UCLCircEL announces:

**A new Continuing Professional Development module on Life Cycle Assessment**

Life cycle assessment (LCA) is a fundamental method for assessing the environmental impacts of products and technologies from “cradle to grave”. It provides a systematic way to record, quantify and summarise any environmental impacts (e.g., greenhouse gas emissions, other pollution, loss of biodiversity, etc.) through all stages of the life of a product or process, from resource extraction and refinement, through manufacturing, use and end-of-life (reuse/recycling/recovery/disposal); this information can then be used in making decisions to improve the environmental outcome. Well-known examples of applications of LCA include a study by Proctor & Gamble to compare disposable with washable nappies, which showed the latter to have higher environmental impacts, and studies on appliances ranging from washing machines to cars, which demonstrate that their greatest environmental impacts occur during use rather than manufacture. In recent years, LCA has become a leading environmental assessment technique used by consumers, industry, and government. LCA is increasingly required by firms for eco-labelling and green certificates. Calculation of life cycle impacts is now required by EU renewable legislation in the areas of energy, product design and waste management. Its increased use to support decision-making by both commercial and public organisations is inevitable.

This new 1-week CPD course will be offered from Spring 2016. It will provide an introduction to LCA methods and help develop a practical and hands-on understanding of LCA. Delegates taking this course will emerge with a solid understanding of why an LCA systems perspective is important, basic skills for sound application of the LCA method and proper interpretation of its results, an appreciation of the strengths and limitations of LCA in practice, and good practice in application of LCA.

By the end of this course, delegates are expected to:

1. Understand the complexities and requirements of LCA
2. Know how to access and analyse data sources
3. Be able to conduct an LCA using SimaPro software
4. Be able to use different methodologies for impact assessment
5. Be able to analyse and interpret the output of an LCA study
6. Be able to identify the possible applications and limitations of LCA and its role within the wider environmental management context.

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