

Special Issue

Sustainable Mining and Circular Economy

Message from the Guest Editors

Raw materials and critical raw materials supply are a matter of concern and a global challenge to face sustainably. The supply is still guaranteed via ore deposit exploitation, as the recycling of critical elements (e.g., REE, Li) turns out to be complex, energy-intensive, and economically unviable; consequently, mining activity is growing steadily worldwide, and modern and more efficient technologies and mining techniques need to be applied to guarantee sustainable mining.

The growing demand for raw materials can be met in several innovative ways: search for new deposits, optimization of separation and ore processing, recovery of mining and landfill waste, and innovative recycling technologies (especially for critical raw materials). It is equally important to implement the population's knowledge and social acceptance of the strategical relevance of raw materials, which are indispensable for our well-being.

The highly interdisciplinary theme of this Special Issue can therefore involve a wide scientific audience, from geologists to environmental and management engineers to economists and social science experts.

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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.

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