Special Issue

Sustainable Waste Management to Mitigate Global Climate Change

Message from the Guest Editors

Climate change is often identified as one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century. Changes in the climate are caused by the build-up of carbon dioxide (CO2) and other greenhouse gases (GHGs). Climate change already contributes to rising sea levels, shrinking glaciers, violent weather events, the spread of infectious diseases, loss in biological diversity and agricultural shifts, and these effects and others can be expected to become even more serious with time. While many factors contribute to this emerging problem, we know that each year, over 100 billion tons of primary materials are extracted and used globally, with only nine per cent being recycled (UNDP, 2019). This material extraction, use, generation and management of waste contribute significantly to climate change. Hence, it is critical to consider sustainability, biomimicry, green chemistry and pollution prevention for material extraction, use, generation and management of waste as key contributors to the mitigation of global climate change.

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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.

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Editor-in-Chief

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