

Database notes – Environmental Footprint (EF) database

(July 2019, version 2.0)

For database pack from openLCA Nexus, <https://nexus.openlca.org/>

General notes (for any data pack from Nexus): This is a zolca file which is basically a compressed openLCA database. To use it in openLCA, either **restore** it (right-click in openLCA navigation panel → Restore database; main menu function: Database → Restore database); this will recreate the database in openLCA, as new database. **Or, import it into an existing** database which is already open in openLCA (then right-click on the open database → import → import entire database). This allows you to combine different databases and Nexus data packs.

Specific notes for this database: The current version of the database includes more than 3000 datasets from the different EC nodes (<https://eplca.jrc.ec.europa.eu/LCDN/contactListEF.xhtml>). The majority of datasets are system processes (or LCI results), only 60 are unit processes. Datasets are intended to be compliant with the PEF/OEF Category rules, the present database is version 2.0. Datasets have been slightly adapted for openLCA which should not affect their validity, see the pefocus section in the longer documentation.

Access to the Environmental Footprint database is **free of charge** for users who are conducting PEF or OEF studies exclusively under the approved product groups and sectors, which have been approved during the EF pilot phase and as defined in the PEFCRs and OEFSRs listed, exclusively until 31st December 2021 (check EULA).

The EC has asked everybody releasing the datasets to include the following note, verbatim. We only corrected one typo:

Within the Environmental Footprint dataset, the results for water use might be overestimated and shall therefore be interpreted with caution. This problem has nothing to do with the impact assessment method or the implementability of EF methods, but occurred during the technical development of some datasets. All results remain valid and usable. The Environmental Footprint datasets will be updated in 2019 (which will automatically adjust the regionalized water flows).

Database can be combined with:

Inventory: None

Impact Assessment: available in the database; no other LCIA methods are recommended to be used with the database

Data quality systems: not provided in this database

Creating product systems: Due to the presence of product and waste flows involved in waste treatments, recycling and energy recovery, product systems should be created **without** using the setting “**auto-link processes**”. The users should de-select this option when creating a new product system and then need to manually link the desired provider (either from the model graph or in the process input/output tab, by selecting the provider).