Special Issue

District Heating and Cooling Systems

Message from the Guest Editor

As it is well known, DHCNs are largely diffused, as elimination of the combustion systems at the final user stage of thermal energy allows for drastically reducing both pollutant and thermal emissions within the area of a city. Furthermore, DHCNs enable increasing safety conditions and eliminating the transportation of fuel to residential areas. Furthermore, new generation of DHCNs have introduced the concept of smart thermal grids, which consist of a b-directional heat exchange between the network and final users. These networks operate, especially in Northern Europe, and often install micro-CHP and/or thermal solar panels, which are then distributed to the final users. This new approach to DHCNs promotes the concept of distributed generation transforming a thermal network into a smart grid. This Special Issue of *Applied Sciences* aims to cover recent advances in the development, optimization, management, analysis, and design of DHCNs.

Guest Editor

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (10 August 2021)

Applied Sciences

an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Impact Factor 2.5
CiteScore 5.5

mdpi.com/si/76348

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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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