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Resources and Waste Management in COVID-19 and Pandemics

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Pandemics challenge many aspects of the human society, including resources and waste management. The COVID-19 pandemic has already stressed and interrupted the supply chains. Energy consumption in the transportation sector is reduced due to lockdowns, so is air pollution. With the increased demand and use of personal protective equipment (PPE) for healthcare workers, healthcare waste is expected to surge as well. There are also concerns that inadequate handling of healthcare waste might further spread the virus. In the long run, supply chains of some products are expected to be back to normal quickly, while others may take much longer time. To better prepare for future pandemics, more research is needed on how to reconfigure the global supply chains to be more resilient. New systems and technologies may need to be in place for properly handling surged healthcare waste. All these topics are closely related to sustainable resources management which is the aim of *Resource, Conservation & Recycling* (RCR).

In fact, RCR has already been receiving submissions and published on topics related to COVID-19. For example, Wang et al. (2020) modeled air quality impacts due to the lockdowns in China in January and February 2020. Yu et al. (2020) explored the challenges of scaling up global pharmaceutical supply chains for large-scale production of potential antiviral drugs and vaccines. Sarkis et al. (2020) discussed the opportunities of transforming toward more sustainable supply and production system after the COVID-19 pandemic.

To facilitate rapid publication of more studies to aid the society's battle against COVID-19 and preparation for future pandemics, *Resources, Conservation & Recycling* calls for contributions to a virtual special issue on "Resources and Waste Management in COVID-19 and Pandemics." We welcome contributions on a wide range of topics related to COVID-19 and pandemics, including but not limited to:

- Sustainability implications on supply chains
- Resource and environmental impacts of mitigation strategies (e.g., lockdowns, working from home)
- Implications and solutions on municipal solid waste management (e.g., surges in household waste due to increased online shopping)
- Implications and solutions on healthcare waste
- Solutions of preventing virus spreading through wastewater and solid waste streams
- Innovative solutions for sustainable and resilient supply chains in face of pandemics
- Opportunities for circular economy after COVID-19 (e.g., behavior continued after COVID-19, supply chain changes, community self-organization, product design)

1. Submission Types and Editorial Process

We will accept three types of manuscripts, including Original Research Article, Review, and Perspective. Please refer to the Guide to Authors (<https://www.elsevier.com/journals/resources-conservation-and-recycling/0921-3449/guide-for-authors>) for more information about the manuscript types. To accommodate the unusual circumstances facing COVID-19, we can be flexible with restrictions indicated on the Guide to Authors, such as word limit.

The publication of Original Research Article and Review will be subject to external peer-review; Perspective will be primarily reviewed by the editors and could be reviewed by external reviewers at the discretion of the editors. We expect to provide decisions on all submissions within 12 weeks.

2. Manuscript Preparation and Submission

A Virtual Special Issue (VSI) is an online-only grouping of Special Issue articles traditionally assigned to a single Special Issue. The articles in a VSI will be assigned a unique identifier and published in a regular journal issue. The unique identifier allows to simultaneously adding the article to a VSI in ScienceDirect.com. Articles grouped together in a VSI retain their original citation details. A VSI speeds up the publication of individual articles as, unlike the publication process for conventional Special Issue articles, a VSI does not need to wait for the final article to be ready before publication.

A detailed submission guideline is available as "Guide for Authors" at: <http://www.journals.elsevier.com/resources-conservation-and-recycling>. All manuscripts and any supplementary material should be submitted through Elsevier Editorial System (<http://ees.elsevier.com/recycl>). The authors must select "SI: COVID-19" in the submission process.

3. Important Dates

- Full paper submission deadline: May 31, 2020
- Final decision notification: August 31, 2020
- Publication: As soon as accepted (VSI)

References

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- Wang, P., Chen, K., Zhu, S., Wang, P., Zhang, H., 2020. Severe air pollution events not avoided by reduced anthropogenic activities during COVID-19 outbreak. *Resources, Conservation & Recycling* 158, 104814.
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