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| **From:** | Karten, Joe |
| **To:** | Green Star Tool Development |
| **Cc:** | Shlomi Bonet |
| **Subject:** | Feedback on LCA discussion paper |
| **Date:** | Friday, 25 May 2012 2:33:46 PM |

Hi Tool Development,

Great LCA discussion paper – it sets the scene and introduces the concept of LCA within Green Star in a very easy to understand format. The paper is formatted for ease of review. I would like to offer my constructive feedback below. Where I haven't commented on a section, I either agree with the proposed approach or am out of my depth:

1. Scope of Assessment – suggest substantiation that the overall environmental impact has been sufficiently addressed through the building elements deemed to be included in the scope of assessment. I note that the 'majority of materials used' is offered as the explanation for the scope inclusions. However, it hasn't been sufficiently demonstrated that materials such as paints, adhesives and sealants, refrigerants, and IT hardware have a lower relative environmental impact. Data to this effect, would help the reader understand how the relative impact of the items chosen for exclusion is lower than the core elements included.
2. Boundary – A large benefit of LCA can be the promotion of materials that have a reduced operation impact and are able to be truly recycled or up-cycled at the end of the first useful life. Whilst the boundary relating to 'operation' and 'grave' can be tightly defined for simplicity in assessment, I think a cradle-to-grave approach in LCA is necessary. Otherwise, it will be similar to the Recycled Content in Steel credit. It may capture much of the environmental impact of a product, but cannot truly be referred to as LCA and garner all benefits for material selection inherent to full impact studies.
3. Environmental Impact Categories – I don't think the impact categories should be limited to 6 as this again represents a diluted approach to LCA. If evidence suggests that items such as 'Eutrophication' are minimal in building and building materials production then provide this evidence to demonstrate why it is left out of the assessable categories. Further justification is required to validate the final impact categories. If research has been completed to determine which impact categories are best suited for LCA within Green Star and why, this data should be included within the discussion paper.
4. Allocation of Green Star points – I would imagine it more practical for project teams to complete one Life Cycle Assessment of the project which plugs into one LCA calculator in one credit and provides points based on the outcome (similar to Ene-1). I think that would reduce the documentation burden on project teams, which is a serious barrier to entry with Green Star at the moment.

Keep up the good work.

Kind regards,

**Joe Karten**
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