



An Introduction to FHWA's LCA Pave: A Tool to Assess Environmental Impacts of Pavement Material and Design Decisions

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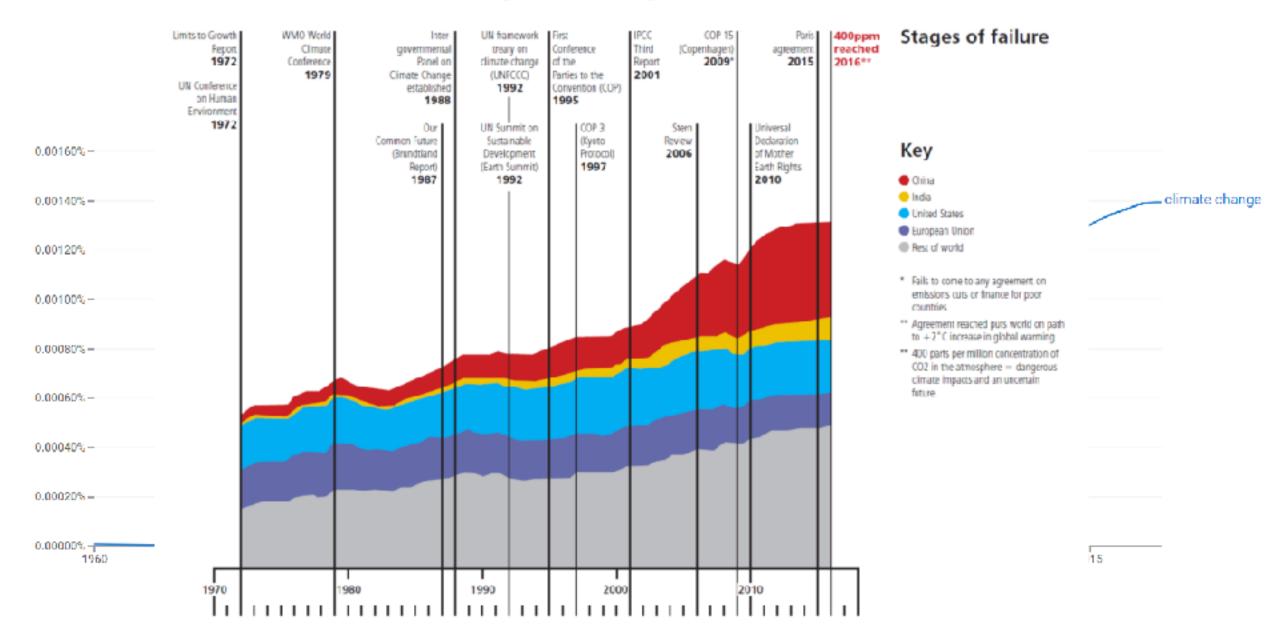
Applied Pavement Technology, Inc. (APTech)



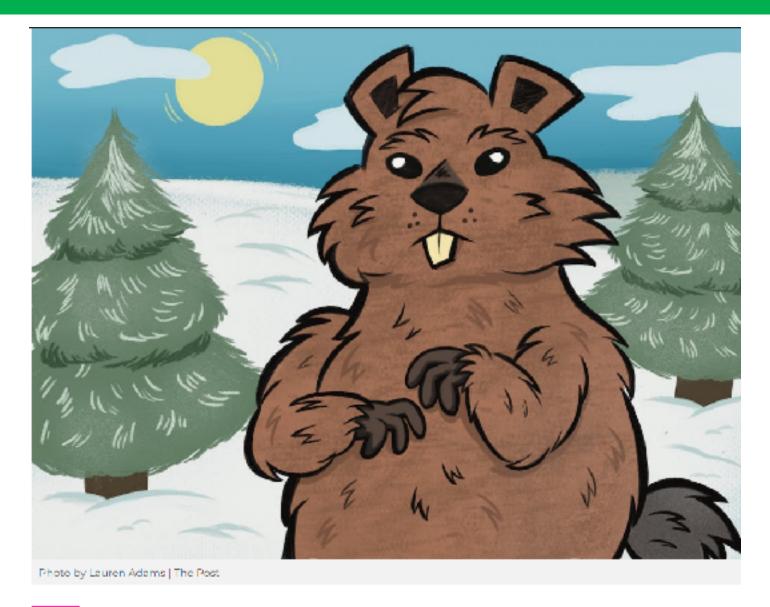
Northwest Pavement Management Association Conference Vancouver, WA | October 26, 2022



Timeline of events leading to Paris agreement in 2015



Continuing rise in greenhouse gas emissions



CULTURE

Groundhog Day faces challenges due to climate change

Climate Change is Real

- Arctic is melting, sea levels are rising
- Hurricanes and wildfires are more severe
- Optimistic models predict substantial climate change over the next century
 - Rate of change dependent on human activities
- We need tools to assess economic, environmental, and social impacts





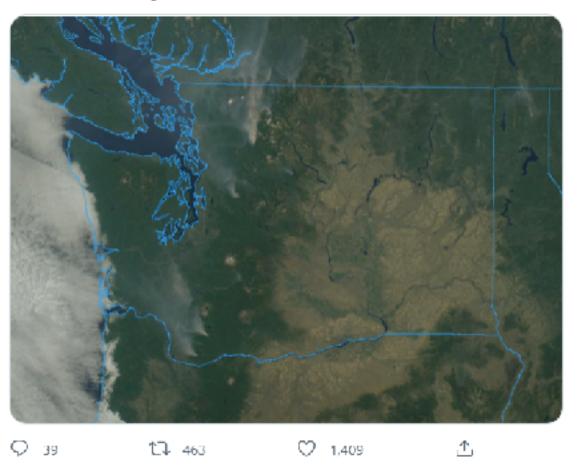


Anthony Edwards @edwardsanthonyb · 6h

There are dozens of active, quick-spreading **wildfires** in Washington. The temperature is 86 degrees in Seattle. It has rained half an inch in the past 115 days.

