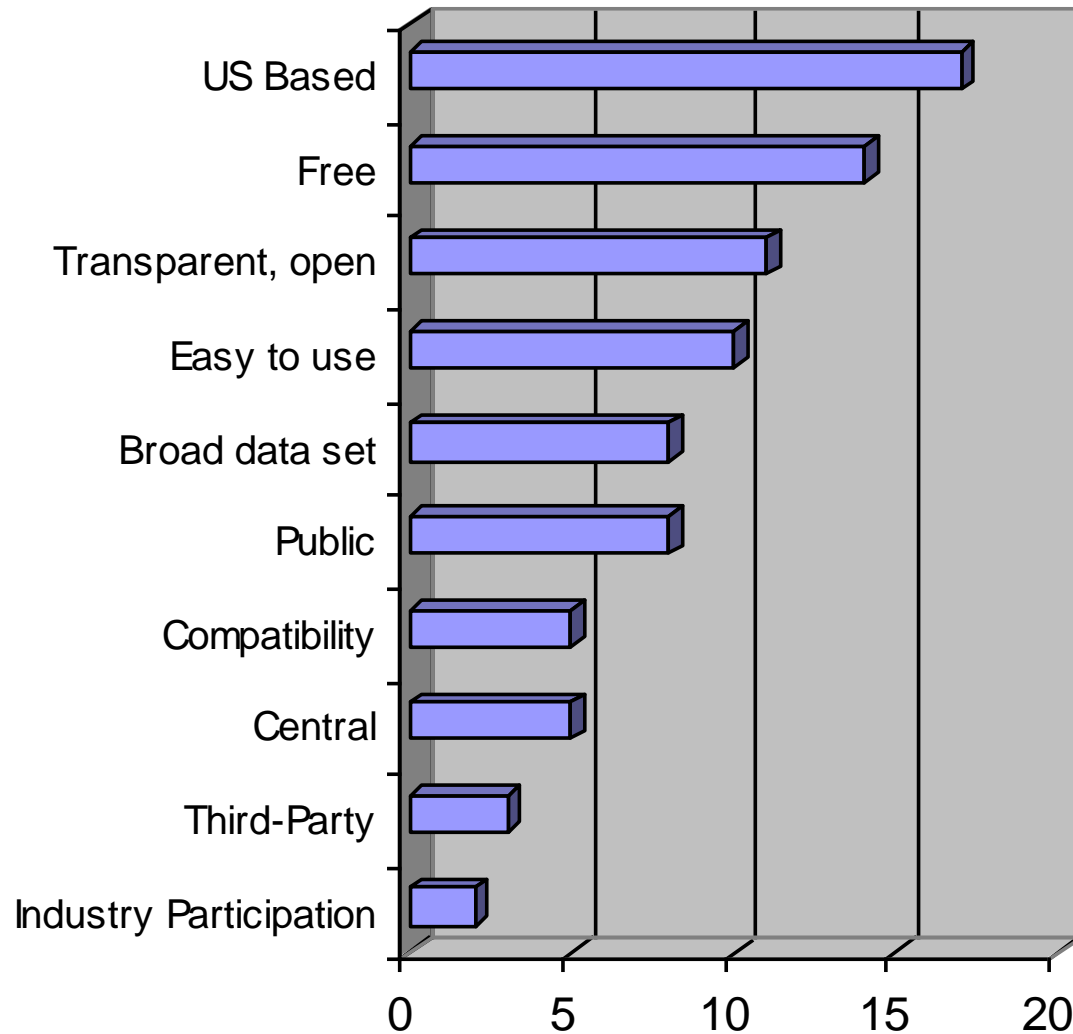
64% have used US LCI DB in the last 12 months
72% have used other databases in last 12 months
94% intend to conduct LCA activities in next 12 months



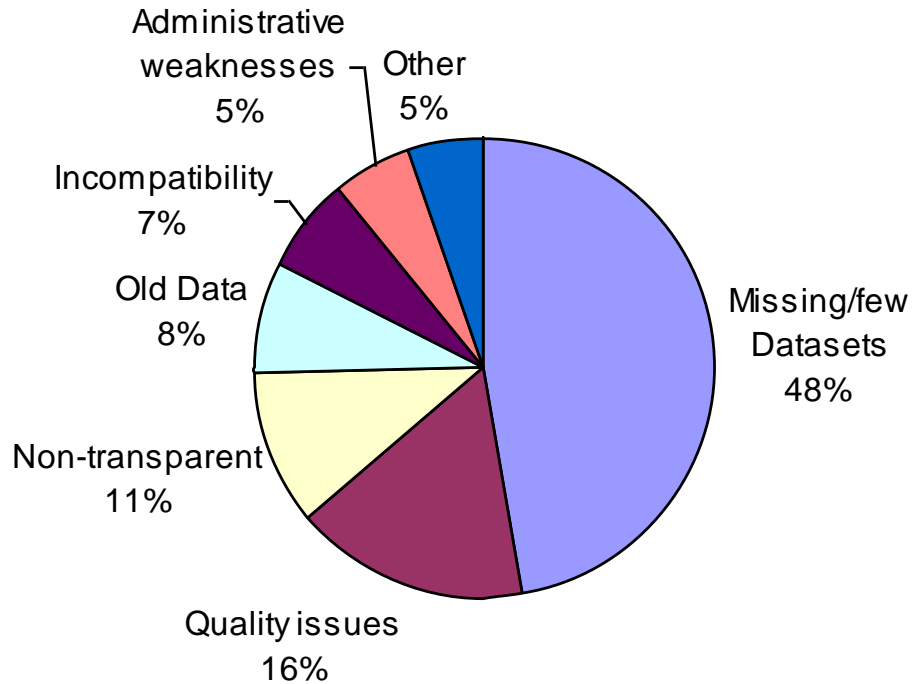
**Please rank in order of
Importance
1 = low, 5 = high**

