



FIRST QUEBEC LCI DATABASE

Fact Sheet

WHAT IS THE QUEBEC LCI DATABASE ?

Worldwide environmental concern has led to an increase in demand for greener products and services. Life cycle tools that assess the impacts of products throughout their life cycle (from cradle-to-grave) are now being used to provide reliable environmental product information to policy-makers and stakeholders. Among the most widely used are Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) and carbon footprints (life cycle GHG emissions). These tools can present a non-tariff barrier to trade for countries lacking the infrastructure required to provide life cycle information on their products and services.

Recognizing the importance of developing a life cycle inventory (LCI) database to meet this challenge, the Quebec government (MDDEP) awarded a \$1.5M grant to the Centre for the Life Cycle of Products, Processes and Services (CIRAIG) for the development of such a database adapted to the Quebec context. This LCI database will support the government's sustainable development goals and enhance industry competitiveness. The starting point for this 3-year project is a Quebec adaptation of the renowned Swiss ecoinvent database beginning with data from three main sectors: energy, mines and metals, and pulp and paper. Thanks to this governmental grant, free support will be made available to companies wishing to provide data.

For this initiative to become a world-class database, it must ensure the data it contains is reliable, relevant and accurate. This can only be achieved through the active participation and contribution of Quebec LCI data providers from all major industry sectors. With your help, this LCI database will become a reference and provide Quebec with a competitive edge, joining the ranks of leading countries including Japan, the U.S, China and some European countries.

A FIRST STEP TOWARDS A CANADIAN LCI DATABASE

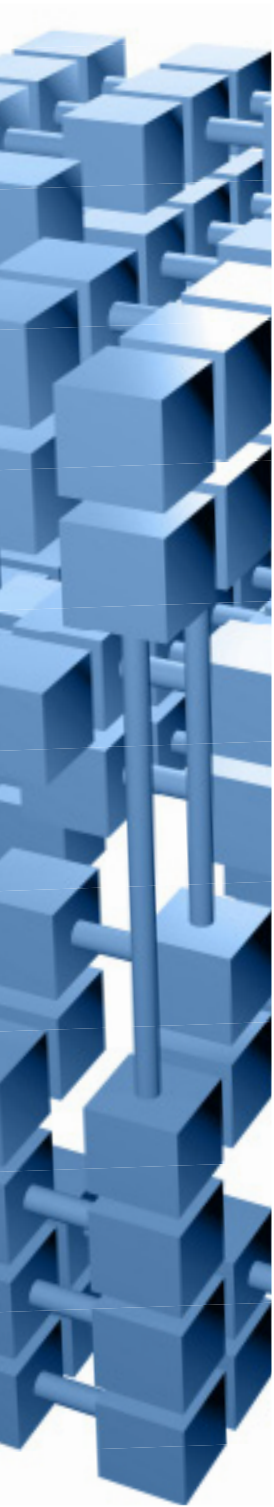
This Quebec LCI database represents a first step towards the development of a Canadian LCI database, a cornerstone upon which all life cycle assessments and other life cycle tools are built. To meet this goal, the CIRAIG is thus actively looking for additional funding, estimated at \$900K, from government, industrial associations, research centres and LCA consultants. The CIRAIG is also teaming up with other LCA organizations to create a quality and comprehensive LCI database.

**Make a significant impact,
become a data provider!**

WHAT'S AN LCI?

A life cycle inventory (LCI) is a form of information infrastructure for evaluating the environmental impact of products and services. It includes a collection of interrelated datasets which describe activities related to each life cycle stage of a product or service, including resource extraction, production, distribution, use, disposal or recycling. Each dataset describes the inputs and outputs from and to the environment (e.g.: resource extraction and emissions to air, water and soil) as well as those to and from other activities (e.g.: goods and services flowing from one activity to another). When interrelated, these datasets provide a global picture of all the inputs and outputs associated with a good or service.





WHY WAS THE ECOINVENT DATABASE CHOSEN?

- Transparency, consistency, trustworthiness and harmonization with most recent impact assessment methods.
- Widely used by practitioners, hence an inherent peer review process.
- Facilitated data collection: template, guidance and technical support, free review process from world-class board of sectorial and LCA experts and free access to the ecoEditor tool and EcoSpold format.
- Track your organization's improvements: you can easily change the supplied dataset each year.
- Possibility of developing "branded datasets" including your company's logo (for a fee).
- Confidentiality of sensitive data ensured.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR MY ORGANIZATION?

There are many reasons why collecting and supplying LCI data can be beneficial:

- Show your organization's environmental commitment and leadership.
- Gain insight into the life cycle impacts of your products and supply chains.
- Gain access to environmental data for other purposes (Carbon Disclosure Project, Global Reporting Initiative and Corporate Sustainability Responsibility reporting).
- Reduce future costs for your LCA studies.
- Ensure that the datasets in the Quebec LCI database are accurate and reliable.
- Provide Quebec products with a competitive advantage by reporting lower impact data related to the use of hydroelectricity.
- Gain free access to strong LCA expertise from the CIRAIG and its partners.
- Gain access to a free fact sheet outlining your product cradle-to-gate environmental impacts (developed by CIRAIG).

SIGN ME UP!

The data submission system is **free**. Quebec organizations can obtain support for their data collection and data submission efforts from the CIRAIG the ecoinvent center for free. If you are interested in providing data to this Quebec LCI database initiative (or the Canadian LCI database), please contact us at **support_Quebec_LCI_DB@ciraig.org**. To submit data directly to ecoinvent, please contact: **support@ecoinvent.org**.

More info: www.ciraig.org/CIRAIG_LCI_DB