The date is October 16.

this is climate change.





🀞 Tren Griffin @trengriffin · 13m :

Breaking a Seattle Temperature record by 16 degrees isn't normal.

Loch Katrine fire is in the foreground, Bolt Creek fire in the middle, with the Suiattle River fire in the background.

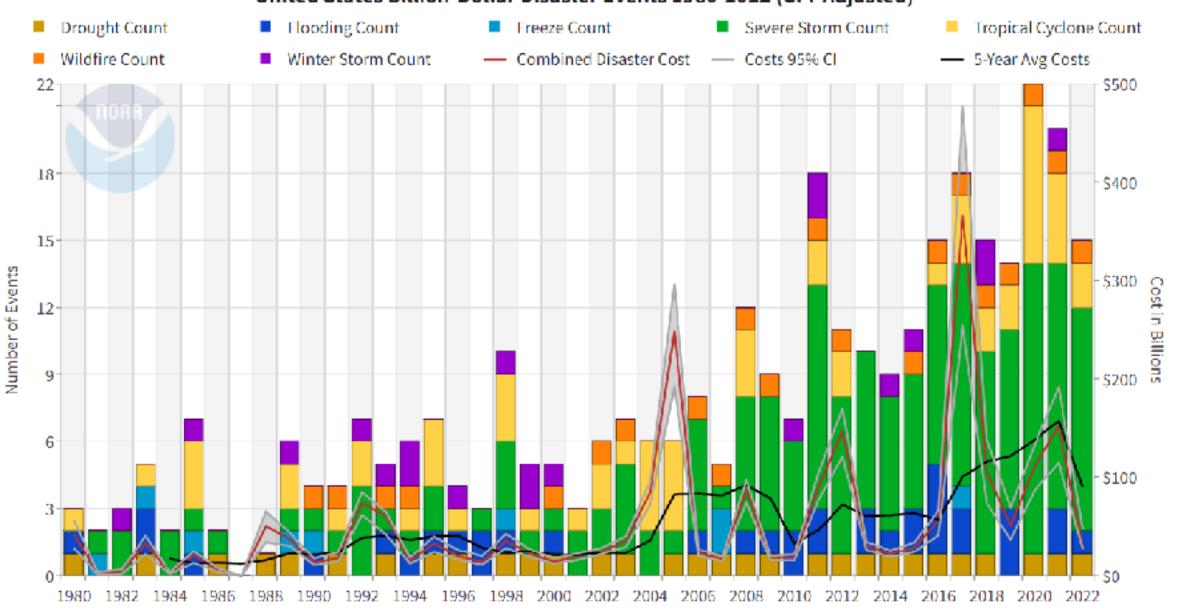
Sea-Tac Airport 88° today (old record 72°, 2018)

Show this thread





United States Billion-Dollar Disaster Events 1980-2022 (CPI-Adjusted)





ALJAZEERA

The world must cut emissions by 43% by 2030 to meet Paris goals. Instead, they're set to rise by 10.6%.

What's Been Happening Lately in the U.S.?

- Federal Buy Clean Initiative
 - Promote use of low-carbon materials made in the U.S.
 - \$4.5 Billion for GSA, DOT, and EPA
- FHWA Climate Challenge
 - -35 Projects from 27 agencies (2 local agencies)
 - -\$7.1 Million to implement LCAs and EPDs
 - -Washington and Oregon State DOTs are participants
 - Local Agencies: City of Seattle and Port Authority of NY & NJ



What Can I Learn From This Presentation?

- A primer on Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)
- Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) and Product Category Rules (PCRs)
- An introduction to the LCA Pave tool:
 - Scope of the tool and use cases
 - Applications and limitations
 - -Tool's structure and user interface
- Pavements and rock stars what's the connection?

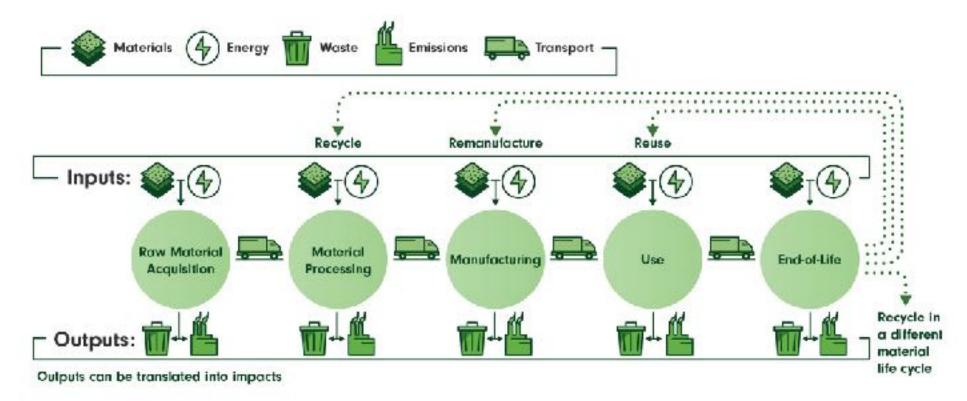




A PRIMER ON LIFE-CYCLE ASSESSMENT (LCA)

What is LCA?

