

Special Issue

Solar Thermal Energy Systems and Sustainability

Message from the Guest Editors

Renewable energy systems (RES) can be used for supplying both process heat and electricity in the civil and industrial sectors. Since heat currently accounts for about 50% of the final energy demand in a lot of industrialized countries, a significant contribution from renewable energy in heating sector is still expected. For this reason, the diffuse development of solar thermal systems appears to be particularly important for a further substantial increase of the share of use of renewable energies, and relevant contributions are expected both in the civil and industrial sector. While some medium to low temperature application and production of electricity with photovoltaic power plants have been widely developed and analyzed, relevant contributions on the systematic use of passive solar systems and strategies are still missing both in the civil and residential sector and in the field of process heat production for industrial applications. In a low to zero energy building prospective, passive and active solar systems are essential assets to minimize building demand and provide the needed renewable energy, respectively.

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