



Supply Chain Social Impacts: Techniques to Assess, Prioritize, Report and Plan Action

Introduction

Increasingly, organizations are asked to consider the social impacts of their products supply chains. They may be required to integrate a due diligence approach - reporting on performances, on positive impacts and on their contributions to improving negative situations. Social Life Cycle Assessment (S-LCA) is a technique that allows the systematic analysis of supply chains-related social impacts.

This course includes one half-day which provides a solid theoretical and conceptual basis for conducting S-LCA, and another half-day of hands-on learning and application of practical methods.

The first day will provide an overview of the field of social responsibility and a detailed presentation of the different frameworks, tools and instruments available in order to distinguish the features and applications of Social LCA. It will include an in-depth presentation of Social Life Cycle Assessment based on the United Nations Environment Programme's Guidelines for Social LCA, and the "methodological sheets" which accompany the UNEP Guide.

During the second day, participants will have the opportunity to observe guided applications of the technique within openLCA software using the Social Hotspots Database (SHDB); we will perform product category case studies tailored to participant interests. The case studies will allow participants to conduct each phase of the assessment, model a product system, collect data, assess impacts and interpret the results.

Program objectives

By the end of this short course participants will have developed:

- ◆ Knowledge of the background and need for S-LCA.
- ◆ Ability to differentiate between social responsibility instruments.
- ◆ Knowledge of the S-LCA technique and ability to conduct a study based on the S-LCA guideline's process.
- ◆ Understanding of the Social Hotspot Database: its data sources, risk assessment methods, and how to apply it using both the web-based portal and using LCA software.
- ◆ Ability to use S-LCA results in reporting and within a social responsibility program.

Curriculum

Through recent case studies, lectures, and small group discussions, you will examine how to apply the Social Life Cycle Assessment technique in the context of a social responsibility program.

The concise course includes both theoretical and practical components and exercises that will enable participants to understand and successfully apply the technique on their own. The course will make use of the Social Hotspots Database online portal, and the Social Hotspots Database system within the free and open source OpenLCA software for life cycle assessment. Core topics include:

Managing supply chain social impact assessment processes

- ◆ Social responsibility context and instruments
- ◆ Importance of stakeholders and relevance to Social LCA
- ◆ Terminology
- ◆ In-depth presentation of the Social LCA guidelines and Methodological Sheets
- ◆ 4 phases of Social LCA: Goal and scope, Life Cycle inventory, Life Cycle Impact Assessment and Interpretation
- ◆ Social LCA in a Social Responsibility program

Applying Social Life Cycle Assessment

- ◆ Defining the goal and scope
- ◆ Modeling the product system
- ◆ Collecting data
- ◆ Evaluating potential impacts
- ◆ Defining prioritization factors
- ◆ Discussion of Social LCA challenges, limits and benefits
- ◆ Using S-LCA results in reporting
- ◆ Planning follow-up action and continuous improvement process.

SOCIAL LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT SHORT COURSE

Participants

This program is designed primarily for individuals who manage or research corporate social responsibility, sustainability or ethical compliance programs at companies, NGO's, policy makers, management support organizations or consultants.

Teaching staff

(Bios available at: <http://socialhotspot.org/home-about-shdb/project-team/>)

- ✦ Catherine Benoit Norris
- ✦ Deana Aulisio
- ✦ Gregory A. Norris

Practical information

Dates: Two Options:

Jun 27-28, 2013 from 11am to 3pm EDT

July 16-17, 2013 from 8am to 12pm EDT.

Minimum and Maximum number of participants: Class size is limited to 20 participants.

Cost: \$500 USD

Prices include course fee and a discounted subscription to an annual membership to the SHDB website user portal.

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