

# Life Cycle Today: Information for authors

*Life Cycle Today* is a publication of the American Center for Life Cycle Assessment (ACLCA) for professionals working in LCA and sustainability. The title highlights and publishes current research, practice, advancements, policy, education, and news in LCA. We seek to publish content that is influential in the field of LCA and sustainability, from ACLCA members and non-members alike. We welcome all content from fields relating to LCA or linked to the wider sustainability community.

Authors should familiarize themselves with the editorial policies for *Life Cycle Today* before making a submission. These policies stipulate the rights and responsibilities that authors agree to when submitting an article. Content outside the remit of the stipulated categories may be considered for publication at the discretion of the editor.

## Categories of content

### Reports

Maximum of 2500 words including references, notes, and captions – corresponds to circa three printed pages in the journal.

Reports should summarize important case studies or results of significance arising from LCA or related studies. Reports should include a 150-word abstract, introductory paragraph, a maximum of four figures and/or tables, and a short reference list (max 15). The report should contain all necessary information needed to support the conclusions. Where an LCA study has been performed it is the responsibility of the authors to ensure review is conducted where appropriate. In particular, studies that support a comparative assertion should seek a third-party peer-review following applicable standards and guidelines, such as the ISO standards, before the submission.

### Reviews

Maximum of 5000 words including references, notes, and captions – corresponds to circa six printed pages in the journal.

Reviews should be longer articles which describe and synthesize developments of significance and propose future directions. They should include a short abstract, an introduction that outlines the themes of the review, sub-headings, and a summary conclusion or outline of questions raised. A maximum of two reviews will be published per issue. Authors should contact the editor prior to preparing their manuscript with a title and abstract for consideration. Unsolicited offers of Reviews are considered.

### Research and Practice Highlights

Maximum of 1500 words including references, notes, and captions.

A Research and Practice Highlight should highlight and provide a summary of recent exciting research – including peer-reviewed articles, theses, unpublished studies, industry practice, student projects, and others. Highlights should summarize the research, developments in methods, novel results, and the impact of the research for the field and wider society. Manuscripts should be prepared to be accessible to the wider readership of the journal, rather than overtly academic or

technical. They should not represent a republication of a previously submitted manuscript. It is the responsibility of the authors to indicate whether a peer-review has been conducted, or whether the study has been previously published.

### Policy Highlights

Maximum of 1000 words, with 1-2 figures, and references.

A Policy Highlight should present, highlight, or deliver critique of developing or established issues related to policy, regulation, or government pertinent to LCA or related disciplines, especially issues with implications for society.

### Opinions and Perspectives

Maximum of 650 words.

An Opinion or Perspective should present or highlight exciting developments in the field of LCA and related disciplines. Opinions and perspectives should not normally primarily discuss the authors own work. They should provide and discuss context for findings or developments and propose new dimensions or questions arising.

### Book and other reviews

Maximum of 500 words.

Commentary and reviews of books, films, exhibitions, podcasts, broadcasts, or other media should be likely to be of interest to the readership of the journal. Authors should contact the editor indicating the title of the review, the interest to readership, and qualification to prepare the review.

### Letters & Technical comments

Maximum of 500 words.

Letters should offer discussion on material published in the previous edition of the journal, or on relevant points of interest in the field of LCA and related disciplines. Letters should be submitted to the editor and may be reviewed prior to publication. In cases of letters relating to published content, authors of the article in question will usually be given an opportunity to reply by the editor. Receipt of letters will be acknowledged by the editor, but authors may not be consulted prior to publication.

### News

News articles are not normally accepted as unsolicited submissions. Authors wishing to highlight items for news are invited to contact the editorial team.

Other submissions that do not fit the above categories may be considered at the discretions of the editor.

## Preparing a manuscript

We accept manuscripts via email to the editorial team: [lcatoday@aclca.org](mailto:lcatoday@aclca.org)

All submissions should be prepared in English.

When submitting a manuscript be sure to include the following information:

1. Authors: names, telephone numbers, email address for all authors; including designation of at least one corresponding author.
2. Article type (see Categories of Content).
3. Title of manuscript.
4. Short summary (max 50 words) for inclusion in contents and highlights.
5. Key words (for reports and reviews).
6. For investigations on humans, a statement indicating that informed consent was obtained after the nature and possible consequences of the studies were explained.
7. For authors using laboratory animals, a statement that the animals' care was in accordance with institutional guidelines.
8. Acknowledgement of any external funding or assistance given in-kind.

Manuscripts should be prepared and submitted as a single file in .docx or PDF format.

Figures, tables, and plates should be included at the end of the manuscript, in high resolution suitable for print publication.

## Selection and publication

The editorial board of the journal will consider all submissions for publication. Submissions will be rated for suitability by members of the board of editors. Authors will be notified of decisions (accept, modify, or reject) as promptly as possible, usually within 4 weeks.

Research highlights, reports, and reviews may be subject to review by two or more nominated reviewers with expertise in the field.

Content selected for publication will normally be published in the next available edition of the journal.