

JOINT NATIONAL EFFORT - FOR SUCCESSFUL INTEGRATION OF LIFE CYCLE KNOWLEDGE IN BUSINESS AND POLICY

This paper shows how a unique collaboration between business, government, academia and research institutes in Sweden has fostered the application of life cycle knowledge, through development and use of tools, competence and knowledge building activities and common research projects, into decision making in industry and policy.

Swedish Life Cycle Center, hosted by Chalmers University of Technology, was founded in 1996 and is a joint collaboration platform for universities, industries, research institutes and government agencies for competence building and exchange of experience to move the life cycle field forward. The center gathers researchers and practitioners in working and expert groups, network and communications activities and in common research projects to develop tools and methods, discuss and share experiences and best practices.

The use of life cycle knowledge has led to better decision within business and policies. Examples from government agencies and businesses, will be illustrated to show how policy and business can collaborate through a platform with common motives and goals. Results from the collaboration includes: 1) Development of ISO standard on monetary valuation of environmental impacts 2) National coordination to influence the European Product Environmental Footprint process 3) Tool to include externalities 4) National coordination towards a Swedish LCA-database 5) Methods to handle loss of biodiversity along the life cycle.¹

An evaluation, shows that added values of being a partner of the center and hosted by a university includes: 1) Importance of cooperation to build scientifically based knowledge and tools 2) Access to contacts and short take off for projects 3) Increased opportunity to make an impact.²

To conclude, this 20-year-long cooperation has been successful for the integration of life cycle knowledge in business and policy in Sweden, and provides a solid platform to meet our great challenge to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

List of references

¹ Swedish Life Cycle Center Summary report stage 7 (2016) SARA PALANDER, ANNA WIKSTRÖM

² Swedish Life Cycle Center Annual report 2014 (2015) ANNA WIKSTRÖM, SARA PALANDER

Authors

ANNA WIKSTRÖM¹, CARL KARHEIDING¹, SARA PALANDER¹

¹ Chalmers University of Technology, Centre for Environment and Sustainability,
Swedish Life Cycle Center