

Special Issue

Anaerobic Digestion Technology: An Update

Message from the Guest Editors

Biomass degradation under anoxic conditions includes a variety of natural microbial processes, which have a long tradition of biotechnological utilization. AD is a popular, mature technology, and our knowledge about the influencing process parameters as well as about the diverse microbial communities involved in the process has increased dramatically over the last few decades.

However, the AD sector also faces current challenges, such as feedstock availability and price increases, competitiveness of the products, as well as a lack of process monitoring and automation technologies.

On the other hand, AD offers so much more than biogas alone, and the metabolic flexibility of AD can be the answer to the current challenges. AD can be combined with new (bio)technologies, such as (bio)electrochemical technologies, to enhance the efficiency of the process. Chemical building blocks can also be obtained by converting methane to methanol, or higher value single-cell proteins can be produced by methanotrophic bacteria.

Guest Editors

Dr. Peter Kornatz

Dr. Jörg Kretzschmar

Dr. Marcell Nikolausz

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Bioengineering
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
bioengineering@mdpi.com

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Prof. Dr. Anthony Guiseppi-Elie

Department of Biomedical Engineering, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, USA

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