



# SBE19 Graz

SUSTAINABLE BUILT ENVIRONMENT D-A-CH CONFERENCE 2019  
Graz, 11–14 September 2019



Universität für Bodenkultur Wien



Karlsruher Institut für Technologie



## SPECIAL FORUM

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

ecoinvent Association

12 Sept 2019, 02.15pm-03.45pm | Rechbauerstraße 12, 8010 Graz

#### SUBJECT

The availability of accurate and up to date life cycle inventory (LCI) data is key to support environmental decision making in the construction sector. However, as the data needs of life cycle assessment (LCA) practitioners, including those working in Environmental Product Declaration (EPD), continuously evolve, the role and structure of background LCI databases must also develop to ensure that the needs of users are met. The ecoinvent Association is organising this forum to provide information on and discuss the role of background databases in environmental decision making and EPD creation.

As part of the special forum, the following presentations and discussion will take place:

- Welcome  
Gregor Wernet, ecoinvent Association
- The new impact categories in the amended standard EN15804 and their relevance for the construction sector  
presentation by Karen Allacker, Professor, KU Leuven
- The role of the background database in the framework of the amended EN15804  
presentation by Dimitra Ioannidou, ecoinvent Association
- Software development and the amended EN15804  
presentation by Marisa Vieira, PRé Sustainability, developer of the LCA software SimaPro®
- Presentation of a more policy related perspective on the new standard and on the EPD development in Austria  
presentation by Hanna Schreiber, Environment Agency
- Discussion on the experience with the use of background data in EPDs  
Lars G. F. Tellnes, research scientist, Ostfold Research  
Hildegund Figl, IBO-Österreichisches Institut für Bauen und Ökologie GmbH
- General discussion with participants on the role of background databases related to EPDs.

#### QUESTIONS TO BE DISCUSSED

The participants are invited to provide their insights and experiences with using background datasets for Environmental Product Declarations or Product Environmental Footprints. Among others, the following questions will be addressed:

- What are the expectations of users in a background database, especially with respect to EPDs?
- What should be the role of a background database in supporting efforts to harmonise different methodological approaches, choices and assumptions used in EPDs and LCA?

#### ORGANIZER

The ecoinvent association is an internationally active not-for-profit organization devoted to supporting high quality environmental assessments. Its activities currently include publishing and maintaining the ecoinvent database and further leading, or participating in initiatives with the aim of promoting good practice in the creation and use of life cycle inventories around the world.

Contact: Graz University of Technology, Austria | Institute of Technology and Testing of Building Materials | Working Group Sustainable Construction  
Waagner-Biro-Straße 100, 8020 Graz | SBE19 Graz Secretariat: [sbe19@tugraz.at](mailto:sbe19@tugraz.at) | [sbe19.tugraz.at](http://sbe19.tugraz.at)



Funded by:

