

Special Issue

Towards a Sustainable Management of Emerging Contaminants in Wastewater

Message from the Guest Editors

The occurrence of emerging contaminants in surface water has been rising over the last decades as drawback of our wellbeing. The increased life expectation and the growing population in urban areas translated into more wastewater to be treated and more pollutants of anthropogenic origin to be assessed and eventually regulated. Despite the complexity of this topic, the scientific community has however made important advances: more is known about the fate of emerging contaminants, their occurrence and nature (physical and chemical properties) as their potential ecotoxicity. As result, experts generally agreed that upgrading conventional Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs) not designed for the successful removal of emerging contaminants is the way to go. Nowadays, some EU member states have set more strict national discharge standards and already implemented a post-treatment step. Till now, the majority applied common technologies such as Activated Carbon Filtration and Ozone. However, a significant effort towards more sustainable solutions in water resource management is absolutely necessary.

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