



## Resource Use of Sewage Sludge for Soil Application

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### Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Fast urbanization leads to gigantic volumes of municipal wastewater arising from human dietary life being discharged to municipal wastewater treatment plants. After wastewater is purified via aerobic and anaerobic treatments, a commensurate volume of sewage sludge (SS) finally in the form of a solid cake with a moisture of ~78% is generated. With the surge in efforts towards carbon neutrality, transforming SS into valuable products in via efficient and sustainable manners is becoming a pressing challenge the wastewater industry is facing. Intensively reported studies demonstrate that a considerable amount of phosphorus (P), a life-essential and non-renewable element, in SS could be mined to alleviate the supply chain pressure of phosphate rocks that are becoming increasingly scarce.

Before exploiting this P resource from SS, however, inherent hazardous substances such as heavy metals (HMs) should be tackled, which indeed hamper SS valorization and P recovery and recycling.

[...]

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