

Special Issue

Healthy and Affordable Zero-Emission Buildings: A Challenge for the Near Future

Message from the Guest Editors

High-performing buildings characterized by low carbon emissions are fundamental to pursuing the EU's energy security and independence, mitigating climate change, and achieving sustainability goals. Ensuring affordable and accessible to all buildings is essential to meet society's changing needs and to secure equitable development. Finally, the human-centric approach introduced by the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive highlights the necessity to provide healthy and comfortable buildings for all inhabitants. Consequently, there is a growing need for new metrics and methodologies to assess buildings' performance, leading local planning decision-making processes to consider the totality of the above-mentioned aspects. This Special Issue address this need by providing a floor for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to present their latest findings related to healthy and affordable zero-emission buildings and the near-future challenges facing cities and the construction industry.

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About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Current urban environments are home to multi-modal transit systems, extensive energy grids, a building stock, and integrated services. Sprawling neighborhoods are composed of buildings that accommodate living and working quarters. However, it is expected that the cities and communities of the future will face complex and enormous challenges, including maintenance, interconnectivity, resilience, energy efficiency, and sustainability issues, to name but a few. A smart city uses advanced technologies and a digital infrastructure to improve the outcomes in every aspect of a city's operations. A smart building optimizes the experience of occupants, staff, and management by using a modern and connected environment. Innovations in technology that can bring dramatic improvements to design, planning, and policy are critical in developing the cities and buildings of the future.

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