

## Special Issue

# Advancing Sustainability in Rock Mechanics and Underground Engineering

### Message from the Guest Editors

Underground infrastructures are increasingly in demand as a solution to cope with the growing development of transport infrastructures, industrial facilities and urban sprawl. Occupying underground space frees up surface space, which is of greater economic, social and environmental value. On the other hand, the productive sector requires the mining sector to extract and process raw materials in an economically profitable way, while at the same time being subject to greater environmental and social pressures. The growing demand for underground space and the pressures on the mining sector require innovative tools and processes that contribute to greater sustainability. The industry must achieve greater economic efficiencies and lower environmental costs, as well as consider the suitability and reuse of existing underground spaces. The scope of this Special Issue is to gather original fundamental and applied research concerning experimental, theoretical, computational, and case studies that contribute towards sustainable underground construction and mining.

---

### Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Martina Inmaculada Álvarez Fernández  
Mining Exploitation Department, EIMEM, University of Oviedo, 33003 Oviedo, Spain

Dr. Víctor Martínez-Ibáñez  
Department of Transport and Geotechnical Engineering, Universitat Politècnica de València, 46022 Valencia, Spain

---

### Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (21 January 2025)



## Sustainability

---

an Open Access Journal  
by MDPI

---

Impact Factor 3.3  
CiteScore 7.7



[mdpi.com/si/185909](https://mdpi.com/si/185909)

*Sustainability*  
Editorial Office  
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5  
4052 Basel, Switzerland  
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34  
[sustainability@mdpi.com](mailto:sustainability@mdpi.com)

[mdpi.com/journal/  
sustainability](https://mdpi.com/journal/sustainability)





## Sustainability

---

an Open Access Journal  
by MDPI

---

Impact Factor 3.3  
CiteScore 7.7



[mdpi.com/journal/  
sustainability](https://mdpi.com/journal/sustainability)



# About the Journal

## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

I encourage you to contribute a research or comprehensive review article for consideration for publication in Sustainability, an international open access journal which provides an advanced forum for research findings in areas related to sustainability and sustainable development. The journal publishes original research articles, reviews, conference proceedings (peer reviewed full articles) and communications. I am confident you will find the journal contributes to enhancing understanding of sustainability and fostering initiatives and applications of sustainability-based measures and activities.

---

## Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Steve W. Lyon

School of Environment and Natural Resources, Ohio State University,  
Columbus, OH 43210, USA

---

## Author Benefits

### Open Access:

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

### High Visibility:

indexed within Scopus, SCIE and SSCI (Web of Science), GEOBASE, GeoRef, Inspec, RePEc, CAPlus / SciFinder, and other databases.

### Journal Rank:

JCR - Q2 (Environmental Studies) / CiteScore - Q1  
(Geography, Planning and Development)