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INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP
ADVANCES IN CLEANER PRODUCTION

“CLEANER PRODUCTION TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION”

Backcasting and Sustainability: A Bibliometric Contribution

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Abstract

Given the global needs for sustainable movement aligned to the concept of the Triple-Bottom-Line of Elkinton (1998) emerges the need for strategic planning and real engagement of stakeholders groups regarding the turning actions towards visions of the future, this is the approach known as backcasting. From these references, this paper aims to give an overview of the academic literature on backcasting for sustainability, describing trends, authors and the main topics discussed. The methodological approach used was a literature review with bibliometric analysis techniques and content analysis. Searches were conducted in the scientific database *ISI Web of Knowledge*. The initial sample for analysis consisted of 101 published articles between 1985 and 2014, expanded to the references cited in these articles. The sample was analyzed with respect to the evolution of publications, citations, identification of key journals, authors and works. To content analysis and main themes, proceeded to a selection based on the categorization promoted by the database and reading the abstracts, resulting in a total of 31 articles. The results indicate a significant increase of published papers and citations over the period. Models of backcasting studies identified in the literature converge: commitment and involvement of stakeholders; use of interactive modeling tools, workshops, questionnaires, interviews, etc. as well as efforts to monitor and stimulate the dissemination of social learning. Most studies focus on countries like the United Kingdom, Canada, the Netherlands, Spain and Sweden

Keywords: *Backcasting, Sustainability, Framework, Stakeholders. Bibliometric study.*
