

The use of SLCA in the elaboration of an Extended Producer Responsibility policy: testing end of life scenarios for computer Products in Quebec.

Catherine Brodeur¹, Mario Laquerre²

¹Agr., M.Sc., AGÉCO Group

² Recyc-Québec, Programmes Director

RECYC-QUÉBEC is a Québec-based para-governmental organization actively involved in the management of residual materials. RECYC-QUÉBEC applies the Québec Residual Materials Management Policy (RMMP) , which is part of the framework for the achievement of the objectives of the Québec Action Plan on Climate Change and those of the province's energy strategy. As stipulated in action 36 of the RMMP, the Government will devote \$3.5 million (2,5 M€) over the next five years to studies that will promote the life cycle approach in order to improve awareness in the area of residual materials management. In fact, RECYC-QUÉBEC has advocated life cycle analysis as a decision making tool for the past several years, and that is why the organization has applied the environmental and social life cycle analysis methodology to comparing two end of life management scenarios for computer products in conjunction with the implementation of a regulation on extended producer responsibility in Québec.

The mandate to conduct this testing was entrusted jointly to CIRAIG and Groupe AGÉCO. Destined for public disclosure, the study also underwent a critical review by two subcommittees — one for the environmental component and the other examining the social aspects. An integrated approach was adopted, both by the sponsor of the study and by the teams conducting the assessment. A number of methodological and logistical issues arose during the course of the mandate with respect to the definition of system parameters, the hypotheses formulated, data collection, and the handling of the critical review process.

This presentation focuses on some of the key findings of the study. In particular, it takes stock of the issues encountered, highlights some lessons learned, and proposes certain recommendations for conducting similar studies in the future.