

Special Issue

Waste Minimization: Strategies for the Reduction and Prevention of All Forms of Waste

Message from the Guest Editors

“Waste is only waste if we waste it”. Well, there is plenty of waste in our world: each year over 2 billion tons of municipal solid waste makes its way to landfills worldwide. This includes food waste (corresponding to 30–40% of all food produced), packaging waste (much of which is plastic), electronic waste (from discarded electrical and electronic devices) and textile waste (accelerated by the fast-fashion trend). All of this waste causes greenhouse gas emissions, which cause climate change. Minimizing waste will involve changes in products and processes as well as in consumer attitudes and consumption patterns towards the creation of a society that is more respectful of its resources. In this Special Issue on waste minimization, we consider all forms of waste (including food, electronics, packaging and textile) and all types of interventions to tackle it (centered around the “Refuse, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle” motto) at all levels of the supply chain (from the farm or manufacturer all the way to the end consumer). Contributions using modeling approaches as well as empirical research using datasets or case studies are welcome.

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