

Special Issue

Defossilised Energy Supply and Energy Efficiency Measures for Sustainable Rural Development

Message from the Guest Editors

Rural development, including all agricultural activities, mainly relies on **fossil resources** for covering energy requirements. Specifically, agricultural productivity in both open-field crop production and controlled environment agricultural constructions is supported to a great extent by fossil energy. **High levels of fossil fuel use** and the deterioration of natural carbon sinks have been related with the anthropogenic impact causing **climate change**. Novel **Fossil-Energy-Free Technologies and Strategies (FEFTS)** related to more sustainable energy production and use have been developed by industry and research entities. However, these FEFTS have mainly been applied in urban and industrial environments, while in terms of rural applications (especially the agricultural sector), **there is still an important gap between such developments and the actual adoption and use of the available tools and practices by the rural population**, especially for small and medium producers with limited access to information.

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As the world of science becomes ever more specialized, researchers may lose themselves in the deep forest of the ever increasing number of subfields being created. This open access journal *Applied Sciences* has been started to link these subfields, so researchers can cut through the forest and see the surrounding, or quite distant fields and subfields to help develop his/her own research even further with the aid of this multi-dimensional network.

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