

edge environment capability statement

life cycle assessment

No

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catalysing change with scientific integrity



edge environment

A research, consultancy and education business with a focus on the building industry and its related areas. Our staff are experienced in communicating complex science to organisations to bring about change.

services

edge environment provides independent Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) research, consultancy, ecolabelling and advisory services for the material and products industries, with particular expertise in the building and construction sectors. edge environment research supports policy development of both public and private sector organisations.

Informing

Advising governments and NGOs on policies, strategies and regulation for sustainable market transformation. Advising industry and companies on strategic planning, priority setting, and product or process redesign.

Improving

Identifying opportunities for triple bottom line improvements, reducing costs and increasing efficiency; reducing environmental impact from processes, products and up and down the supply chain and throughout the life cycle and improving the environmental and ethical credentials (and share value) of companies.

Marketing

Increasing business through an ecolabelling scheme, making an environmental claim, or producing an environmental product declaration that is life cycle based, credible, verifiable and not likely to be challenged by ACCC.



Selection of current and ongoing projects

Decision-makers joining in to support National Life Cycle Inventory

edge environment staff have been active in the advocacy for the establishment of an Australian National Life Cycle Inventory Methodology and Database so that future LCA studies will all be conducted on a consistent 'level playing field' basis and be comparable between industry sectors at all points in the supply chain. edge environment is working with the Building Products Innovation Council (BPIC), the Australian Life Cycle Assessment Society, CSIRO and federal and the construction material and product industries' contribution to AusLCI. edge environment staff are highly experienced, having pioneered similar work in the UK, the US and internationally.

Life Cycle Assessment Workshops

edge environment runs LCA workshops to help companies understand and reduce the environmental impacts of products and services, help develop rigorous environmental credentials and communicate them with integrity to the market place. Details of the next workshop can be found on our website.

Reducing environmental impacts cuts cost and improves process efficiency

edge environment works with clients using LCA to identify environmental liabilities of products and services, and then proposes opportunities to mitigate the liability. edge environment staff have worked on projects for clients such as the Ontera, Atkar, Insulation Council of Australia and New Zealand, Australian Steel Institute, Plastics Industry Pipe Association of Australia, New Zealand Fire Service, Association of Consulting and Structural Engineers, Building Research, and the Forest and Wood Product Research and Development Corporation.

Increasing business through environmental performance recognition

edge environment is collaborating with Global Mark to establish an Australian ISO 14024-compliant program for ecolabels. This program is targeted at clients seeking independent audit, verification and third-party certification of the ecological and environmental properties of their products. The program is one of the few internationally credible ecolabelling tools that complies fully with the ISO methodology.

edge environment life cycle assessment staff



Nigel Howard
managing director

Nigel Howard is currently assisting the Building Products Innovation Council (BPIC) – comprising the construction materials and products industries – to contribute to the Australian Life Cycle Inventory Project. This involves extensive engagement with the largest greenhouse emitters in Australia. Life Cycle Assessment is the most comprehensive method of assessing and accounting for all environmental impacts, and this approach is expected to become the predominant method of greenhouse accounting for the future.

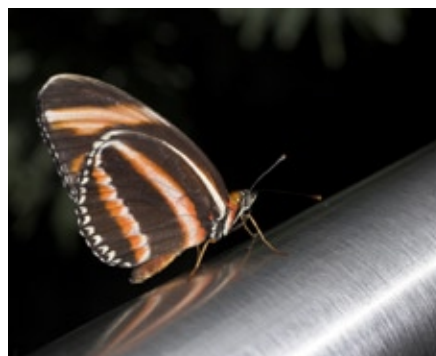
Nigel has held influential positions in the UK, US and Australia and is accustomed to advising large companies, governments and NGOs on a broad range of sustainability issues including climate change. Prior to arriving in Australia, he was vice president of the US Green Building Council, responsible for the development and implementation of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) environmental rating system. He is also a former director of the Centre for Sustainable Construction, developing the UK BREEAM environmental rating system. Nigel is currently vice president of the Australian Life Cycle Assessment Society, and a founding member of the World Green Building Council and ISBC.



Jonas Bengtsson
director

Jonas began his environmental studies in 1995, focusing on climate change and energy. He is a trained physicist and environmental manager with six years' consultancy experience. Before coming to Australia he worked as a systems engineer in vehicle electronic and software development projects for Honda, SAAB and Opel in Europe and the US.

In Australia and New Zealand, Jonas has managed and delivered key climate change research and life cycle assessments for clients as diverse as the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts; Australian Steel Institute; NT and NSW state governments; WWF; CSIRO and a range of building product manufacturers.



Ben Kneppers
sustainability consultant

Ben holds a MSc in Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability and a BSc in Mechanical Engineering. He published his Masters thesis on a principle-based decision-making tool for Sweden's energy sector, which was awarded the Sparbanksstiftelsen Kronan Stipendium (honours creative and useful work for the betterment of society). His background has given him a range of project experience in engineering design (aerospace, biomedical, energy), natural resource assessments, research and development, quality assurance, and community development. Ben is working with Nigel and Jonas supporting a variety of LCA projects. Ben is also an associate of the Natural Step Australia.



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