



Linking Industrial Symbiosis and the Circular Economy

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

The circular economy (CE) has emerged as a leading concept under the sustainable development umbrella. It is based on “the principles of designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use and regenerating natural systems”.

Some of the questions then, are: Where is the linkage between industrial symbiosis (IS) and the circular economy? Is industrial symbiosis, simply one strategy for implementing the circular economy? Should recovery and exchange of industrial wastes and by-products be given pride of place in a circular economy? Is industrial symbiosis, which has been difficult to achieve in practice, likely to flourish because of the circular economy? Are different incentives needed to support industrial symbiosis than those required to encourage a circular economy or are they complementary? Are the barriers to the symbiotic exchange of industrial wastes similar to those involved in the many strategies of a circular economy? How important is the nurturing of “scavenger and decomposer” companies in a circular economy? What case studies demonstrate the link between IS and CE...





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