

Value-adding partnership

Join us and the partnership will give the following:

- Obtain tools and inspiration for new strategies and working processes to implement in your operations.
- Set the research agenda for joint efforts.
- Collaborate in joint research projects with academia, research institutes and partners in industry and authorities involved.
- Capacity building through close contact with other experts within the life cycle field.
- Obtain access to high quality decision support and a network of almost 500 life cycle professionals.
- Find new ways to manage long-term sustainability.
- Make a larger impact through joint efforts to influence national and international initiatives.
- Benchmark the partners within the center.
- Be highlighted as a frontrunner in sustainability. Your good examples, research and other initiatives are communicated by Swedish Life Cycle Center.
- Access to web forum for close contact with partners and regular updates.

Partners in Swedish Life Cycle Center are:

- Committed to sustainable development and to life cycle thinking and have their own involvement in and resources for these commitments.
- Interested in initiating and being part of joint activities within the center.
- Interested in developing science-based ways of working to create credible cross-sectoral solutions.
- Advocates for the Swedish Life Cycle Center and its common vision, mission and goals.
- Important resources and excellence in research and other activities.



STAGE 10

01-01-2022 - 31-12-2024

Operational plan - Appendix A

Swedish Life Cycle Center is a Center of Excellence for competence building and knowledge exchange to drive the life cycle field forward. We co-create an arena for universities, research institutes, industrial players and authorities to collaborate in.

Partners 2021



In collaboration with



Swedish Life Cycle Center

Chalmers University of Technology
Department: Technology Management and Economics
Area of Advance: Production

Text by Technical secretariat

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General information

This operational plan is an appendix (Appendix A) to the main agreement for the Swedish Life Cycle Center Stage 10 (2022-2024).

Approved by the Board

24-11-2021

Complementary documents

This operational plan is one of the Center's steering documents, which are available for partners on lifecyclecenter.se.

The societal challenge

We are collectively facing immense challenges with unsustainable consumption and production systems which lead to an increased burden on the environment and on society. A better understanding of the life cycle perspective is a key to achieving sustainable solutions (environmental, social and economic). Our global society consists of chains of organisations and individuals which move resources around the world. The only way to address sustainability issues on a long-term basis is with a holistic life cycle perspective, which aims for resource efficiency and minimized environmental and social impacts without suboptimal solutions, while also creating new business opportunities and innovations.

A life cycle perspective

One of the advantages of a life cycle perspective is the focus on different parts of consumption and production systems and the links between them. It highlights the fact that actions at one end of the value chain also affect other parts of the chain. With a life cycle perspective, suboptimization can be avoided, and optimizations made in value chains are encouraged. In other words, a life cycle perspective is necessary for real sustainable improvements. To address major societal challenges in a comprehensive manner, the life cycle concept provides a means of increasing efficiency, reducing environmental and societal impacts and conserving resources. All processes are covered – from raw material acquisition to the end-of-life and next life of a product, via production and the use phase. Both physical and monetary flows are covered within the life cycle concept, which illustrates how the entire chain of actors work together to create products and services.

Our reason to be

We believe that a life cycle perspective should be a natural, integrated cornerstone in processes and decision making at all levels in business as well as in political governance. We are committed to providing platforms for mutual learning and knowledge exchange within and between different sectors such as academia, research institutes, industry and authorities. We are convinced that this is the solution to approach more sustainable consumption and production patterns, increased efficiency of resources and a sustainable transition towards a circular economy.

“
A neutral platform for cross-sector solutions. Transparency and trust. A global perspective. Scientific base.”

The values & principles on which we build our work!

Vision, mission & strategy

Swedish Life Cycle Center's vision is “Credible and applied life cycle thinking globally” and our aim is to drive the life cycle field forward

Our mission is to work for the integration of the life cycle perspective into processes and decision making in industry, government policy and other parts of society. The increased application of the life cycle perspective leads to increased resource efficiency that enhances sustainable production and consumption patterns, new innovations, and a sustainable circular economy. The life cycle perspective opens possibilities of working towards our common sustainability challenges and sustainable development goals.

