Special Issue

Food Wastes: Opportunities, Risks, Environmental Impact and Perspectives

Message from the Guest Editors

Recovering food wastes to recycle them into renewable resources represents a tool of global interest with both economic and environmental impacts. Food wastes can be employed as low-cost raw materials in the food and pharmaceutical industries (e.g., for the production of fertilizers or the extraction of single-cell proteins for animal feed), or used to produce biomaterials and biofuels, among others. However, a very important aspect of the application of food wastes and their byproducts is the possible associated toxicological risks due to the presence of environmental pollutants and new emerging contaminants (microplastics, nanomaterials, drugs, etc.): with their high environmental persistence and poor degradability, these could be responsible for serious harm to humans, animals, and the ecosystem. This Special Issue is intended for contributions concerning methodologies, research, knowledge, and ecotoxicological approaches relating to the treatment of food wastes and their by-products, as well as experimental schemes of industrial applications for their safe and effective employment, in order to reduce their environmental impact and guarantee human and animal health.

Guest Editors

Dr. Clara Naccari

Department of Health Sciences, University of Catanzaro Magna Græcia, 88100 Catanzaro, Italy

Dr. Nicola Cicero

Department of Biomedical, Dental, Morphological and Functional Images Sciences (BIOMORF), University of Messina, Viale Annunziata, 98100 Messina, Italy

Deadline for manuscript submissions

31 December 2025



International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health

an Open Access Journal by MDPI

CiteScore 8.5
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/199283

International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health Editorial Office MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5 4052 Basel, Switzerland Tel: +41 61 683 77 34 ijerph@mdoi.com

mdpi.com/journal/ ijerph





International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health

an Open Access Journal by MDPI

CiteScore 8.5
Indexed in PubMed





About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers.

Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

IJERPH provides a forum for discussion of discoveries and knowledge in these multidisciplinary fields. Please consider publishing your research in this high quality peer-reviewed journal.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Paul B. Tchounwou

RCMI Center for Urban Health Disparities Research and Innovation, Richard N. Dixon Research Center, Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD 21251, USA

Author Benefits

Open Access:

free for readers, with article processing charges (APC) paid by authors or their institutions.

High Visibility:

indexed within Scopus, PubMed, MEDLINE, PMC, Embase, GEOBASE, CAPlus / SciFinder, and other databases.

Journal Rank:

CiteScore - Q1 (Public Health, Environmental and Occupational Health)