

Program - Nordic Working Group for LCA, climate and buildings

Nordic cooperation on harmonizing building regulations and climate impact

Background

The Nordic Council of Ministers decided the 29 of May 2018 in Stockholm to initiate a work for Nordic harmonization of building regulations concerning climate emissions. As a result, the Ministry of the Environment in Finland and the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (Boverket) took the initiative to arrange the conference **Nordic Climate Forum for Construction**, in Malmö the 3rd of October 2019, to bring together the Nordic construction authorities and the foremost in academia and construction industry. The conference was organized in collaboration with the Nordic Council of Ministers. The main target for the conference was to start up the work for Nordic harmonization on regulations and climate emissions from buildings from a life cycle perspective. Around 80 people attended the conference and all Nordic countries were represented.

To bring the Nordic cooperation forward after the conference, a platform for dialogue and exchange of information has been formed. The aim of this document is to describe the purpose, objectives and organization of this platform.

Aim & purpose

The purpose of this working group is to give input to Nordic harmonization of life cycle assessment of climate emissions buildings with the aim to reduce the building sector's climate emissions. The aim of the working group is also to work for Nordic collaboration on issues related to mainstreaming LCA methods, their practical application and normative development of climate impacts of buildings. This is done by bringing together key actors from the Nordic construction industry and academia together with the building authorities.

Objectives

Expected impacts

- The Nordic countries have compatible approaches to building regulation, methodology and the assessment of climate emissions from buildings, and share best practice on the subject.

- The building sector's climate emissions following the same rate as national climate neutrality goals requires.
- The Nordic collaboration have made it easier for the industry to construct low carbon buildings in the Nordic countries.

Tasks for the working group

- The Nordic authorities organize an annual conference and a web climate forum within the topic of this working group – in cooperation with this working group
- The Nordic authorities organize web meetings for this working group together with Swedish Life Cycle Center.
- An updated website with relevant material
- Results from the groups work will be presented at the next conference, arranged by Iceland in autumn 2021.
- The Nordic countries have initiated common projects.
- Being an arena for exchange of best practice.

Implementation and organization

The working group will consist of around 40 representatives from the Nordic building authorities, academia and industry. The representatives will be based on proposals from the Nordic authorities in collaboration with Swedish Life Cycle Center.

Swedish Life Cycle Center will organize the dialogue forum, consisting of the **working group** (smaller group) and a network (wider group of stakeholders). The **working group** will be developed within the framework of the Swedish Life Cycle Center's working methods. It will be done in collaboration with the Nordic building authorities. Swedish Life Cycle Center has long experience of organizing collaborative platforms. Within the framework of Swedish Life Cycle Center several working groups is ongoing today within the field of life cycle research and the life cycle perspective. The ongoing groups have different focus areas and bring together partners and extended networks with common areas of interest and competences.

Working Group

Continued dialogue with the working group will take place through four web meetings/year during where the group's participants can exchange experience, raise knowledge gaps, capture interest, and increase understanding within the framework of the LCA working group, with the aim of facilitating the Nordic collaboration.

The web meetings will be a forum for experts with focus on LCA and policymaking. The working group constitutes an important forum for contributing to the development of the policy framework, for example climate declarations of buildings, and can lead to the

initiation of new projects such as development of methodology and state-of-the-art for LCA of climate for buildings.

The working group have gathered a list of topics that are of interest for joint development.

The list includes the following theme areas:

- Efforts for the decarbonisation of the building stock
- Financial and other incentives
- Assessment methods
- Data and its flow
- BIM + LCA

The actual work that the working group is expected to carry out regarding the above-mentioned thematic areas includes:

- Proposals for harmonisation and methods
- Review and feedback to the proposals made by the Nordic authorities

Swedish Life Cycle Center is the administer and moderator of the network for Nordic collaboration until spring 2021. The working group gets an external page on the Swedish Life Cycle Center's website www.lifecyclecenter.se/projects and a separate group page for intercommunication (My Page). By being a bridge and facilitating a dialogue between industry, research and policy, Swedish Life Cycle Center will work to increase knowledge and disseminate the results in a transparent and qualitative way.

Topics for meetings sept 2020-sept 2021

1. Feedback and continued discussions from the Second Nordic Climate Forum for Construction.
2. Information about joint Nordic projects, group work and discussions about definition of carbon neutrality and the concept carbon handprint.
3. Pros and cons of BIM-based LCA and other digital tools with experiences from countries in the Nordic.
4. Topic to be decided.

Network

A wider group of stakeholders is also part of the Dialogue Forum to complement the working group and to reach out to more people in the building industry. Information from the working group will be shared with this broader group. This broader group of stakeholders can also be used by the working group for direct feedback and input into the ongoing work. They can also spread this information within their own respective

networks. Everyone who has attended the conference in Malmö or submitted an interest registration are invited to participate in this dialogue forum.

Public webinar

Information from the working group will be disseminated through an open webinar. The webinar will focus on sharing the ongoing work in the working group and spreading knowledge about LCA in the Nordic region and further expanding the network. The webinar will be organized by Swedish Life Cycle Center with input from the working group.

Contact

Chair: Matti Kuittinen

Co-Chair: Anders Jensen

Swedish Life Cycle Center: Maria Rydberg, maria.rydberg@chalmers.se

Timetable

Date	Activity	Responsibility
2020-08-27	2 nd Climate Forum for Construction	Trafik-, Bygge- og Boligstyrelsen
2020-11-16	Working group meeting	Administered by Swedish Life Cycle Center
2020-03-03	Working group meeting	Administered by Swedish Life Cycle Center
May 2021	Working group meeting	Administered by Swedish Life Cycle Center
May or June 2021	Public Webinar	Administered by Swedish Life Cycle Center
Spring/summer 2021	Planning of the next climate forum 2021	
September 2021	Working group meeting (Web)	Administered by Swedish Life Cycle Center
October 2021	Third Nordic Climate Forum for construction	