Special Issue

Improving the Service Life of Wood: Durability and Preservation

Message from the Guest Editor

Wood utilization is key to ensuring a sustainable future as wood is renewable, abundant, and carbon neutral. In fact, wood sequesters carbon in trees and in manufactured materials, which extends the carbon benefit past the rotation age of the tree. Construction materials represent an important carbon sink, and the goal in the field of wood protection is to prolong the useful service life of these forest products through the use of chemical protectants, durability by design, wood modification or the use of the heartwood of naturally durable species. In North America, building codes typically require chemically treated wood when used in ground contact, when critical to the structure or when difficult to replace, which often results in disposal issues with treated wood waste. Strategies that can remediate treated building materials are still needed to ensure that chemically treated wood has a circular life trajectory. The goal of this Special Issue is to collate current research relating to wood protection strategies, end of life disposal, life cycle assessments and how these aspects contribute to the larger goals of sustainability and carbon sequestration.

Guest Editor

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