

Special Issue

Circular Economy Implementation: From Processes and Systems to Organizational Transformation

Message from the Guest Editors

The literature on the circular economy (CE) is rich in concepts but thinner on how organizations operationalize CE at scale. This Special Issue focuses on implementation—the concrete integration of processes, metrics, and organizational change that turn circular intent into measurable outcomes. (i) data-enabled implementation (e.g., Digital Product Passport, digital twins, IoT/AI) that improves traceability and decision-making; (ii) robust measurement and evaluation (e.g., dynamic MFA/stock-flow, exergy/material circularity, integrated LCA/LCC/S-LCA); and (iii) organizational and behavioral transformation (governance, incentives, skills, culture) necessary to embed CE in day-to-day operations. Grounded in current policy and market developments—such as the EU Circular Economy Action Plan, Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR), and Digital Product Passport (DPP)—we invite contributions that deliver empirical evidence, implementation frameworks, and comparative insights across firms and value chains. By centering on methods, metrics, and management, the Special Issue moves beyond broad narratives to the practical levers that de-risk adoption and scale circularity.

Guest Editors

Dr. Simina Lakatos

IRCEM, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Dr. Andreea-Loredana Rhazzali

IRCEM, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

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Sustainability
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
sustainability@mdpi.com

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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

Prof. Dr. Steve W. Lyon

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

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