

ISWA/ UNEP Workshop on GHG and SLCP Emission Quantification Methods

Paris, September 2013

Outline

- Methods and tools
- Choices
- What is the question?
- The right tool for the job
- Factors in GHG and SLCP accounting
- Can we deal with the uncertainty of it all?

Methods and tools

- Many ways of reporting greenhouse gases
- Difference is that IPCC, PI, LCA, GHG Scope 1 to 3 etc. have been designed for a particular purpose.
- For every method there are several tools
- A tool is just a means to an end
- Why is this important ?

Choices

- Site emissions are important for regulation but are not strategic in context
- Fundamental difference between methods to measure site emissions and the more holistic approaches such as LCA.
- For strategic thinking we need holistic methods or the IPCC approach.

What is the question?

One size will not fit all.

We need to ask:

- What is the purpose of the accounting?
 - National Inventory
 - Site emissions
 - Infrastructure
 - Choices
- How far should our analysis extend to ensure we fulfil this purpose?
- What can we reasonably exclude?
- What is the basis of our analysis?

The right tool for the job

When we know our boundaries:

- Check which tools meet the requirements
- Decide how accurately we need to know
- Check the primary data requirements
- Check the data in the tools
- Determine the best tool for the job

Key factors in GHG and SLCP accounting

- Biogenic carbon
- DDOC
- CV or LHV
- Ferrous and Non-ferrous metals
- Landfill gas production
- Percentage methane
- Percentage recovery (or percentage released)
- Time horizon, including GWP for methane
- One year or a lifetime
- Plant efficiency
- Carbon in store
- Electricity offset

Less important

- Vehicles used
- Transport distances
- Aggregate use
- APC residues disposal
- Containers (provided they are reused)

Can we deal with the uncertainty of it all?

If we need to look just 25 years ahead, can we say:

- what waste will be then?
- whether emissions of carbon dioxide in 25 years time will be more or less important than emissions now?
- what will be the grid we offset?

Ultimately the results will not be about what we know rather about what we do not.

The deciding factor may be what data are needed to produce meaningful results.