

Terminology Services - Vocabulary Catalog List Detail Report

Term
Accidental Emission
Definition: An unintended environmental release.
Allocation
Definition: Partitioning the input or output flows of a unit process to the product of interest.
Attributional Life Cycle Assessment
Definition: An LCA that accounts for flows/impacts of pollutants, resources, and exchanges among processes within a chosen temporal window. Acronym: Attributional LCA
Background Data
Definition: The background data include energy and materials that are delivered to the foreground system as aggregated data sets in which individual plants and operations are not identified.
Brines (oilfield)
Definition: Wastewater produced along with crude oil and natural gas from oilfield operations.
By-Products
Definition: An incidental product deriving from a manufacturing process or chemical reaction, and not the primary product or service

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being produced. A by-product can be useful and marketable, or it can have negative ecological consequences.
Characterization
Definition: Characterization is the second step of an impact assessment and characterizes the magnitude of the potential impacts of each inventory flow to its corresponding environmental impact.
Characterization Factor
Definition: Factor derived from a characterization model which is applied to convert the assigned LCI results to the common unit of the category indicator.
Classification
Definition: Classification is the first step of an impact assessment and is the process of assigning inventory outputs into specific environmental impact categories.
Co-Product
Definition: A product produced together with another product.
Composite Data
Definition: Data from multiple facilities performing the same operation that have been combined or averaged in some manner.
Consequential Life Cycle Assessment

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<p>Definition: An LCA that attempts to account for flows/impacts that are caused beyond the immediate system in response to a change to the system.</p> <p>Acronym: Consequential LCA</p>
Environmental Aspects
<p>Definition: Elements of a business' products, actions, or activities that may interact with the environment.</p>
Environmental Loadings
<p>Definition: Releases of pollutants to the environment, such as atmospheric and waterborne emissions and solid wastes.</p>
Equivalency Factor
<p>Definition: An indicator of the potential of each chemical to impact the given environmental impact category in comparison to the referenced chemical used.</p>
Equivalent Usage Ratio
<p>Definition: A basis for comparing two or more products that fulfill the same function. For example, comparing two containers based on a set volume of beverage to be delivered to the customer.</p>
Facility-Specific Data
<p>Definition: Data from a particular operation within a given facility that are not combined in any way.</p>
Foreground Data

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Definition: Data from the foreground system that is the system of primary concern to the analyst.
Fuel Processing and Delivery
Definition: Activities involved in the processing and delivery of fuel used to run a process; also Precombustion Energy. Acronym: Fuel P&D
Functional Unit
Definition: The unit of comparison that assures that the products being compared provide an equivalent level of function or service.
Green Technology
Definition: A technology that offers a more environmentally benign approach compared to an existing technology.
Impact Assessment
Definition: The assessment of the environmental consequences of energy and natural resource consumption and waste releases associated with an actual or proposed action.
Impact Categories
Definition: Classifications of human health and environmental effects caused by a product throughout its life cycle.
Impact Indicators

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Definition: Impact indicators measure the potential for an impact to occur rather than directly quantifying the actual impact.
Industrial System
Definition: A collection of operations that together perform some defined function.
Interpretation
Definition: The evaluation of the results of the inventory analysis and impact assessment to reduce environmental releases and resource use with a clear understanding of the uncertainty and the assumptions used to generate the results.
Inventory Analysis
Definition: The identification and quantification of energy, resource usage, and environmental emissions for a particular product, process, or activity.
Life Cycle Assessment
Definition: A cradle-to-grave approach for assessing industrial systems that evaluates all stages of a product's life. It provides a comprehensive view of the environmental aspects of the product or process.
Material Processing and Delivery
Definition: Activities involved in the processing and delivery of materials to a process. Acronym: Material P&D
Normalization

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<p>Definition: Normalization is a technique for changing impact indicator values with differing units into a common, unitless format by dividing the value(s) by a selected reference quantity. This process increases the comparability of data among various impact categories.</p>
<p>Precombustion Energy</p> <p>Definition: The extraction, transportation, and processing of fuels used for power generation, including adjusting for inefficiencies in power generation and transmission losses.</p>
<p>Product Life Cycle</p> <p>Definition: The life cycle of a product system begins with the acquisition of raw materials and includes bulk material processing, engineered materials production, manufacture and assembly, use, retirement, and disposal of residuals produced in each stage.</p>
<p>Routine emissions</p> <p>Definition: Those releases that normally occur from a process, as opposed to accidental releases that proceed from abnormal process conditions.</p>
<p>Sensitivity Analysis</p> <p>Definition: A systematic evaluation process for describing the effect of variations of inputs to a system on the output.</p>
<p>Specific data</p>

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Definition: Data that are characteristic of a particular subsystem, or process.
Stressors
Definition: A set of conditions that may lead to an environmental impact. For example, an increase in greenhouse gases may lead to global warming.
System Flow Diagram
Definition: A depiction of the inputs and outputs of a system and how they are connected.
Weighting
Definition: The act of assigning subjective, value-based weighting factors to the different impact categories based on their perceived importance or relevance.