

Special Issue

Innovative Alignments of Economic Incentives with the Environment

Message from the Guest Editors

Good institutions align self-interest with social interest. For sustainability, individual economic interests must be aligned with social-environmental interests. As more incentives for stakeholders can be met, environmental criteria will more likely be met and at a lower cost. With the right alignment of incentives, the tradeoff between the environment and economy may be minimal or non-existent. Incentive-based policy solutions (i.e., emissions taxes, tradeable allowances) internalize the external costs of certain economic activities. This simultaneously provides entrepreneurs incentives to find less resource-intensive and environmentally damaging production methods. With bad incentives, there is no tradeoff, as both the economy and environment are damaged. Centrally planned economies, lacking the protection of individual property rights, have a plethora of poor cases of environmental degradation as well as poor records of economic growth.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (31 October 2020)



Sustainability

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Impact Factor 3.3
CiteScore 6.8



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I encourage you to contribute a research or comprehensive review article for consideration for publication in *Sustainability*, an international Open Access journal which provides an advanced forum for research findings in areas related to sustainability and sustainable development. *Sustainability* publishes original research articles, review articles and communications. I am confident you will find the journal contributes to enhancing understanding of sustainability and fostering initiatives and applications of sustainability-based measures and activities.

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