



Renewable Energies: Environmental Impact and Social Acceptance

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Message from the Guest Editors

As climate change and resource scarcity are acknowledged as two of the most pressing subjects for the scientific community, policy makers and the general populace alike, the topic of renewable energy sources is increasing in importance. In 2018 18.9% of gross energy consumption in Europe was from renewable sources, and the key target for renewable energy in Europe in 2030 is a 32% share with a probable upward revision in 2023, while for example China is expected by 2024 to increase its share of renewable energy by 40% (IEA, 2019).

Despite this need and the push from legislative bodies, social acceptance of renewable energy sources is still hampered by lack of knowledge in the general public and NIMBY dynamics, in particular for landscape altering plants (i.e. wind power, solar farms) or from plants that resemble chemical reactors (i.e. biogas plants, microalgae farms). Moreover, several of these technologies can yet see their environmental impact lowered, for example in the case of methane slip for the upgrading of biogas to biomethane or for the disposal of solar panels. Solving these problems will be crucial in the next years to safely meet renewable energy targets.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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