



Turkish Plastics Industry Foundation

Product Environmental Footprint

- **Life cycle thinking goes hand in hand with resource efficiency**

Resource efficiency requires understanding the full environmental impact of a product over its entire life cycle, from extraction of raw materials to final waste management. The Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) method has been developed for that purpose. Based on Life Cycle Assessments (LCAs) and uniform information coming from relevant stakeholders, PEFs overarching purpose is to consistently report on the environmental impact of products over their full life cycle. The progress made on resource efficiency can then be made transparent throughout the value chain.

- **The plastics industry is a pioneer in the compilation of reliable data for LCAs**

PAGEV, which is a member of PlasticsEurope, is a front runner in this area and has been developing and providing environmental datasets (Life Cycle Inventories) for over 20 years through the PlasticsEurope. Their reliability is widely acknowledged: calculated by qualified and renowned consultants and independently reviewed, they are part of and the basis for many commercial databases as well as the European Life Cycle Database (ELCD). These environmental datasets are the input data needed to carry out LCAs of products containing plastics. The plastics industry and its downstream partners carry out full LCAs for numerous applications in order to evaluate their actual environmental performance and continuously enhance their sustainability.

- **PAGEV actively participates in LCA developments and initiatives**

Beyond providing reliable environmental data on polymers, PAGEV, which is a member of PlasticsEurope, is engaged in supporting the dissemination of good practice in LCA and has joined initiatives such as the UNEP SETAC LCA (United Nations Environmental Programme – Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry) and contributes to European projects such as the ELCD and the PEF through the PlasticsEurope.

- **PEF should build on successful initiatives**

On top of PEF, Product Category Rules (set of specific rules, requirements and guidelines) are required to further align PEF results and allow for the comparison of the environmental impacts of different products. Successful sectorial initiatives already exist, such as the Environmental Product Declaration programme of the Building and Construction sector. Existing Product Category Rules should be adopted with minimum possible changes to maintain the momentum of the actors in these sectors.

Key recommendations:

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1. Take a life cycle approach when dealing with product rules and resource efficiency

When considering how to make a product more in line with resource efficiency aspirations, the impact over the whole life cycle of the said product should be taken into account in order to have a true understanding of the actual impact on the environment.

2. Product environmental footprint should remain voluntary

The lack of harmonised data and Product Category Rules today hinder the use of LCA and PEF. EU guidelines provide a solid base for this, but require pilot projects to test the effectiveness and cost of implementations.



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