Special Issue

Groundwater Protection and Sustainable Utilization

Message from the Guest Editors

For a significant part of the global population, groundwater is a water source for drinking, irrigation, and technical processes, or a heat source/sink in heat pump systems. Groundwater resources are also foreseen to have a significant role in the green energy transition, in heat pump systems for heating and cooling, and in heating and electricity generation using thermal water, all of which represent low-carbon technologies. This duality of use—for water supply and energy purposes—could lead to conflicts of interest among different types of users in the future, which is already happening in densely populated areas. This Special Issue considers papers investigating all aspects of groundwater protection and sustainable utilization: hydrogeological, hydrochemical and geophysical research, groundwater management including drinking water protection areas, vulnerability, modeling, artificial recharge, groundwater monitoring or early warning system establishment, legislative issues, and the use of shallow and deep aguifers for energy purposes.

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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. *Sustainability* publishes original research articles, review 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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