ecoinvent Newsletter - 11/2010 -

Content

- Spotlight on various ecoDesign tools, using ecoinvent data
- ReCiPe – Correction and Update of the Midpoint and Endpoint implementation

Spotlight on various ecoDesign tools, using ecoinvent data

In the last years, more and more developers of any kind of environmental tools got in touch with the ecoinvent Centre in order to be able to integrate adequate data into their respective tool(s). It is time today to have a spotlight on such tools – spotlight with a focus on two important areas: the "transport sector" and (general) "Carbon footprint" activities – having in mind that such a spotlight can never present you all the tools available, using ecoinvent data.

SBB Umweltrechner. This is a tool that is directly integrated into the website of the Swiss Railway Company (SBB); website that is visited 20 million times per month. The tool allows calculating very easily the energy consumption for any type of journey, as well as the emission of CO_2 and further air emissions. This brings to the customer of SBB even more transparency for any single journey; and shows them clearly the environmental advantages of train systems.

EcoTransIT. This is a tool for the calculation of the eco-impact of freight movements by various transport modes. EcoTransIT identifies the environmental impacts in terms of direct energy consumption and emissions during the operation of vehicles during the transport of products. Moreover, the calculation covers the indirect energy consumption and emissions related to production, transportation and the distribution of energy required for operating the vehicles. Due to the scientific basis of the data and the independent partners, the calculations provide reliable results, contributing to the environmental balance sheet of companies.

CaLC. This is a carbon fooprinting tool that enables quick and easy estimations of the life cycle green-house gas emissions along the whole supply chains. CaLC is a powerful tool for reducing and managing carbon footprints of products, processes or supply chains. The methodological approach follows the internationally accepted life cycle methodology as defined by ISO 14044 and PAS2050. The tool is simple to use by non-experts and it comes with comprehensive databases.

More about the various tools at http://www.ecoinvent.org/database/resellers/eco-design-tools

ReCiPe – Correction and Update of the Midpoint and Endpoint implementation

The original calculation of the database ecoinvent v2.2 contained errors in the LCIA factors of the ReCiPe method implementation (Mid- and Endpoint level, all three perspectives, with and without LT emissions) and thus also the LCIA results of ReCiPe! Erroneous were the factors metal depletion (Mid- and Endpoint level), water depletion (Midpoints only) and the two eutrophication factors (Midpoints only). In addition to a correction of these errors, the latest developments/changes in the area of the Normalization factors have been implemented as well. This week we made a new calculation, and replaced the LCIA resuls in the database with the corrected data.

The LCI data (unit process / cumulative data) did not change, as the error was on the level of the LCIA methods. However, in case you use the ZIP-Files from the "Files" section, you need to download again the three LCIA-files (i.e. the files EI_DATA_V2.2_LCIA_i_1…3.ZIP) that have been updated. In addition, a ZIP-file with the corrected ReCiPe LCIA method (Mid- and Endpoint) can be found there.

Bo Weidema (executive Manager) & Roland Hischier (deputy Manager)
ecoinvent Centre / November 16, 2010 / contact: support@ecoinvent.org