

Special Issue

Circular Economy and Competitiveness in the Era of Global Sustainability Transitions

Message from the Guest Editors

With the intensifying global push for sustainability, circular economy (CE) has emerged as a key pathway for achieving environmental and economic objectives.

Circular strategies—such as waste reduction, resource regeneration, and life-cycle thinking—are increasingly seen as levers to enhance competitiveness in firms, regions, and nations. However, how CE contributes to or challenges traditional notions of competitiveness remains underexplored, particularly in the context of global sustainability transitions. This Special Issue focuses on the interaction between circular economy practices and competitiveness during sustainability transitions. It highlights innovative frameworks, tools, and empirical evidence showing how CE can drive green innovation, foster industrial transformation, and support resilient value chains. Topics include circular business models, performance measurement, policy and regulatory innovations, digital enablers (e.g., AI, blockchain), and cross-sectoral or regional CE strategies. Original research and reviews providing insights for academics, practitioners, and policymakers navigating the CE–competitiveness nexus are welcome.

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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

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