



## IWTO Guidelines Aim for Consistency, Comparability in Wool LCAs

Brussels, 27 February 2017 – The International Wool Textile Organisation has released a set of guidelines designed specifically for conducting life cycle assessments on wool products.

Designed for use by life cycle assessment (LCA) practitioners, the ***Guidelines for Conducting a Life Cycle Assessment of the Environmental Performance of Wool Textiles*** provide clear direction for those interested in using LCA to understand environmental impacts across the wool supply chain.

“This is a small, specific audience, but important in promoting a consistent, best practice procedure to conducting wool LCAs,” said Angus Ireland, Deputy Chair of IWTO’s Sustainable Practices Working Group, which oversaw the production of the Guidelines.

“These Guidelines will be relevant to any organisation undertaking an LCA of wool products.”

The Guidelines are freely available on the IWTO website, [www.iwto.org](http://www.iwto.org).

The most commonly used tool for assessing a product’s effect on the environment, LCA models the use of resources and emissions to air, land or water that occur from the production, processing and manufacturing of products, the use of these products and their end-of-life recycling or disposal.

Like all models, LCA is a simplification of the world, and while the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) sets out a structure for the four main phases of a LCA study, without further specific guidance different LCA practitioners may get very different results for the same product.

To reduce these inconsistencies, specific guidelines have been developed for many product types – and now, for wool textiles.

“Providing these guidelines to LCA researchers aims to create a step change improvement in the application of LCA to wool supply chains,” explained Stephen Wiedemann, Chair of IWTO’s LCA Technical Advisory Group.

“This method will improve the scientific veracity and comparability of studies that apply it, providing better information to decision makers and consumers of wool products.”

**To download a copy of the Guidelines** visit the IWTO website, [www.iwto.org](http://www.iwto.org).

**Want to learn more?** We’ll be discussing sustainability through wool textiles at the next IWTO Congress, 3-5 May in Harrogate, United Kingdom. See [here](#) for details and to register.

### About IWTO

With a world-wide membership encompassing the wool pipeline from sheep to shop, the International Wool Textile Organisation represents the interests of the global wool trade. By facilitating research and development and maintaining textile industry standards, IWTO ensures a sustainable future for wool.



**Media Contact :**  
Jeannette Cook  
Communications Manager  
Tel.: +32 2 505 4010  
Email: [media@iwto.org](mailto:media@iwto.org)