

What is Being Done to Address Sustainability within the Global Supply Chain Network?



- The Sustainability Consortium was established in 2009 with the goal of creating a standardized measurement and reporting system that will help quantify and communicate the sustainability of consumer products.
- The Sustainability Consortium is dually administered by the University of Arkansas' Applied Sustainability Center (Walton College of Business) and the University of Arizona's Global Institute of Sustainability but consists of over 75 members including suppliers, manufacturers and retailers as well as Government and Non-government agencies, including Wal-Mart, Disney, Cargill, Tyson, Dell and many more.
- The ongoing collaborative effort of TSC will provide accountability, transparency, and more informed decisions makers when dealing with the supply chain system and consumer goods.

Capstone Experience

My time spent as a Research Assistant and Editor to TSC's Sustainability Measurement and Reporting System database allowed direct access to the dossiers of the Life Cycle Analysis of the top 100 consumer products currently being researched by the Consortium. This gave me the opportunity to contribute to this ambitious movement towards sustainability within our supply chain networks.

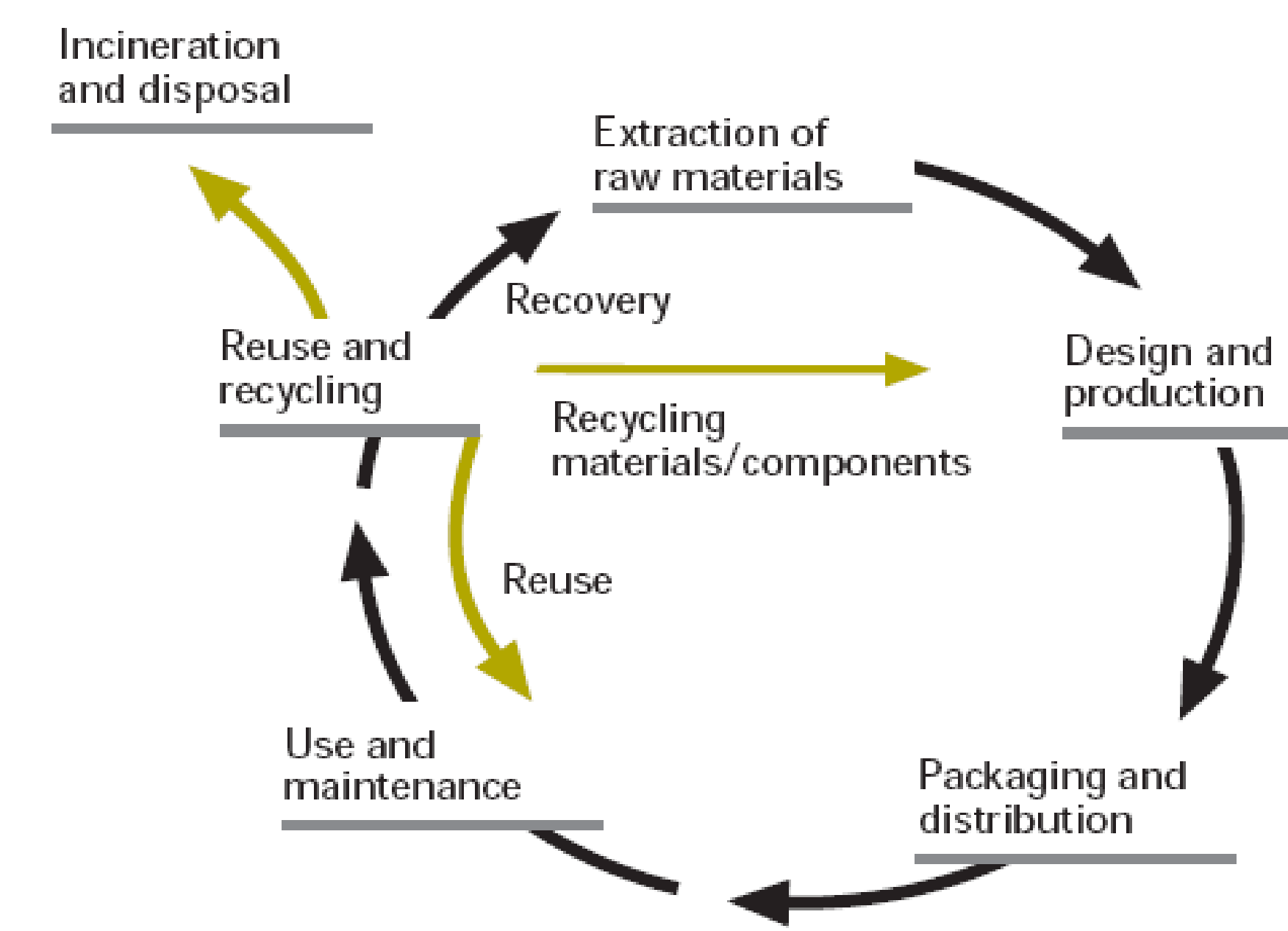
Sustainability Measurement and Reporting System

