

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET
THURSDAY 02 MAY 2019

COMPARING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF COMMON HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

WHAT LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENTS TELL US ABOUT THE
SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PRODUCTS WE USE EVERY DAY

David Tyler

Dept. of Chemistry, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR



Every day we are confronted with choices that impact our environment: Incandescent bulb, compact fluorescent light, or LED? Paper, plastic, or reusable tote bag? Disposable plastic cup or reusable ceramic mug? Biodiesel, gasohol, or gasoline? Kleenex or hankie? Paper towels or warm-air hand dryer? Streaming movie or DVD? As a consumer have you ever wished there was a reliable guide to choosing the most environmentally sustainable product? Fortunately, reliable information about environmental impacts is becoming available in the form of life cycle assessments (LCAs). This talk will introduce the concept of life cycle assessments and then give examples of LCAs relevant to everyday life. What will make this talk fun is that the results of LCAs are frequently counterintuitive and therefore thought-provoking. For example, LCAs sometimes tell us that government or corporate decisions to ban certain items actually end up doing more harm than good. Both fun and serious examples of recent LCAs will be presented with an emphasis on the products we use every day and the tasks that we carry out every day. The counterintuitive LCA results are guaranteed to provoke discussion, especially among those wanting to make choices that are best for the environment.

6:00-7:30 pm Social Hour/Dinner
7:30-8:30 pm Presentation
Astellas Conference Room (3410/3430)
*enter building via SW door,
the other doors will be locked*

The University of Oklahoma
Stephenson Life Sciences Research Center
101 Stephenson Parkway, Norman, OK
map: <https://goo.gl/maps/Y7qPQS1Fh6R2>
(Parking and entrance door map on other side of flyer.)



OU map
QR code

Menu (Catering by Sweet Basil)

spring rolls
veggie pad thai
chicken fried rice
red curry/tofu
steamed rice
cookie & brownies

RSVP is not required to attend the presentation.

Cost

\$20 members
\$10 graduate students
\$ 5 undergraduate students

RSVP Deadline

Tuesday, Apr 30th, noon
Contact: Rama Kothapalli
405-325-1521
ramakn@ou.edu

David Tyler Biographical Sketch

David Tyler is a professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Oregon. He received Bachelor of Science degrees in chemistry and mathematics from Purdue University and a Ph.D. degree from the California Institute of Technology. He has been at the

University of Oregon since 1985. His current research interests are in degradable plastics, the development of greener catalysts, and photochemistry. In collaboration with his colleagues, he has developed a popular course for non-science majors on the chemistry of sustainability.