	1	2	3	4	5	Respo nse
						Count
Compatible with international databases	5.1% (5)	11.2% (11)	18.4% (18)	22.4% (22)	42.9% (42)	98
Quality/verification assurance	4.0% (4)	9.0% (9)	10.0% (10)	27.0% (27)	50.0% (50)	100
Freely available	10.0% (10)	11.0% (11)	17.0% (17)	27.0% (27)	35.0% (35)	100
Central, public data source	11.1% (11)	9.1% (9)	14.1% (14)	39.4% (39)	26.3% (26)	99
Completeness of database	7.1% (7)	13.3% (13)	17.3% (17)	31.6% (31)	30.6% (30)	98
Unit process transparency	11.1% (11)	6.1% (6)	13.1% (13)	27.3% (27)	42.4% (42)	99
Inclusion of rolled up data sets	6.3% (6)	12.6% (12)	40.0% (38)	28.4% (27)	12.6% (12)	95

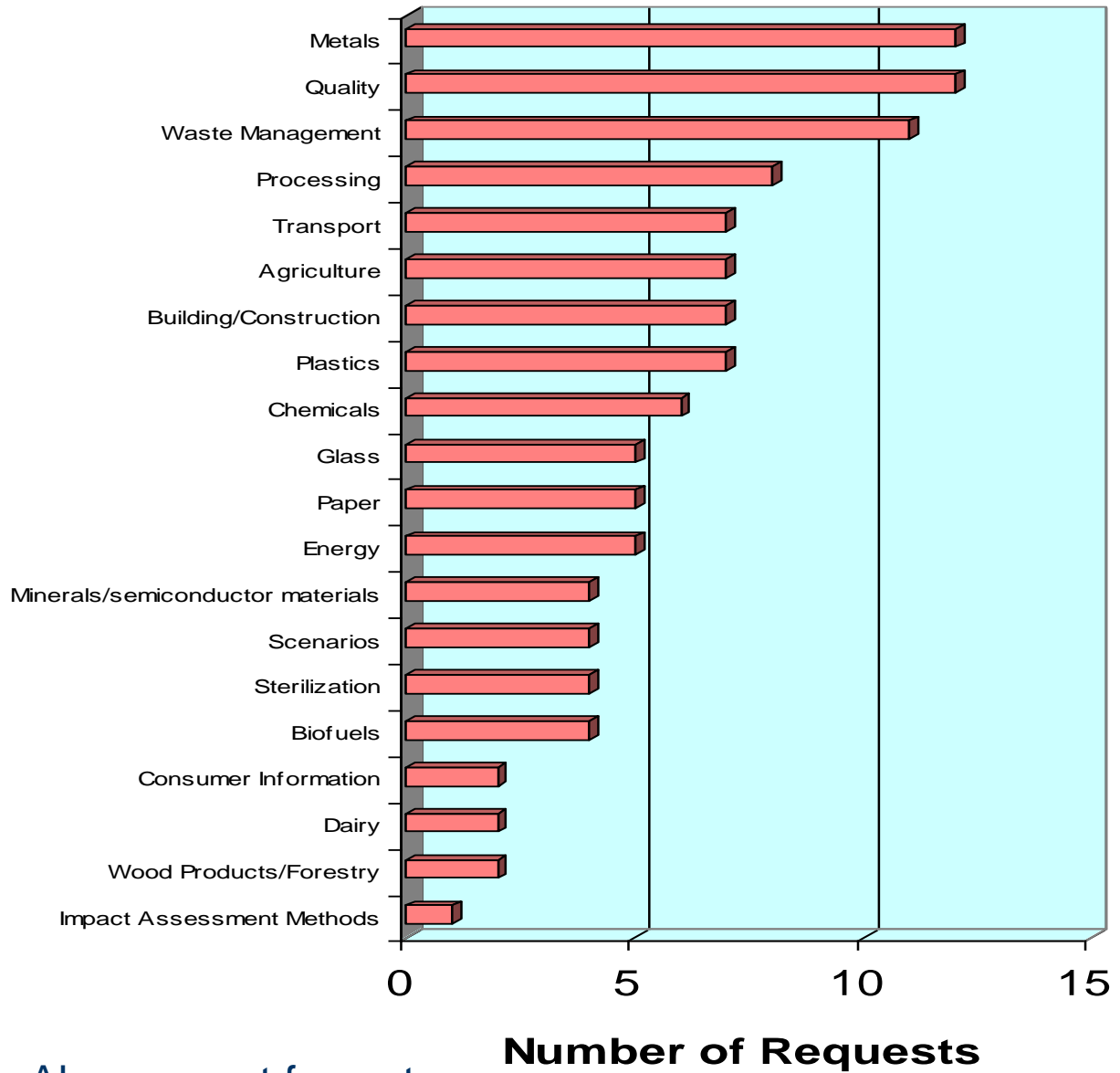
Strengths of the US LCI Database



Database Weaknesses



What Data Should be in the Database?



Also request for water



Success Factors for Database