- Technique to quantify environmental impacts of products, processes, or systems
- Covers a range of environmental impacts





LCA ≠ LCCA

 Life-cycle cost analysis (LCCA) evaluates life-cycle economic impacts

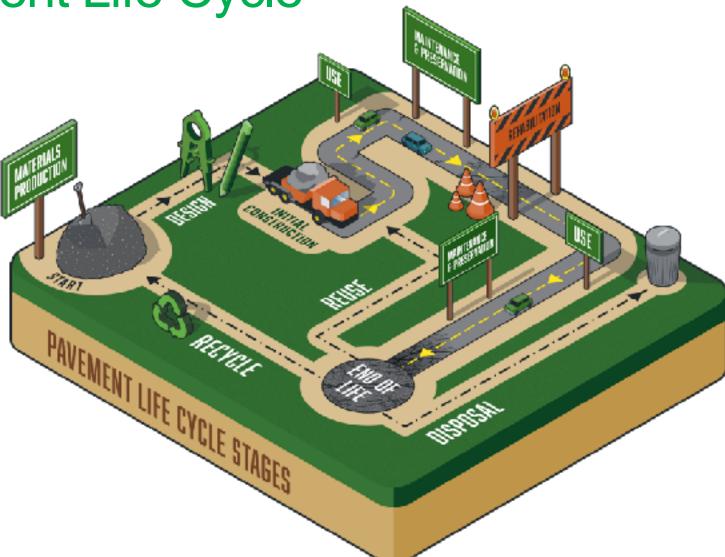


 Life-cycle assessment (LCA) quantifies life-cycle environmental impacts



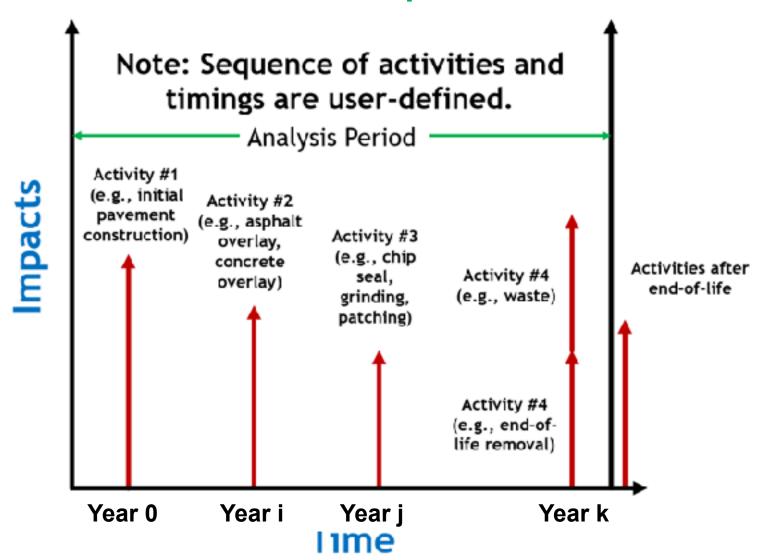


Pavement Life Cycle





Quantify Environmental Impacts from Each Activity





Important To Know

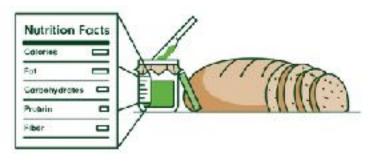
- LCAs are context sensitive
 - Results from different LCA studies should not be compared
- LCA is just one indicator in the decision-making process
 - Other key factors (life-cycle agency costs, work zone safety, user costs, etc.) should also be considered



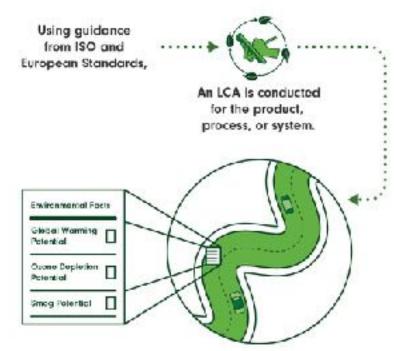
What Are EPDs?



- Communicate environmental impacts of material or product
- Express the results of an LCA
- Developed with stakeholder input
- Follow industry standards described in the PCR



Similar to nutrition labels for food products, EPDs communicate critical environmental information on pavement materials to the customer.



Product Category Rules (PCR)



- PCRs are sets of industry-consensus standards and guidelines used to develop EPDs
- PCRs ensure EPD:
 - -Consistency
 - -Transparency



Example EPD





An Environmental Product Declaration for Asphalt Mixtures

TRACI Impact Indicator	Unit	Materials	Transport	Production
Global Warming Potential	kg CO2-Equiv.	83.4	11.8	168
Ozone Depletion	kg CFC 11-Equiv.	1.81e-08	5e-10	8.55e-11
Acidification	kg SO2-Equiv.	0.485	C.0577	1.08
Eutrophication	kg N-Equiv.	0.0253	0.00373	0.0207
Smog Air	MJ surplus energy	8.23	1.81	13.3

Note: Impacts for Test Mix 1, a dense-graded Superpave asphalt mixture, categorized as a hot-mix asphalt mixture, produced within a temperature range of 100 to 250°F.



How Are EPDs Used?

- Provide Verifiable and Transparent Information
- Performance Metric Supporting Innovation
 - -Procurement
- Communicate Good Stewardship
- Data Source for
 - Benchmarking Progress
 - LCAs for Informing Policy, Pavement Design, or Pavement Management Practices





A Tool to Assess Environmental Impacts of Pavement Material and Design Decisions

What is LCA Pave?

