Special Issue

Smart Energy Communities: Technical and Socio-Economic Perspectives towards Environmental Sustainability

Message from the Guest Editors

The smart energy community (SEC), in its broadest sense, can be defined as a set of energy end-users that decide to make common choices to meet their energy needs with a sharing approach through distributed generation technologies. The enhancement in the use of renewable sources and the smart management of energy flows are part of the emerging paradigm of energy communities. SECs offer a means to restructure energy systems as they are mandated to "generate", consume, store, sell, and, most importantly, share the "produced" energy within the community, with the aims to provide social and environmental benefits rather than focus just on economic profits. However, such a reorganization of energy systems poses different challenges and opportunities on various levels, such as Technical, Social and Economic.

In this context, the editors encourage all authors interested to submit their interdisciplinary contributions aimed at investigating the opportunities of SECs and to overcome the aforementioned technical and socioeconomic challenges by considering the role of SECs in the ongoing energy transition.

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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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