

## EEE Research Seminar

**Date: September 15, 2020 at 10:30 A.M.**

**LOCATION: via Zoom**

<https://zoom.us/j/93122916204>

**Meeting ID: 931 2291 6204**

**Dr. Michael Zwicky Hauschild**  
**Professor, Deputy Head of Division, Head**  
**of Section**  
**Quantitative Sustainability Assessment**  
**Section, Sustainability Division**  
**Technical University of Denmark**



## From better to good enough - the need for an absolute perspective in environmental sustainability assessment

With its systemic perspective and broad coverage of environmental impacts, life cycle assessment (LCA) is frequently used for gauging the environmental sustainability of products and technical systems. With its relative perspective, it supports eco-efficiency improvements (more functionality with less environmental impact) but the climate and biodiversity crises demonstrate that at large these are insufficient - we need to introduce an absolute perspective into the sustainability assessment to inform engineering about what is needed to ensure solutions that are not just more sustainable but sustainable in absolute terms. The talk will discuss how to determine such absolute targets and how to introduce them into the sustainability assessment.

### Bio

Michael Z. Hauschild is professor in quantitative assessment of sustainability at the Technical University of Denmark (DTU) and has worked on the development of methods for sustainability assessment of products and technologies for more than 25 years. He has an extensive experience in the development of metrics and indicators for sustainability, and served as chair on consecutive working groups under UNEP-SETAC Life Cycle Initiative developing the recommended scientific consensus model USEtox ([www.usetox.org](http://www.usetox.org)) for assessment of chemical impacts on health and environment. He has acted as a consultant to the European Commission, creating the groundwork for the ILCD Methodology, which is the Commission's standard methodology for life cycle assessment of products and systems and in 2018 he received the SETAC Europe Edana Award for lifetime achievement in Life Cycle Assessment. He has authored or co-authored more than 200 peer reviewed scientific publications and a leading textbook on Life Cycle Assessment, and at DTU he leads the Quantitative Sustainability Assessment research group (25 researchers) in the Department of Technology, Management and Economics. Dr. Hauschild received his MSc in chemical engineering and his PhD in Terrestrial Ecotoxicology from DTU.