

The role of background databases in the environmental assessments of buildings: what is the way forward?

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What is ecoinvent?

- A Swiss **not-for-profit association** that supports life-cycle-based approaches world-wide through access to data
 - Financed through licensing and project income
- Publishes the ecoinvent database - **Life Cycle Inventory** data on many thousands of products and services
- ecoinvent is a **data publisher**
- Further **mission-related activities**:
 - **Capacity building** and **knowledge transfer** on LCI data management and handling
 - Support for **database management and publication**

Who uses the ecoinvent database?

- More than **7'000 licences** of the ecoinvent database representing many **tens of thousands** of users from over **80 countries**
- Primary users are consultants, industry, researchers, policy makers
 - **70%** of the licence revenues comes from the commercial and policy users while **30%** of comes from academic users
- Most common use is **Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)** and **Carbon Footprinting**
 - Also used in EPDs (e.g. EN 15804), PEF, Circular Economy efforts, water footprints, resource criticality, Social LCA, and other sustainability assessments
 - Foundation or supporting data for many private and public tools and systems

What does the database contain?



- ecoinvent is a **background database** which contains **average data** on different materials and services
- e.g. energy, basic materials, agriculture, transport, machinery, ...
- Focus on **consistency, reliability and transparency**
 - More than **17000** datasets for around **3200** products
 - Datasets for up to **140** countries
 - A new release every year

