



The University of Sydney

Centre for Integrated Sustainability Analysis



Issue 08/Q2

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ISA's Projects and Initiatives

ISA's contribution to the ACF Consumption Atlas

The Consumption Atlas is an interactive online tool developed in collaboration with the [Australian Conservation Foundation](#). It reveals that people living in Australia's wealthiest metropolitan areas are responsible for the country's highest household greenhouse gas emissions, water, and land use.

People living in Australia's wealthiest inner-city suburbs cause more than double the amount of greenhouse gas emissions than households in less affluent areas because of their high levels of consumption, particularly of goods and services.

The Consumption Atlas enables Australians to view the greenhouse gas emissions created by households in their suburb. The Atlas shows that the more things people buy, the greater their contribution to climate change. ISA and ACF are encouraging householders to be smarter with how they spend their money, and consider the impact of their purchasing behaviour on the environment.

[Click here](#) to read Don Henry, ACF Executive Director's tribute to the ISA team.

[Click here](#) for the ACF Consumption Atlas.

Education and Training: April - June 2008

More workshops – Sydney & Perth

With an increased interest this year, the ISA team is running more workshops. These workshops focus not only on the team's methodology but policies and actions by government, non-government organisations and businesses.

Location	Dates	Registration Deadline	Course Flier
Sydney	17 th & 24 th April	Tues. 8 th April 2008	2 day Sydney course flier
Sydney	2 nd , 16 th & 23 rd May	Thurs. 24 th April 2008	3 day Sydney course flier
Perth	16 th & 20 th June	Mon. 2 nd June 2008	2 day Perth course flier

For details about each workshop please visit: [Course Details](#).

Alternatively, the Centre for Integrated Sustainability Analysis offers on-site and/or customised courses. For more information please contact the ISA team on +61 2 9036 9365

Consulting

The Centre for Integrated Sustainability Analysis is a research team at the University of Sydney, bringing together expertise in environmental science, economics, technology, and social science.

Our aim is to continuously develop and improve in a multi- and inter-disciplinary way scientifically rigorous, quantitative, consistent and comprehensive approaches for Integrated Sustainability Analysis.

Introducing a new addition to the ISA team Andrew Simmons. Andrew strengthens ISA's consultancy and applied sustainability research capabilities. If you are considering sustainability reporting, carbon footprints or other stewardship issues Andrew would be delighted to discuss what ISA can offer. Contact him on +61 2 9036 7505 or email a.simmons@physics.usyd.edu.au

Andrew Simmons



Andrew Simmons is Senior Research Officer at the Centre for Integrated Sustainability Analysis (ISA). He has over 15 years experience in environmental research, consulting and policy development covering producer responsibility and recycling issues. Before joining ISA, Andrew was Chief Executive of Recoup, a leading UK recycling development agency for packaging. His project management experience includes multi-stakeholder and international product stewardship programmes, with commissions from both private and public sector organisations. He has published widely on recycling and product stewardship. Andrew has been a visiting lecturer for a MSc Sustainable Wastes Management course and for various government training programmes. He holds a Masters in Environmental Science & Law. Andrew's particular interest is the practical application of corporate social responsibility concepts.



BL³ News – End-user Q&A

The questions and answers you find in this new section come from our ISA workshops...

Choosing a sector

Q. What if all my organisation's activities don't fit into one sector category

A. You can either undertake two (or more) separate analyses one for each of your categories, but this will also involve splitting the expenditure between the activities in an appropriate way. OR, you can choose the one category that best fits your organisation.

Q. What do we do about joint ventures or part ownership of another company?

A. You need to have an agreed and transparent way of allocating this. The GRI has guidelines for such a case. This will involve clearly identified splits on expenditure, revenue and on-site impacts for the venture/partnership.

[BottomLine³](#) is a software package developed by Dipolar Pty Limited and ISA. Using this software you can create a comprehensive sustainability report across the Triple Bottom Line simply by inputting your organisation's expenditure and revenue accounts.

For a full product description about the software or to download a free trial version please visit: <http://www.bottomline3.com>

Publications

Shared Producer and Consumer Responsibility - Theory and Practice



Over the past decade, an increasing number of authors have been examining producer versus consumer responsibility. Recently, a problem has appeared in drafting the standards for the Ecological Footprint: While the method traditionally assumes a full life-cycle perspective with full consumer responsibility, a large number of producers have started to calculate their own footprints. Adding any producer's footprint to population footprints that all already cover the full upstream supply chain, leads to double-counting: The sum over footprints of producers and consumers is larger than the total national footprint. The committee in charge of the Footprint standardisation process was faced with the decades-old non-additivity problem, posing the dilemma of how to curtail the supply chains of actors in order to avoid double-counting. This report demonstrates a non-arbitrary method of consistently delineating these supply chains, into mutually exclusive and collectively exhaustive portions of responsibility to be shared by all actors in an economy.

