

ON THE ROAD TOWARDS

SMART USE OF LCA DATA

Summary

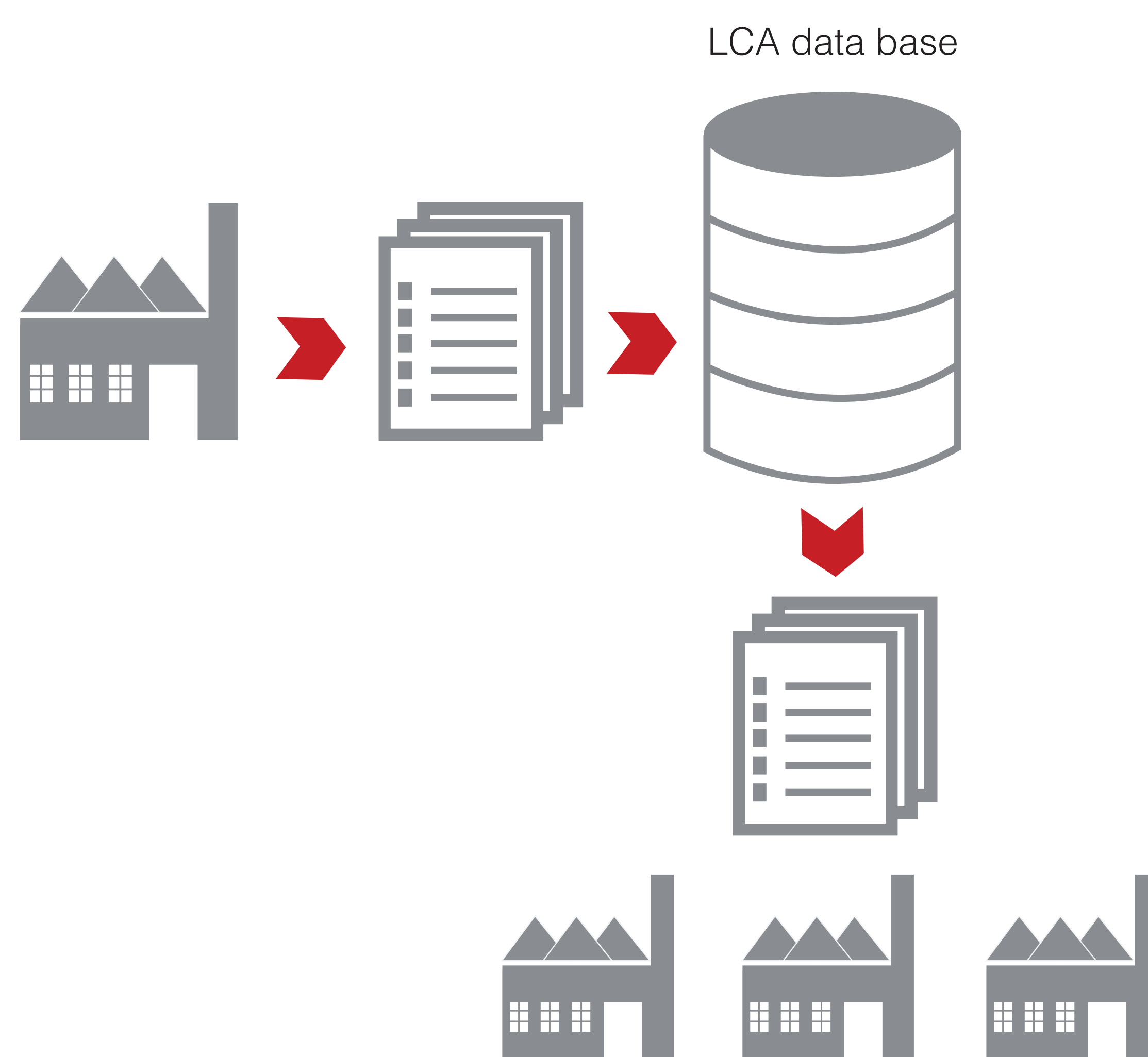
LCA data is used by organizations to measure, follow up and reduce environmental impact. It can be used to ensure credible and reliable marketing of environmental performance of products. Increased availability of reliable national LCA data has the potential to strengthen competitiveness of businesses on the international market and even to be used

to market nations as attractive regions to perform operations. By making national reference data available to the public the chances increase significantly for all companies and organizations to increase awareness of their products and services from a life cycle perspective. This is a prerequisite for achieving real sustainable solutions throughout the value chain.



Benefits by publishing data open

- Data can be reused and individual organizations can avoid recollecting the same data.
- Small businesses can easier meet requirements from public procurement.
- The discussion can shift from what data to use to what method to use.



Commonly sought LCA data

- Energy production
- Transport
- Commodity production
- The biggest export products
- Waste management

Strategy

Identify, collect and openly publish national reference data of the national average operations, which meet the needs of a large group of stakeholders.

Through a joint process unnecessary work can be avoided for organizations that are in need of comparable data.

Beneficiaries of open data

Environmental authorities, government agencies, municipalities, companies and academia are in need of LCA data, directly or indirectly.

Obstacles

- Benefits are spread over several weak stakeholders.
- Lack of understanding for the potential of open LCA-data.
- There is no default gathering organization.
- Lack of financiers when the benefits are spread out.

Recommendations

- Sweden shall initiate an open Swedish LCA database.
- Research financiers shall request all LCA data to be published.
- Research financiers shall try to introduce new incentive principles, like the one for publishing scientific articles.
- Stakeholders with the mission to support SMEs shall support open LCA data initiatives.

Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Swedish Energy Agency, with in-kind contribution from RISE, Chalmers, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Vattenfall, SLU Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Volvo group and NCC Construction.

The project has been coordinated by Swedish Life Cycle Center - a center of excellence for the advance of applied life cycle thinking in industry and other parts of society.

VISIT US IN BOOTH 15 TO LEARN MORE