

Interactive comment on “Review article: Quantifying the human impact on water resources: a critical review of the water footprint concept” by J. Chenoweth et al.

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A good aspect of the paper presented by Chenoweth et al is that they discuss both the volumetric approach and the LCA approach in water footprinting.

However, their review is not complete, not concise nor critical enough. Also, the review is mostly only text, not supported by figures or tables. To present a nice overview/review such graphical presentations make a paper better readable. E.g. present a table/tables with strengths/weaknesses of different approaches etc.

The authors refer to Vanham and Bidoglio (2013) once in the text. This review dis-

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cusses the volumetric approach in water footprinting with applicability for the EU. It appears that the authors did not read that paper in detail. Many critical aspects - and also strengths - on the WF were already discussed in that review. Chenoweth et al miss essential aspects in their discussion. An example is indeed - as already pointed out by reviewer 2 and based upon Witmer and Cleij - the need for a WF sustainability assessment in order to use the concept for water management purposes. This was discussed in detail in Vanham and Bidoglio (2013). It is advised to read this paper in detail and incorporate these insights in the current paper.

REFERENCES

Vanham, D. and Bidoglio, G.: A review on the indicator water footprint for the EU 28, Ecol. Indic., 26, 61–75, 2013

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