

eda Fact Sheet



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The Dairy Product Environmental Footprint

The European Dairy Association (EDA) is coordinator of the **Dairy Environmental Footprint Pilot** ('Dairy PEF'), which strives to define rules on environmental footprints for dairy products by 2017

Aim of the project

The **DAIRY PEF** develops both a specific methodology – known as Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules or PEFCR – and communication guidance on the environmental footprint of different dairy products. The methodology and the communication are being tested 'on the ground'. The project examines a broad array of environmental issues, including the carbon footprint, water use, other different emissions, land use change and allocation questions.

Products covered by the project

The scope of the Dairy PEF contains five subcategories of dairy products, namely: liquid milk, dried whey, cheeses, fermented milk and butterfat.

Actors involved



Framework on the PEF pilots

The framework of the pilot is laid out by the European Commission's DG Environment initiative of a "Single Market for Green Products". In 2013, a pilot phase of three years was launched for non-food products and in 2014 this was extended to 11 food and drink pilots ([link](#)).

Motivation for the dairy sector

EDA and several actors in the dairy and environmental fields have joined forces to:

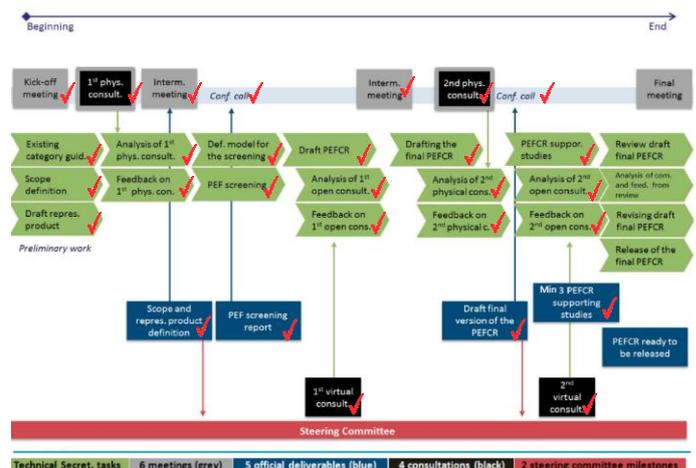
- › *Develop* product category rules (PEFCR) that make sense in Europe and beyond.
- › Ensure that the *wide diversity* of dairy farming and dairy processing systems are considered;
- › Enable companies and organisations to *assess, display and*

benchmark the environmental performance of products based on a comprehensive assessment of their environmental impacts over their full life cycle;

- › Meeting a wide set of objectives: eco-design, process optimisation, supply chain management, environmental communication, policy making, etc.

Steps of the project

The project started with assessing existing footprinting methodologies in the dairy sector, defining the scope of five subcategories, the impact categories and the elaboration of the detailed product environmental footprint category rules (PEFCR). Testing studies on six products have been done by the companies and the rules adapted to the outcomes. These steps have been formally approved by the Commission, JRC, member states and NGOs, as well as other food and non-food pilots.



The PEFCR have now entered the external review phase, by four reviewers from all around the world, including LCA experts, industry and NGO. In parallel the communication ideas are being tested with three studies (see our [Twitter](#) for participation). Further steps encompass a recalculation of the benchmark, final adaptation of the rules, final review and approval; and then enter legislative reflection phase.

The project also includes participating in several public consultations, available on the web and open to all interested stakeholders. The last one was closed on 7 October 2016, resulting in dynamic discussions and valuable feed-back.

This dairy pilot project is officially recognised by the Commission as one of the EU PEF framework's projects. This is a unique occasion to continue working on environmental aspects as a whole dairy sector, in the same pro-active approach already started several years ago by the GDAA (Global Dairy Agenda for Action) and its follow-up initiatives driven by the global dairy industry ([link](#)).