

# International Reference Life Cycle Data System (ILCD) Data Network (*upcoming*)

*Consistent and quality-assured data  
in support of life cycle thinking in business and government*

## Life Cycle Thinking and Assessment in Public and Private Schemes

Life Cycle Thinking (LCT) is a core concept in a growing number of environmental public policies and business instruments e.g. Integrated Product Policy, 3 R – reduce, reuse and recycle, Product Carbon Footprint (PCF), etc.

To be reliable and robust, these instruments need to build on consistent and quality-assured life cycle data, methods and assessment (Fig. 1).

Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) is the quantitative, standardised tool (ISO 14040 and 14044) to support this. The International Reference Life Cycle Data System (ILCD) provides the required technical guidance for reliable and robust LCA, filling the room for interpretation that the ISO standards leave.

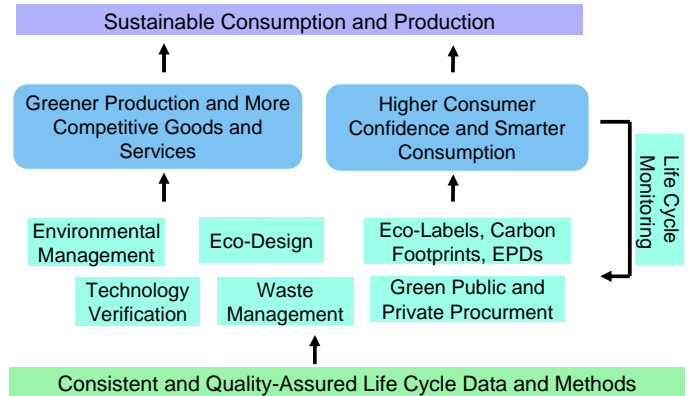
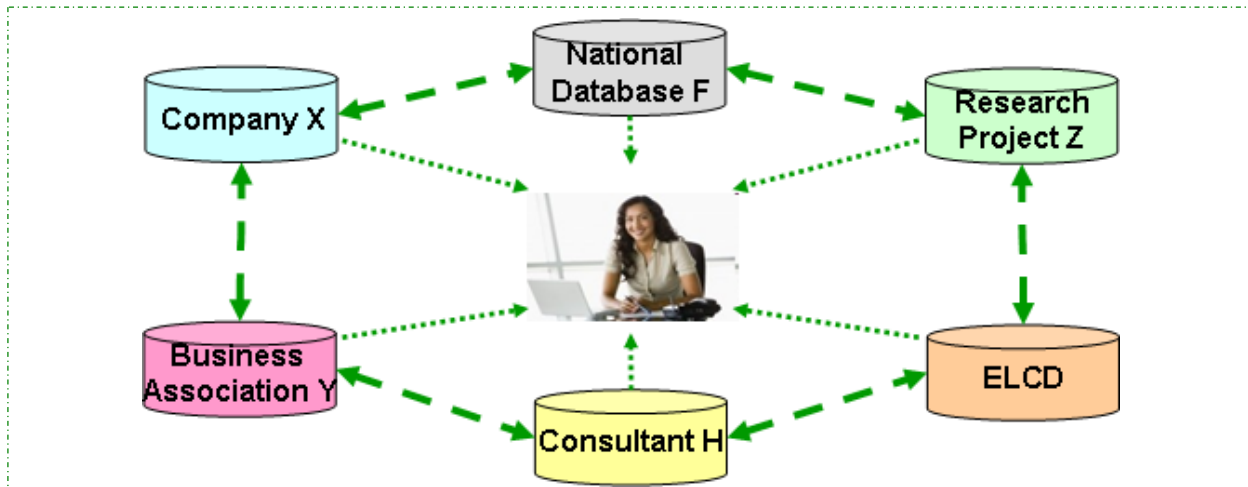


Figure 1: Consistent and quality-assured life cycle data and methods support public and private sector policies and instruments.



The user is in the center of the network

Figure 2: The ILCD Data Network –access to independently managed, consistent and quality-assured LCI data sets

### What is the ILCD?

The International Reference Life Cycle Data System (ILCD) consists primarily of a Handbook and a Data Network:

The **ILCD Handbook** is a series of technical guidance documents that provides the basis for consistent and quality-assured life cycle data and assessments.

The decentralised **ILCD Data Network**, provides access to ILCD Handbook-consistent and quality-assured Life Cycle Inventory (emissions and resource use) data sets. It is open to all providers, such as business, national LCA projects, researchers, consultants, and others. They maintain their own data, give access via their own servers, based on their own license conditions (Fig. 2).

### Meeting the Needs for Consistent and Quality-assured LCA Data

- Data registry for data identification and access
- Data compliant with ILCD Handbook; plus entry level in establishment phase; includes external review
- Decentralised, global, independent – each organisation provides own data via own server
- Open for all to join (e.g. industry, national / regional LCI databases, publicly financed projects, consultants, researchers, ...), under own license conditions (e.g. for free, members only, for fee)
- Supported by freely available IT package (web-server application, data editor, compliance check tools) and documents (e.g. report templates, multi-language terminology)

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