

LCA Potentials in China

The goal of this study is to present LCA as a tool to reduce costs and environmental impact of products and services, show today's situation of the Chinese Market for LCA and draw a picture of its possible development.

At First the term Life Cycle Assessment, its practical approach and benefits for customers are defined: LCA is used to identify those products which are more harmful to the environment whilst providing methods and insight to its producers to reduce this impact.

While rapidly growing, the effects of climate change and pollution seriously affect China; solutions require professional tools which are offered by the providers listed in chapter 2.2.

Motivations for making LCAs in China are Compliance, for example to comply with export related directives, argumentation support, to enable policymaker to argument with fully funded facts, and self-improvement by reducing environmental impact of products.

These motives will change in future due to rising resource costs, announced emissions trading in China and more stricter compliance regulations. Additionally, with growing awareness for environmental impact by Chinese citizens, a green image will be more and more important for companies operating in China.

This study contains several assumptions that are examined in a risk breakdown in chapter 3.3.

To enable more LCAs in China a standardized LCI database is suggested; that topic can be a follow-up to this study.