MAPPING USE CASES TO SMRS COMPONENTS



- **SMRS** was launched in July 2011
- **SMRS** is the framework used to research and report empirical data for consumer goods. Within **SMRS** is a collaborative style database that houses **Life Cycle Analysis** for individual consumer goods.
- Each consumer product is given a page within the Knowledge Base (SMRS database) entitled Category Dossier which further leads to Category Sustainability Profile.
- In the present time The Sustainability Consortium is diligently working on the Level 1 agenda which will lay the foundation for the Level 2 goals in development (see diagram above).
- Each Category Dossier (**SMRS**) includes the following:
 - Introduction
 - Category Descriptions (definition, variations, exclusions, functions, units measured).
 - Tables of Life Cycle Inputs and Outputs
 - Environmental and Social Hotspots
 - Potential Improvement Opportunities (Performance indicators)
 - Discussion

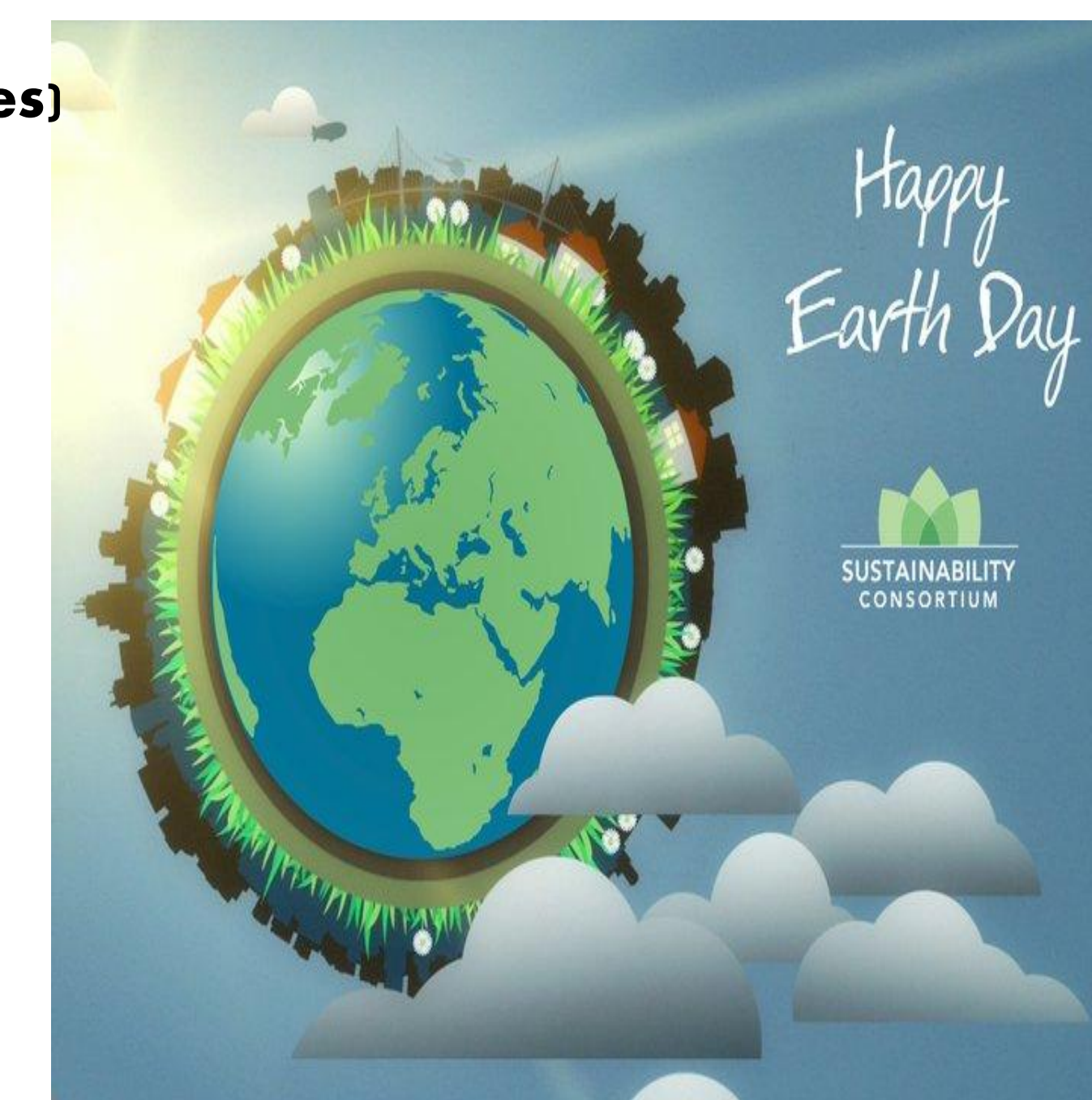
Life Cycle Analysis Contributions



Research Assistant and Knowledge Base Editor

Personal Research & Contributions to SMRS:

- Product Category Dossiers with most emphasis on Food, Beverage and Agriculture Categories
- Introduction Narratives
- Product Category Supply Chain Descriptions and/or Edits
 - Bananas
 - Beans (Legumes)
 - Beef
 - Sweet Corn
 - Citrus
 - Coffee
 - Cotton
 - Fish
 - Soybeans
 - Field Corn
 - Sorghum
 - Canned Soup
 - Baby Formula
 - Pet Food
 - Frozen Meals
 - Potatoes
 - Rice
 - Seed Oil
 - And more!



"Our vision is to advance science to drive a new generation of innovative products and supply networks that address environmental, social, and economic imperatives."~ TSC

