

Putting the metrics behind sustainability at GEDnet.



GEDnet

Organizing a Global PCR Database



The Challenge

GEDnet (<http://gednet.org/>), a non-profit association of environmental declaration organizations and practitioners, wanted to organize all (roughly 500) product category rules (PCR), created by roughly 25 program operators around the world, into a single database. The absence of a single global database, along with the growing number of PCRs, causes several interconnected problems. Issues of concern include unnecessary duplicate PCRs, increasingly costly PCRs and EPDs, and decreased traceability of PCRs. This pilot study seeks to create a global searchable database for PCRs to eliminate these problems and set a more unified path for the future.

PRé Solution

The creation of a global PCR database was accomplished in two steps. First, PCRs from both the Japanese Environmental Management for Industry as well as the the International EPD System (IES) were integrated into a database. The second step involved finding program operators in North America in order to establish the number of PCRs, both published and under development. Then the PCRs were integrated into the global database.

The United Nations Central Product Classification System (UN CPC) was chosen as the product classification system for the database because many PCRs, especially those from IES, already utilized this classification.

PRé found that the majority of already existing PCRs were created for commonly used consumer goods belonging to the following three product categories: (1) Food products, beverages, tobacco; textiles, apparel and leather products, (2) Other trans-

portable goods, excluding metal products, machinery and equipment, and (3) Metal products, machinery, and equipment. When mapping PCRs, the following was evident:

- The scope of a single PCR partially aligned with the scope of one relevant product category defined in the product classification system.
 - Example: *Pavement Preservation Products*
- The scope of a single PCR partially aligned with the scope of several product categories defined in the product classification system.
 - Example: *Packaged Single Entrée*
- The scope of a single PCR completely aligns with several product categories defined in the product classification system.
 - Example: *Flooring and Building Envelope Thermal Insulation*

Business Value

Working with PRé, GEDnet discovered the following value-driven benefits:

- The need to establish a robust conversion matrix across different product classification systems, to ensure the viability of a single PCR database.
- Identification of duplicate PCRs across several programs, signifying opportunities for collaboration between various program operators.
- Identification of industry sectors which are active, inactive, and those that are prime for encouragement to enter the EPD field.
- Recognition of the need to include PCRs under development in the global PCR database, to avoid duplicity, and to provide opportunity for collaboration.
- Recognition of the importance of formalizing relationships with all program operators in order to maintain an up-to-date database.



Creating Business Value Through Sustainability Metrics

Sustainability Metrics Consulting

Sustainability in business has become a core business concern and a driving factor in creating business value. PRé offers a range of consulting services, provided by a team of experts who will work with you to choose, create and deliver the right metrics for your sustainability goals.

PIONEERING Developing Innovative New Metrics For New Challenges

Societal and stakeholder expectations for implementing sustainability in business are becoming more demanding. Sometimes, off-the-shelf metrics cannot help you answer their questions. PRé has extensive experience in life-cycle-based metrics pioneering: implementing cutting-edge new product metrics and developing completely new, scientifically sound and robust metrics. PRé has been the driving force behind many ground-breaking initiatives like ReCiPe or the Handbook for Product Social Impact Assessment.

INTEGRATION Integrating Sustainability Metrics In Your Business

To create business value from sustainability, your business needs to integrate sustainability metrics across its business functions. You can't improve what you can't measure. PRé has the expertise required to help you choose the right metrics and to integrate sustainability into your day-to-day operations. PRé also supports you in increasing the efficiency of your LCA work and in empowering your LCA practitioners.

DELIVERY Expert LCA Knowledge To Measure Sustainability Performance

LCA has proven to be a robust and science-based way to measure and communicate your sustainability performance. PRé can review your LCA studies, deliver EPDs, footprints and other metrics, and provide you with completely new LCA studies to measure your impact. Our consultants are renowned for their expertise in specific topics, such as impact assessment, uncertainty, normalisation, toxicity, social sustainability and databases. PRé offers training courses and in-house training that build a solid knowledge base to help you conduct LCA studies yourself.

Get In Touch With PRé
We're always happy to discuss your sustainability challenges with you. If you have any questions, feel free to contact our offices in the Netherlands and the US.

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We look forward to being your partner in putting the metrics behind sustainability.

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Those Who Have Gone Before – Market-leading Businesses That Are Creating Value From Sustainability Metrics

PRé has built a worldwide reputation as a leader on environmental and social impact assessment. We work with organisations and institutes such as the European Commission, European Space Agency, Heineken, BASF, Philips, L'Oréal and DSM.



About PRé

PRé has been a leading voice in sustainability metrics and life cycle thinking, since 1990, pioneering the field of product and supply chain sustainability metrics. We've developed some of the world's most widely recognised and applied environmental impact assessment methods, as well as the world's leading LCA software, SimaPro. From the very first, we have not only focused on developing the science of LCA, but also its application – helping companies create value by using state-of-the-art measuring, monitoring and analysis methodologies to improve their sustainability performance.

Find out more about what we can do for your organisation at www.pre-sustainability.com