- LCA tool developed by FHWA with stakeholder input
- Microsoft® Excel®-based
- For use by State and local highway agencies and individuals knowledgeable of LCA principles





Tool Uses

- Evaluate environmental impacts of pavement materials, pavement structures, pavement treatments, and mix designs
- Compare material sources and hauling alternatives
- Evaluate life-cycle strategies for maintenance, preservation, and rehabilitation
- Compare pavement end-of-strategies (recycling vs. reuse vs. landfill)



Tool Scope and Features

- Focus on project-level analysis
- Uses publicly available national average data
- Allows users to add, store, update, and use data stored in the tool's library
- Handles metadata and data quality indicators
- Includes all pavement life-cycle stages except use stage
- Allow users to add environmental product declarations (EPDs) for pavement materials and mix designs



Environmental Impact Indicators

 Tool includes life-cycle inventory (LCI) flows and Tool for Reduction and Assessment of Chemicals and Other Environmental Impacts (TRACI) 2.1 life-cycle impact assessment (LCIA) indicators

LCI Flows

- Use of renewable primary energy, excluding renewable primary resources used as raw materials
- Use of renewable primary energy resources used as raw materials
- Total use of renewable primary energy resources
- Use of nonrenewable primary energy, excluding nonrenewable primary energy resources used as materials
- Use of nonrenewable primary energy used as raw materials
- Recycled material usage
- Disposed non-hazardous waste
- Disposed hazardous waste
- Disposed radio-active waste
- Net use of fresh water
- Supplementary Cementitious Material (SCM) usage

TRACI 2.1 LCIA Indicators

- Acidification
- Ecotoxicity
- Eutrophication
- Fossil Fuel Depletion
- Global Warming Potential
- Human Health Cancer
- Human Health Noncancer
- Human Health Effects Particulates
- Ozone Depletion
- Smog Formation

Note: TRACI is a tool from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

TRACI Webpage



Tool Structure and User Interface Overview

Tool Components

Data Libraries:

 Contains default and user-developed items used to model different design alternatives

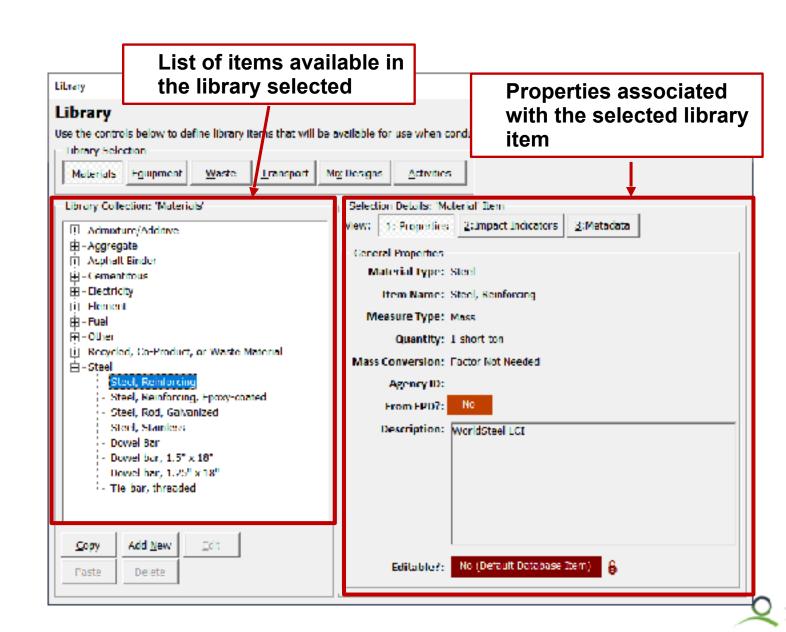
Analysis Session:

- Model design alternatives
- -Run an analysis
- Display results

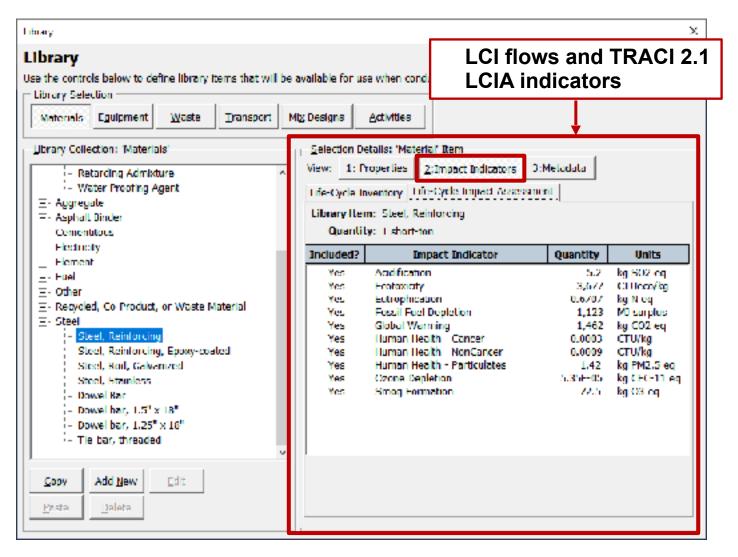


Data Libraries

- Materials
- Equipment
- Waste
- Transport
- Mix Designs
- Activities

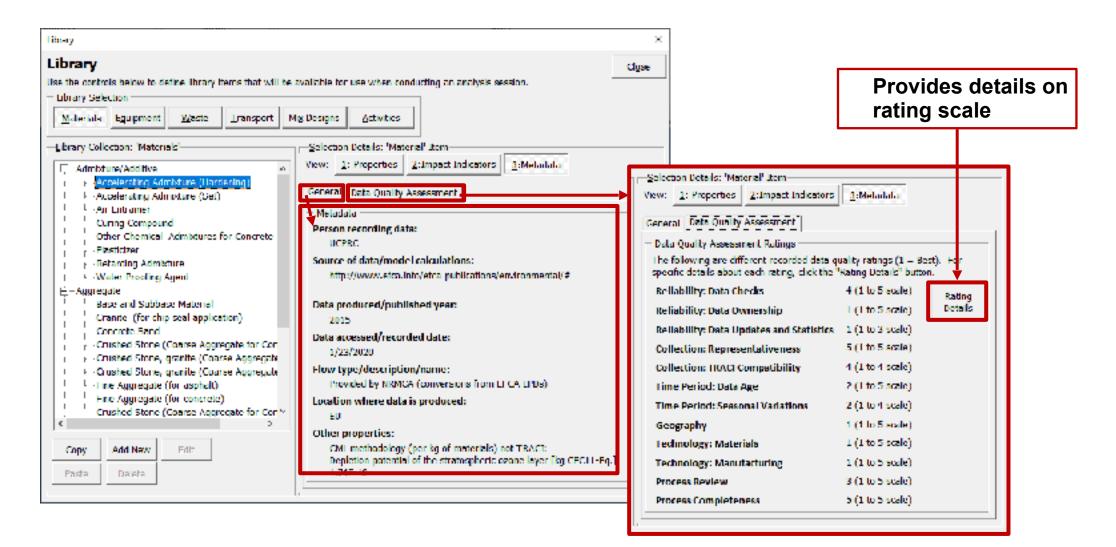


Impact Indicators



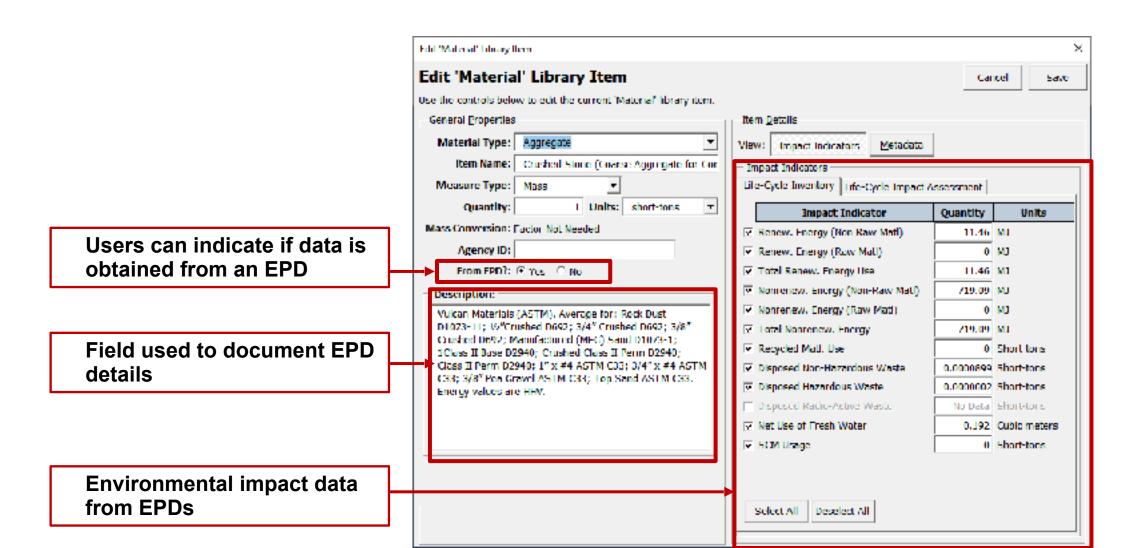


Metadata and Data Quality Indicators



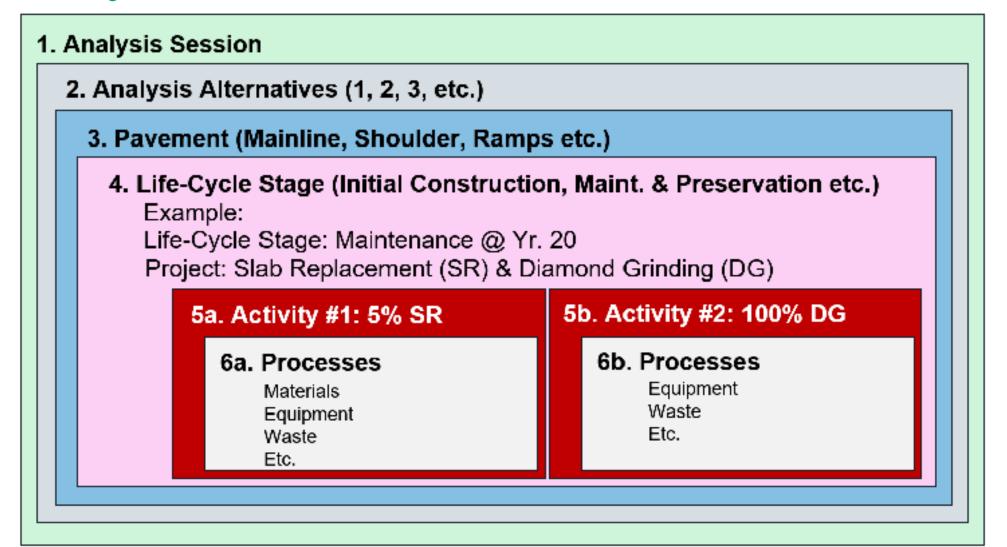


Using EPD Data in LCA Pave