Sustainability

Managed Systems:

The Consortium concentrates on promoting Life Cycle Management throughout the Supply Chain system with intent to reduce the Carbon footprint of doing business, promote Sustainable Consumption, Conserve Resources, Promote Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production and lay the foundation for Innovation.

Natural Systems:

The Consortium addresses Life Cycle **Inputs** such as energy, water, herbicides, pesticides, manure, and equipment as well as **Outputs** such as GHG emissions, runoff, land occupation, waste, solid waste, waste water, and fossil fuel combustion. Also, addressed is how individual consumer products or categories are contributing to Climate Change, Eutrophication, Acidity and Toxicity when it comes to Pollutants of the Environment.

Social Systems:

The Consortium is addressing Social Issues throughout the supply chain network by reporting issues such as Worker's Health and Safety, Safe and Healthy Living Conditions, Social Benefits, Social Security and Contribution to the Economic Development of communities. Other social issues that may be reported/addressed include Child Labor, Suicide Tendencies, Fair treatment, and Education and Training.

Reflections

Working with The Sustainability Consortium gave me real insight into what it is going to take to address Sustainability within the Supply Chain. There is a real opportunity to make an impact on the world if we continue to move forward with sustainable practices from farm, factory, logistics, distribution, retail and consumer.

I am unbelievably thankful for the opportunity to have experience, knowledge and understanding in the field of Sustainability thanks to this program!