



## Sustainability Indicators for Renewable Energy Transition

Guest Editors:

**Prof. Dr. George Xydis**

Department of Business  
Development and Technology  
(BTECH/AU Herning), Aarhus  
University, Engineering &  
Technology Research Group–  
EngTech, Center for Energy  
Technologies–CET, Birk  
Centerpark 15, 7400 Herning,  
Denmark

**Dr. Evanthia A. Nanaki**

Department of Business  
Development and Technology,  
Aarhus University, Birk  
Centerpark 15, 7400 Herning,  
Denmark

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### Message from the Guest Editors

Sustainable urban development is of great importance. Cities consume 75 percent of natural resources globally (materials, energy, water), produce 50 percent of global waste, and generate 60–80 percent of greenhouse gas emissions. European cities can improve their resilience and meet decarbonization targets by: (i) increasing the rate of retrofitting buildings to improve energy efficiency; (ii) enabling building and district scale renewable energy production; (iii) developing and restoring nature-based urban infrastructure; and (iv) delivering a shift towards clean mobility-as-a-service. However, global spending on basic infrastructure—transport, power, water and communications—faces a financing gap of \$1 trillion annually (the global spend ought to be \$3.7 trillion, whereas it is currently \$2.7 trillion). Realizing these ambitions will, therefore, demand trillions of investments, as well as innovation in systemic thinking, governance and financing. This requirement for transformative change presents a significant opportunity for innovative and sustainable markets to emerge.





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## Editor-in-Chief

### **Prof. Dr. Marc A. Rosen**

Faculty of Engineering and  
Applied Science, University of  
Ontario Institute of Technology,  
Oshawa, ON L1G 0C5, Canada

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*Sustainability* Editorial Office  
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66  
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