Special Issue

Green Composites: Challenges and Opportunities

Message from the Guest Editors

The current global situation has, once more, dramatically shown that “unsustainable” development can lead to a number of unexpected and potentially catastrophic consequences. The issues about environmental protection cannot be neglected anymore and, from the point of view of materials scientists, this means that we have also a “moral duty” to focus on more environment-friendly materials and systems. Among the possible pathways, the development and utilization of polymer (and biopolymer) composites filled with natural-organic fillers (biodegradable and/or coming from renewable resources) as a replacement for traditional mineral-inorganic fillers, can be of significant help in reducing the use of petroleum-derived, non-renewable resources and achieving a more intelligent utilization of environmental and financial resources. These systems, known as “green composites”, are now more promising and interesting than before, in the view of finding strong applicability in several fields (automotive, construction, furnishing, etc.), with a further environmental advantage when also the polymer matrix is biodegradable and/or coming from renewable sources.

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Materials (ISSN 1996-1944) was launched in 2008. The journal covers twenty-five comprehensive topics: biomaterials, energy materials, advanced composites, advanced materials characterization, porous materials, manufacturing processes and systems, advanced nanomaterials and nanotechnology, smart materials, thin films and interfaces, catalytic materials, carbon materials, materials chemistry, materials physics, optics and photonics, corrosion, construction and building materials, materials simulation and design, electronic materials, advanced and functional ceramics and glasses, metals and alloys, soft matter, polymeric materials, quantum materials, mechanics of materials, green materials, general. *Materials* provides a unique opportunity to contribute high quality articles and to take advantage of its large readership.

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