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Polymer Waste Management

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Message from the Guest Editors

Polymers are materials associated with energy intensive processes of production as well as environmental degradation and significant loss of valuable materials, due to excessive amounts of waste production. Moreover, polymer products are particularly sensitive to intensively fluctuating environmental conditions. In this regard, the negative perception of polymer byproducts necessitates the development of dedicated and refined methods for treating such types of waste in a sustainable manner. Major challenges are relevant to the design, analysis, maintenance, and decommissioning phase of polymer waste under the expected lifetime. In addition, the mitigation or retrofitting of existing polymeric structures should be examined in accordance with the optimal and safe design of innovative materials and/or systems. The key features of the imposed design load are driven by the following managerial constraints:

- Polymer waste is not always a cost- or benefit-appreciated material, being discarded in landfills.
- Polymer waste occasionally follows deficient management, leading to environmental degradation and significant material loss.
- The identification and extraction of valuable compounds from polymer waste could allow them to undergo a second round or lifetime.

This Special Issue aims to provide a wide range of viable models and alternative methods that address the technical, economic, societal, industrial, and commercial dimensions, either in isolation or in joint/multidisciplinary approaches.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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