

Change in the ecoinvent management

Dear members of the ecoinvent community,

as you already know, the version 3 of the ecoinvent database, the product of four years of development work, will be available in June 2012 for use in Life Cycle Assessment, Environmental Footprinting and other applications. In the lead-up to this important step in the history of ecoinvent as a modern, transparent and science-oriented LCI database, the ecoinvent team has grown continuously and has faced numerous challenges requiring an exceptional effort from all of its members. To assist the management to achieve similarly great efficiency and high quality in the future as well, a new structure of the ecoinvent management is now required. For these reasons, the ecoinvent board decided the following changes:

- Bo Weidema, who as executive manager for the last four years has been both the defining influence on the scientific direction and the day-to-day manager of the ecoinvent Centre, will take over the new position of ecoinvent Chief Scientist, where he will continue to shape the scientific and technical developments together with the ecoinvent Expert Group.
- Gregor Wernet, who is already part of the ecoinvent management and has been helping shape the development of version 3 and coordinating the international collaborations of ecoinvent, will be his successor as Executive Manager.

These changes will enter in force on the 1st of March 2012. Besides that, Roland Hischier has decided to step down from his position as Deputy Manager at the end of June 2012,

looking for new challenges and responsibilities. His position will open up soon, and his successor will be announced in the coming months.

The ecoinvent board also takes this opportunity to thank Bo Weidema for his tireless work and engagement as executive manager of ecoinvent. Due to his unique contribution, ecoinvent has reinforced its leading position as the reference LCI database worldwide. We are very glad that ecoinvent continues to profit from his high scientific and technical competence as well as his strategic vision for the future of our database. The ecoinvent board wants also to acknowledge Roland Hirschier's huge contribution. He has been a significant factor for our success in the various positions he occupied in the last more than ten years, as author of hundreds of datasets, as a long-term member of the ecoinvent Expert Group and as Deputy Manager from 2008 onwards.

With Gregor Wernet as executive manager, ecoinvent will profit from his dynamism, professional leading competence, international experience and high scientific skills. The ecoinvent board is very pleased in the establishment of a fruitful collaboration with him in his new position.

The release of version 3 will herald a new chapter in the continued development of the ecoinvent database and we are all looking forward to facing the future with full confidence together with our management team, our experts, our editors and our international advisory board – and of course the entire ecoinvent community.

Gérard Gaillard

Chair of the ecoinvent board of directors