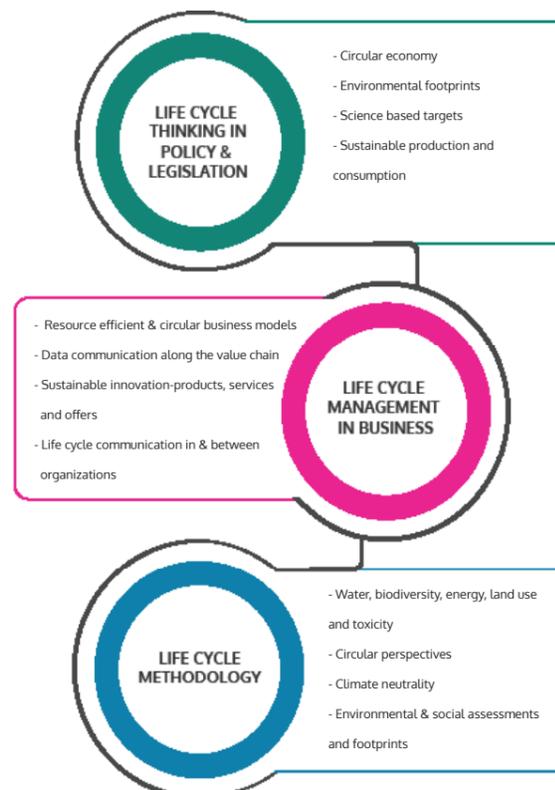
Strategic ways of working

No matter what activities we perform the foundation is:

- Foster relevant and scientifically based methods, practices and tools.
- Support competence and knowledge building.
- Influence national and international initiatives.

Strategic areas

Our strategic areas and their sub areas are based on the vision, mission and on strategic ways of working.



Management & organization

Swedish Life Cycle Center is an organization based on intangible assets with its human resources and excellence distributed among its partners. Chalmers University of Technology hosts the Center.

The permanent organization consists of a Board on which each partner is represented, a Preparatory Board, a Scientific Director and a Technical Secretariat (run by a Director, Project Managers and a Communications Officer). Committees, working groups, expert groups and project groups are established by the Board. Close collaboration with Swedish government agencies also takes place as well as a formal collaboration with SMEs.

How we work

Research projects

Swedish Life Cycle Center has a scientific base, gained from collaboration between the Center's partners in cross-sector research projects. We also run other types of projects, which focus on communication, coordination and collaboration in strategic joint efforts.

Working groups and expert groups

The working groups aim to build up competence and exchange experience and information between experts. The groups manage discussions about hands-on issues, methodologies and how to apply them, new research questions and joint strategic intelligence. We also coordinate expert groups for specific tasks or advisory support.

Communication and networking activities

Our main communication and networking activities are workshops, seminars, webinars, trainings and network conferences. These activities are either exclusive to partners or public. For instance, networking activities lead to realizing this operational plan. Our communication channels include LinkedIn, Twitter, public and partner-exclusive newsletters, our website and our web forum.

Expected outcomes of Stage 10

At the end of Stage 10, with regular follow-ups to set activities and to meet partners' identified needs, the following outcomes are expected to be achieved within each strategic way of working: During stage 10 the project “Innovation cluster for the life cycle perspective” is expected to greatly contribute to the outcomes.

Foster relevant and scientifically based methods, practices and tools

- Disseminate and publish results, such as reports, tools, position papers, working papers and other documents in selected communication channels.
- Support the development of life cycle methods and their applications in strategic areas.
- Promote sustainable actions through science-based approaches and availability of data.
- Work towards increased harmonization through development of life cycle methods and applications.

Support the competence and knowledge building

- Shared value through:
 1. Cross-sector knowledge sharing between partners.
 2. Networking activities for doctoral students.
 3. Continued collaboration with the extended network (SMEs, cutting-edge firms, authorities and funding agencies).
- Facilitate knowledge transfer by customizing support to different roles in organizations on how to apply life cycle perspectives in decision making.

Influence national and international initiatives

- Be an active part of the global life cycle community, e.g. UN Environment's Life Cycle Initiative, Forum for Sustainability through Life Cycle Innovation, Global LCA Data Access network.
- Actively support issues related to global and national goals, by working with and implementing key aspects and integrating life cycle perspectives in public policy making (e.g. circular economy, Product environmental footprint & Organisational environmental footprint, Agenda 2030, national reference databases, standardizations, green public procurement etc.).

History

The center has a history of more than 25 years and has become a credible, well known platform for life cycle professionals. It was founded as CPM in 1996 as a joint effort between Nutek (later VINNOVA), Chalmers University of Technology and a range of international companies. Over the years the center has concluded nine stages with different focus areas and partner constellations but the focus on applied life cycle thinking has remained as its base.

Read our entire history [here](#)