

ACCO Climate Leadership Summit

November 8-9, 2010 | Hyattsville, Maryland

Marriott Inn & Conference Center, University of Maryland University College
(The nation's first LEED certified conference center)

ROUNDTABLE NOTES

Track 6: Lifecycle of Operations and Products

Session 3: Developing Information Systems to Assess and Manage the Lifecycle of Operations and Products

Moderators: Margery Moore, Jim Sullivan

Takeaways:

Frustration around draft WRI/WBCSD regarding 100% reporting in draft Scope 3 protocol. Difference between reporting and verification was touched upon, noting that verification standard may consider materiality, which is different from reporting requirement. Need for Scope 3 to consider all things can result in focus on activities previously not considered, for example marketing activities. This can help focus areas for supplier information.

Simple questions are being asked by procurement in many cases – these are sometimes used quantitatively to decide if the supplier is one the company wants to do business with.

There are few rules around allocation, which can allow companies to allocate as wanted – for example applying all of renewable power used to one product might be done to place that product more competitively. Do companies need policies in place regarding using the average or the actual values?

Companies vary in level of integration – therefore there is overlap between supply chain and Scope 3 considerations. From the Carbon Disclosure Project, there is no way of telling if a company outsources components. This may make a company that outsources look considerably better than one that does not. How far upstream should a company look?

Are there opportunities for companies to engage in telling their story on sustainability as they do for financials? How much data should be shared can be challenging as in some cases suppliers are also competitors.

Standards are proliferating – Sustainability Consortium, American Chemical, Industrial Gas, were mentioned. There are so many rankings and standards organizations - difficult to know how to navigate. There can be some pitfalls in summarizing sectors or groups of respondents (e.g. if a single company makes up a large percentage of the market, data may be skewed for others or make them look particularly favorable or unfavorable).

Next Steps:

Establish working group to develop recommendations on best practices related to degree of upstream inclusion, data sharing (guidelines, principles, etc.), linking to financials, allocation (product vs. operational), etc.