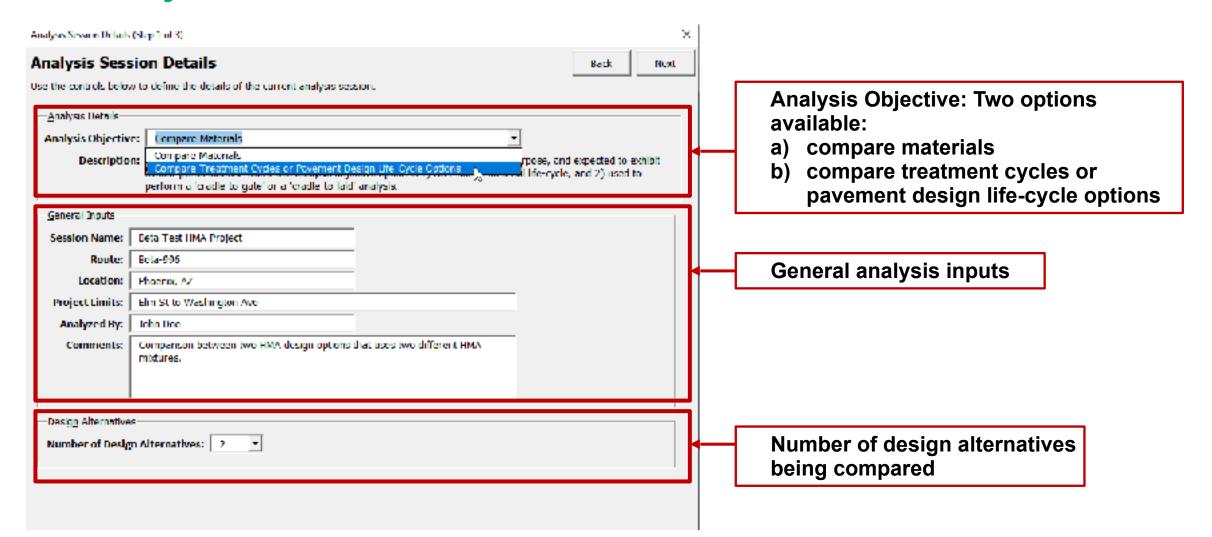


Analysis Session Structure



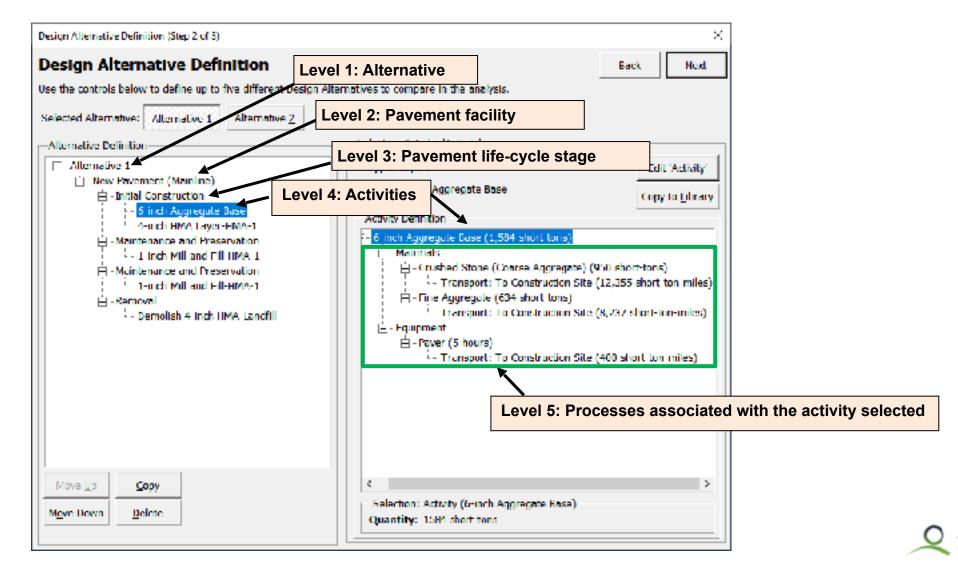


Analysis Session Details Interface



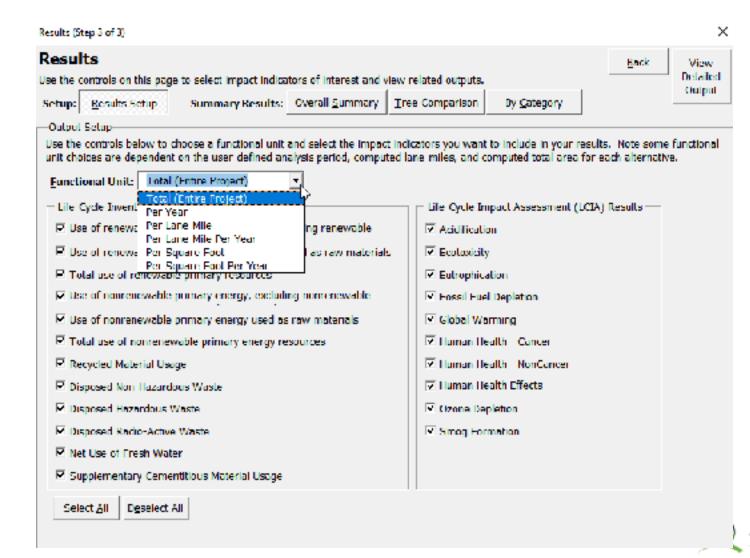


Design Alternative Definition Interface



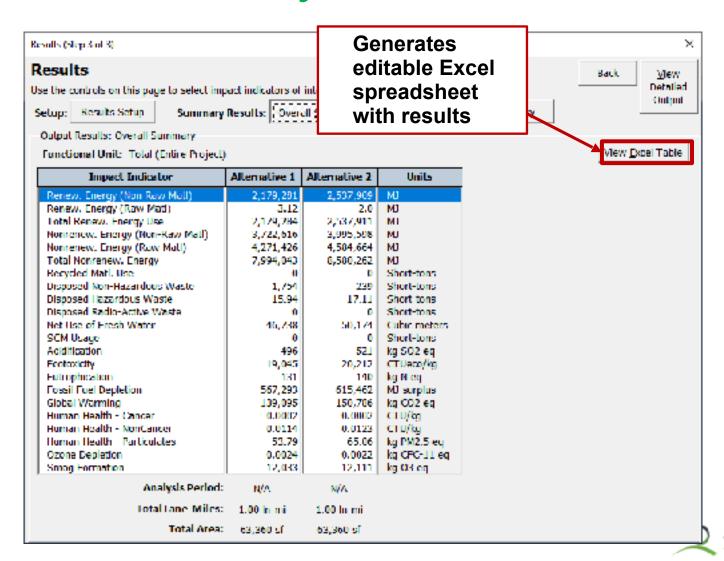
Results Interface

 Users can choose functional unit and select impact indicators to be included in the results



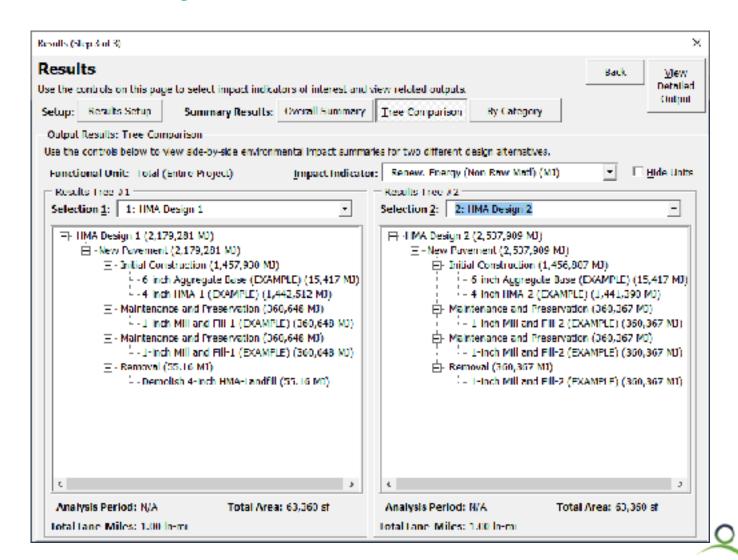
