

54th Swiss LCA Discussion Forum 'Ecological Scarcity 2013'

Using Ecological Scarcity in Companies

based on the experience of McDonald's (CH) and other companies

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Typical questions in company environmental management

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Application of LCA (* = acc. to ISO 14040)	Product view	Organisation view
- *Develop and improve products	✓	Processes: 🗸
- *Strategic planning	\checkmark	\checkmark
 *Political decision-making 	✓	-
- *Environmental Management	Supp.Ch.Mgmt: 🗸	\checkmark
 *Communication (Information, PR, Marketing, etc.) 	✓	\checkmark
- *Product Design	✓	(✓)
- Controlling	(?)	\checkmark
- Comparisons, Benchmarking	\checkmark	\checkmark
- Cost-Benefit-Analysis	-	\checkmark



When moving between company and product (or service) view:

What changes in ...

- Scoping: What we analyse -> life cycle vs. organisation
- type of primary data - Inventory
- Impact assessment? (no change)
- Interpretation?

 → Management view





Product versus Company assessment: Scope





Similar to GHG protocol: ISO 14064

Similar to ISO 14040 LCA: PAS 2050 (UK GHG-LCA standard)

In the making: Water footprint standards EU initiatives for organisation's assessment Next to older approaches (as e.g. applied in CH)



Ecobalance (env. company assessm't) as management tool LCA DF LCA DF LCA DF

Environmental performance data is key for a reasonable orientation of the environmental management. Data in the format of an 'ecobalance', based on a reasonable single score method, supports oriented decisions:





Environmental Controlling: Annual development



Calculation:

Foreground Inventory = Company energy use, emissions, materials use, etc. **Background Inventory** = Data of Ecoinvent on the up- & downstream processes **Impact Assessment** = Swiss Ecopoints of these inventories

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GHG emissions McDonald's CH 2000-2009 (in 1000 t CO2-eq)

Carbon balance / Greenhouse gas analysis

 \rightarrow easy to understand

 \rightarrow internationally accepted, even based on standards

 \rightarrow yet only covers one environmental issue

→ useful for an energy/CO2-'oriented' business

SUSTAINABILITY IN BUSINESS

Alternatively, a single score quantitative analysis can be used once, or every few years – just to set priorities. Controlling then is done on inventory level, e.g. in a financial service provider, focusing on electricity consumption, travel mileage, fossil heating consumption. Again, the single score result may differ substantially from e.g. a CO2 result.



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Setting priorities and controlling in a group structure

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Conclusions: Positive Aspects of Ecoscarcity application





Conclusions: Where we need to be careful

Does the company profile match with the weighting method? If major aspects of the company are not covered, application needs to be very cautious. (E.g.: a sports stadium, re its noise and light emissions) If processes of the company take place far away from Switzerland, and if no adaptation (such as with fresh water use) is possible, one has to be aware of the fact that the ecofactors still represent the weighting according to the goals of the Swiss environmental policy. Updates of the ecofactors, taking place +/- every 5 to 7 years, may of course change relative weights of certain impacts. This however, should be seen as a standard procedure.

