

Pre-seminar Reflection

Group 9

During the pre-seminar we exchanged feedback with group 4. Their project is a comparative LCA that evaluates the use of paper cups against ceramic cups for drinking coffee in a standard office.

1. Two things (at least) about the project that was particularly good/inspiring/creative.

The group is evaluating the weight on the environment of an everyday activity that would hardly be regarded as harmful for the environment. In that sense this project can reflect how an everyday choice might or might not affect the environment in a considerable manner.

Another interesting point is looking at the possibility that the impact of washing a coffee mug every day, against disposing and recycling a paper cup could be higher.

2. Suggest two things (at least) that could be improved in the project.

The group had the intention to cut out the transport of the cups to the office. However, while that might be possible for the ceramic cups which are transported only once during the two year period it might give misleading results for the paper cups. This, since the paper cups cannot be assumed to be transported only once, you will not order all paper cups for a two year period in bulk.

The time period of two years might be a little short when the lifespan of the ceramic cups are considered, however the other group suggested that it might be the glaze on the cup that restricts the lifespan and not the cup itself that breaks.

3. Mention two things (at least) that you will improve in your own project, as a result of what you learned from others during the pre-seminar.

Upon comments from the other group we found it would be good to consider "Natural Land Transformation" as an additional impact category in our LCI.

We also realized that we should be aware of allocation problem when we analyse our HDPE process for production of plastic bags.

We have initially chosen a kraft process, as we have found other studies regarding paper bags in which they used this process. The other group suggested that we should look up what kind of paper production process is most commonly used in Sweden, and use that as a basis for our process.