Results View #1 – Overall Summary

 Shows calculated values for each impact indicator selected for each alternative modeled



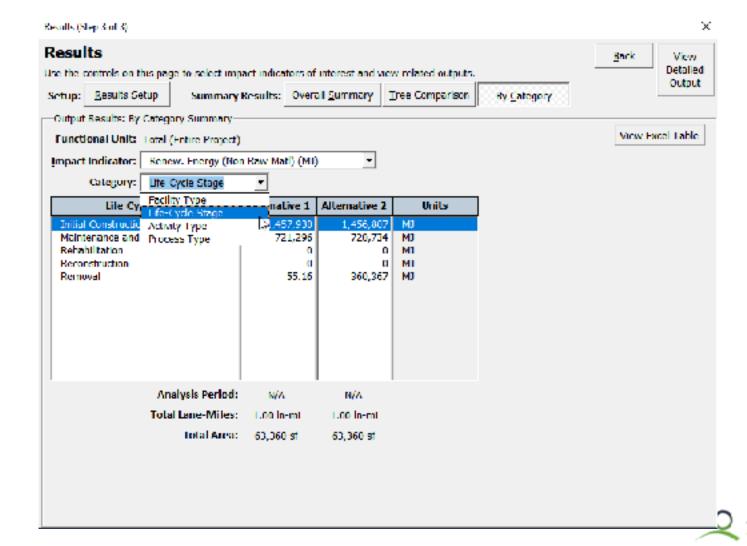
Results View #2 – Tree Comparison

 Shows comparisons between two alternatives for the impact indicator selected



Results View #3 – By Category

 Shows results by categories established in the tool for the selected impact indicator



