

Special Issue

Sustainable Performance of Construction Materials, Systems and Buildings

Message from the Guest Editors

While the efforts to improve the sustainability of buildings has been generally focused on their energy efficiency due to the high share that the operational energy consumption produces in their life-cycle environmental impacts, this focus is being gradually displaced to the impact of the materials used during the construction phase. The investment in new materials and the reduction in buildings' demand for operational energy must reach a balance, and therefore, these aspects must be evaluated from an LCA viewpoint where both are considered. Assessment methodologies must be encouraged to comply with international standards on this matter. Moreover, the publication of the Level(s) framework stands out as an opportunity to unify the criteria followed by life-cycle environmental, economic and social assessments in order to provide comparable results and benchmarks for building typologies. The existing models for the various indicators included in the Level(s) framework must make an effort to adapt to its guidelines, which will increase their usefulness in forthcoming analyses.

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