Athena AGM Agenda

- President’s Report: Jennifer O’Connor
- Guest Francesca Desmarais, Architecture 2030
- Athena Recent Highlights: Jamie Meil
The Athena Institute
Annual General Meeting

President’s Report

Jennifer O’Connor, President
June 2012
Outline

- About Athena
- Our motivations and recent successes
- How we are using our core support funding
- Where we are headed
Life cycle thinking for the construction sector
Life Cycle Assessment
What we do

- LCA data on materials and construction systems.
- LCA-based software tools for architects and engineers.
- Environmental impact contract research.
- LCA advocacy and education.
How we operate

- We are supported by our members and through research grants. Our contract research projects also help support our core (common-good) program.

- We function as a research collaborative, with staff in Ottawa, Toronto, Vancouver and Pennsylvania.

- We work in partnership with synergistic organizations, especially Morrison Hershfield engineers.
Our supporters

Grants and membership support

Recent partners for research projects

- Metal Building Manufacturers Association
- Gypsum Association
- Tremco
- Chemical Fabric and Films Association
- US General Services Administration (with Steven Winters and Rocky Mountain Institute)
- Metal Construction Association
- Forestry Innovation Investment
- APA – The Engineered Wood Association
- Precast Concrete Institute
What motivates us?

- Greenwash backlash: the world wants to see the proof.
- Manufacturer consciousness: industry leaders are looking closer at their processes.
- Transparency movement: demand for showing the data, as in environmental product declarations.
- LCA is in codes, standards and Green Globes.
- LCA is coming to LEED.
Recent success stories with our tools

ARUP, the global firm of designers, planners, and engineers, used the Athena **EcoCalculator** to quantify environmental benefits of re-use versus new construction for the 1960s San Francisco landmark The Cannery.

Engineers at Morrison Hershfield used the Athena **Impact Estimator** to measure the environmental benefits of material substitutions and eliminations for the Rideau Valley Conservation Centre in Ottawa.

Perkins +Will architects took a deep dive into understanding materials and design implications using the Athena **Impact Estimator** for the Centre for Interactive Research in Sustainability in Vancouver.
Recently completed 16 new or updated LCA studies

LCA studies allow manufacturers to identify “hot spots” and to develop environmental product declarations to meet market demand for transparency.

New LCA data is integrated into our software tools for access by designers.

Gypsum wallboard

Glulam

Pre-engineered metal building systems

PVC roofing membrane
Recent industry success story

The Canadian Precast Prestressed Concrete Institute (CPCI) is bringing its LCA lessons back to manufacturing, in its Sustainable Plant Program, with an intent of on-going monitoring and improvement while fostering the development of a sustainability culture. The Athena Institute performed the LCA for precast and created an in-plant software tool for benchmarking and reporting.
How we spent our core funds this year

- Improvements and maintenance for our software tools, the Impact Estimator for Buildings and the EcoCalculator.

- Launched a new web site with our software partner Morrison Hershfield for easier access to the tools and better support. Calculatelca.com

- Development of a new beta tool, the Impact Estimator for Highways.

- Development of a strategic plan and clearer vision to better meet emerging LCA needs in construction.
Where we are headed

- Working with our partners to expand the data and the capabilities of the Impact Estimator for Buildings – big improvements are coming, stay tuned!

- Preparing for an upswing in manufacturer interest in LCA, particularly as more design practitioners start using our tools and asking for more data.

- Helping our partners take the LCA data to environmental product declarations.

- Educating about LCA and its role in design practice – watch for us at Greenbuild in November!
Check out our new web site!

The Athena Sustainable Materials Institute is a non-profit research collaborative bringing life cycle assessment to the construction sector.

Life cycle assessment (LCA) is the science behind environmental footprinting. The Athena Institute works with sustainability leaders in product manufacturing, building design, construction, and green labelling programs to enable smaller footprints in the production and consumption of construction materials.

Latest Tweets from @AthenaSMI

AthenaSMI: #Canadian Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute cradle-to-grave #LCA study featured in SADMag: http://t.co/Pi2sJTLI

AthenaSMI: RT: A new study has found that seagrass has the ability to capture and store more carbon than trees. http://t.co/tS1hruoK

AthenaSMI: RT: ICC-ES Environmental Programs Launches New Environmental Product...
The Athena Sustainable Materials Institute
Ottawa, ON, Canada and Kutztown, PA, USA

info@athenasmi.org

www.athenasmi.org

Get in touch with us for more information.

THANK YOU!