Results View #4 – Detailed Outputs

Generates
 customizable output
 report template with
 detailed outputs

Detailed LCA Output		Return to	
		Session	
Overall and alternative specific output	associated with your current analysis session is provided in the visible worksheet tabs below. To	. ar-smai	
aid in the navigation of specific output	of Interest, a list of hyperlinks to the different worksheet tabs is also provided below. Note, you		
can also use CTBI +PgDn and CTBI +PgU;	to navigate between output tabs.	Export Output to New Workbook	
Click the 'Return to Session' button to r	eturn to your durrent analysis session.		
Summary of Output Worksheets	3		
Tab Name	Tab Description		
Session Summary	Summary of general analysis session attributes.		
Alternative Comparison Summary	Comparison of included impact indicators for all included Design Alternatives.		
Alternative 1 Definition	General description of the Alternative 1 object and all of its components.		
Alternative 1 Definition 508	508 compliant version of the table shown on tab 'Alternative 1 Definition'.		
Alternative 1 Details	Summary of the environmental impacts for each component in Alternative 1, for each included		
	Impact Indicator.		
Alternative I Details 508	508-compliant version of the table shown on tab 'Alternative 1 Details'.		
Alternative 1 By Category Data	Summary of the by category environmental impacts for each component in Alternative 1, for		
	each included impact indicator.		
Alternative 1 Pot of Catg Data	Summary of the by category environmental impact percentages for each component in		
	Alternative 1, for each included impact indicator.		
Alternative 1 Summary Charts	Series of by category environmental impact charts for Alternative 1.		
Alternative 2 Definition	General description of the Alternative 2 object and all of its components.		
Alternative 2 Definition 508	508 compliant version of the table shown on tab 'Alternative 2 Definition'.		
Alternative 2 Details	Summary of the environmental impacts for each component in Alternative 2, for each included		
	Impact Indicator.		
Alternative 2 Details 508	508-compliant version of the table shown on tab 'Alternative 2 Details'.		
Alternative 2 By Category Data	Summary of the by category environmental impacts for each component in Alternative 2, for		
	each included impact indicator.		
Alternative 2 Pot of Calg Data	Summary of the by category environmental impact percentages for each component in		
	Alternative 2, for each included impact indicator.		





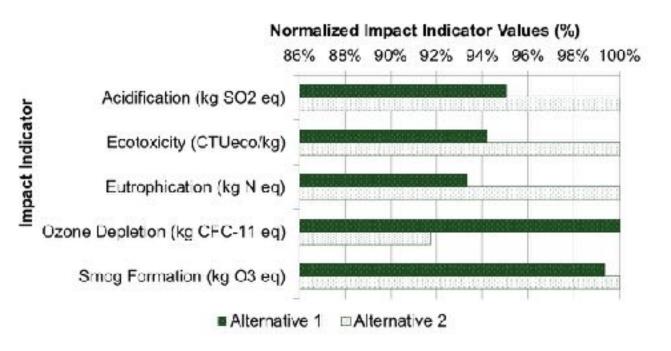
Analysis Example

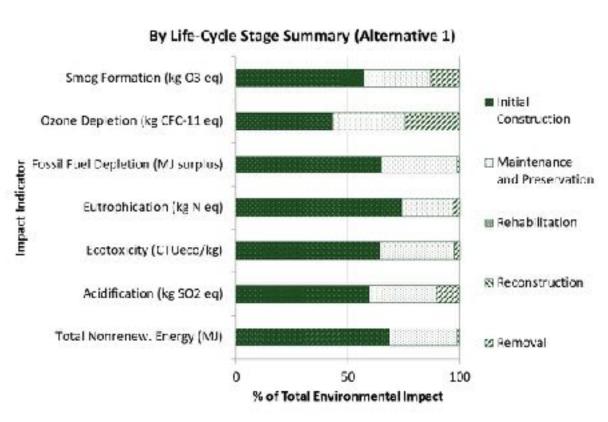
Modeling Asphalt Pavement Life Cycle

	Alternative #1	Alternative #2		
•	Asphalt Mix Design: HMA-1	sphalt Mix	Design: HMA-2	
•	Analysis Period: 25 years	nalysis Pe	riod: 25 years	
	Pavement Life-Cycle Activities: O Year 0: 4-inch HMA over 6-inch aggregate base		ife-Cycle Activities: -inch HMA over 6-inch e base	
	 Year 10: 1-inch mill and fill 	> Year 10:	1-inch mill and fill	
	 Year 18: 1-inch mill and fill 	> Year 18:	1-inch mill and fill	
	 Year 25: Demolish and Landfill 	> Year 25 :	Recycle On-Site	



Example Outputs









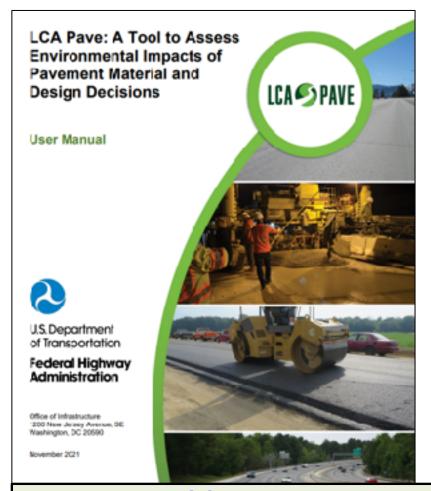
Summary

Summary

- Created with stakeholder input
- Uses public data sets
- Incorporates metadata and data quality indicators
- Handles EPD data
- Tool Uses
 - -Training
 - -Pilot Studies



LCA Pave Resources





https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/pavement/lcatool/



Other Resources and Tools

- FHWA Pavement LCA Framework
- FHWA Tech Brief on Pavement LCA
- FHWA Tech Brief on Life-Cycle Thinking
- FHWA Tech Brief on EPDs
- FHWA Tech Brief on Data Needs for Pavement LCA: What Agencies Need to Know
- Federal LCA Commons
- TRACI

www.fhwa.dot.gov/pavement/sustainability



Pavements and Rocks





Pavements and Rock Stars















Rockstars and Climate Change

Coldplay announced when promoting their last album, Everyday Life, that they would <u>no longer be touring "if it's</u> not carbon neutral".





Joni Mitchell's "Big Yellow Taxi" discusses humanity's role in climate change, particularly with regards to deforestation.



