

ERSCP 2012: Workshop Design Sheet

Title of Workshop *

footprinting - a holistic approach to assess environmental impacts

Subtitle

Network Footprinting - quest for a standardized approach

Objectives

share information, promote Network Footprinting, foster holistic approaches in environmental assessment beyond limitations in time and resources within defined projects

Short Description of Workshop Outline (max. 2000 characters) *

We will present the NETWORK FOOTPRINTING, a network of a dozen research-institutions (mostly from Austria) formed in 2010. The network aims to improve theory and practice of footprinting. This includes dealing with Carbonfootprint, Ecological Footprint, water-footprint, Material Footprint, the forthcoming Environmental Footprint and LCAs in general.

We will present our work in progress:

- the set of sustainability parameters in use with the members of the network
- a critique on current developments in ISO and EU
- concrete cases of business-footprint using Ecological Footprint or other assessment methods

The presenters will give a insight of the process towards a common understanding of system boundaries and allocation-principles. One hot spot of discussions deals with the inclusion of employee's contribution to business and product footprints. Another hot spot is the approach to electricity-mix applied in assessments.

Valid assessment of environmental impacts is the basic of any resource based economy and the development towards more sustainability. The sound comparability of results is the fundament for any market mechanism as well as regulatory enforcements towards sustainability.

Expected Outcomes and Results

The prime goal of session is to disseminate information about ongoing thinking, foster potential synergies and show practical ways to deal with the imperfect situation.