You can download this and other publications by visiting:
<http://www.isa.org.usyd.edu.au/publications/index.shtml>

Other Resources

From ACCC's Your Consumer Rights: Environmental Claims

"What are environmental claims? Environmental claims come in a wide range of forms, including statements about environmental sustainability, recycling, energy and water efficiency or impact on animals and the natural environment.

The Trade Practices Act 1974 (the Act) states that businesses must not mislead or deceive consumers, or make false or misleading representations. Penalties, injunctions and/or damages may be sought where businesses fail to meet these requirements."

You can [download](#) the document from the ACCC website.

Frequently Asked Questions at ISA

Sharing responsibility along the supply chain to eliminate double and multiple-counting in life-cycle analysis of interconnected systems

What's the problem

The setting of organisational boundaries is time consuming. ISO 14044 compliance requires the inclusion of inputs that cumulatively contribute more than a defined amount to the total. A system boundary must be agreed on so that the inputs do not overlap with the inputs to another product or process. If the systems were to overlap then inputs would be counted twice and possibly multiple times. This can happen not only within an organisation but also in a supply chain. If everyone in a supply chain were to conduct a full upstream life cycle analysis then inputs in the supply chain could be counted many times over¹.

¹ The Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (WRI/WBCSD 2004) glossary says that double counting refers to the situation when "two or more reporting companies take ownership of the same emissions or reductions" (p. 97). Double or multiple counting occurs when there is overlap between the accounting boundaries of two or more entities. This situation is addressed in the Factors and Methods Workbook (Australian Greenhouse Office 2006), p. 2) for "consumption of **purchased electricity, steam or heat** produced by other organisations" through the definitions of a Scope 2 emissions category. Scopes 1 and 2 are "carefully defined to ensure that two or more organisations do not report the same emissions in the same scope". The ISA methodology (see Info Sheet 1) systematically addresses the issue of double counting. It eliminates double counting by systematically apportioning ownership of *all* embodied emissions along the supply chain. Thus it is not possible for two organisations to report the same emissions, and the need for carefully defining boundaries is eliminated.

Allocating responsibility

The question is: who *should* count, and therefore take responsibility for, the inputs and therefore the effects of doing business?

Is it the producer? *If a gadget is made in China by an American company and exported and used by consumers from Stockholm to Sao Paulo, Brazil, should the Chinese government be held responsible for the carbon released in manufacturing it? (Wall Street Journal. N.Y. Nov 12, 2007. pg. A.2)*

If the Chinese government were to take *full responsibility* this would mean that the *producer* takes responsibility for all the effects of its production.

Is it the consumer? *As China's emissions rise, everyone is pointing the finger of blame at China ... The real responsibility for rising emissions should lie with the final consumers in Europe, North America and the rest of the world. (Wall Street Journal. N.Y. Nov 12, 2007. pg. A.2)*

Full consumer responsibility (the blame-the-buyer approach) means that the final consumer calculates her or his full upstream footprint, accounting for all emissions, land use etc embodied in the goods and services purchased and takes full responsibility for it.

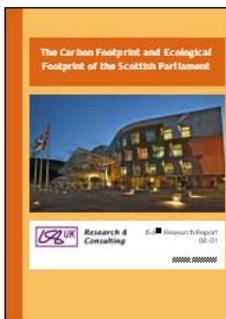
Is it everyone's responsibility? *... emissions are embedded in goods that move around the world through trade -- so if the U.S. imports iPods from China, Americans should share some responsibility for the pollution produced in making them (Wall Street Journal. N.Y. Nov 12, 2007. pg. A.2)*

Shared responsibility means that we acknowledge that we're all in this together, we're an integrated system, and we must all take our share of the good and the bad effects of doing business. We're all responsible for creating employment along the supply chain just as we're all responsible for creating greenhouse gas emissions along the supply chain. If we are all responsible then the question now is: how can the responsibility of an individual or an organisation be calculated consistently and fairly.

ISA activity around the Globe

New report from ISA-UK

The Scottish Parliament's Footprint



ISA-UK have recently completed a carbon footprint and Ecological Footprint analysis of the Scottish Parliament in the three areas energy, paper and waste. Calculations refer to the financial years 2005/06 and 2006/07, as well as for targets set until 2008/09. A novel **Hybrid Life-Cycle-Analysis** approach has been employed which is described in the Methodology section of the report. The carbon footprint includes direct (on-site) as well as indirect (from suppliers and other sectors in the economy) emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. The Ecological Footprint includes direct and indirect impacts for seven land types. This short report presents the footprint results for energy consumption (electricity and natural gas), paper consumption and waste

To download this report, [click here](#)



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