

Special Issue

Developments in the End-of-Life Tire Recycling Process

Message from the Guest Editors

End-of-life tires are discarded on a daily basis, but even at present, limited action has been taken toward boosting their recyclability as most of the tires are either incinerated or landfilled/stockpiled. The complexity of tires has also been drastically increased, with little attention paid to designing them specifically for recycling. The retreading process is currently under intense development, and end-of-life tires have the ability to be retread several times. Furthermore, powdering the tires and separating the steel and textiles from this stream is a promising route that has found expanding applications. In terms of processability, devulcanization has received a lot of attention from the tire recycling industry, and numerous physical, chemical, and microbial processes and combinations are being developed to be industrialized.

Since applications of the recycled products (powder and devulcanized tire) are limited, tire pyrolysis has become extremely important. Process parameters and reactor design play a significant role in the degradation mechanisms and pyrolysis products, e.g., light olefins and dienes, naphthenes, mono-aromatics, tar, polar aromatics, and coke.

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