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Editorial

Editorial on Net-Zero targets

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Editorial

I have the privilege of introducing the e-Journal of Soft Materials with an editorial. The topic of Net-Zero Policy Frameworks and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the context of international collaboration is crucial as nations globally seek to address pressing environmental, social, and economic challenges.

Some key SDGs relevant to Net-Zero and International Collaboration include SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy—Ensures access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all), SDG 13 (Climate Action—Urges urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals—Recognizes the importance of partnerships in achieving these global goals, stressing international collaboration).

Net-zero means a balance where the amount of greenhouse gases emitted equals the amount emitted from the atmosphere by a specific target year, typically around 2050. In essence, net-zero innovation is about minimizing carbon emissions and reducing the impact of human activities on global warming. This can be accomplished by reducing emissions, increasing energy efficiency, and carbon capture and storage. Given the global nature of climate change and sustainable development, international cooperation is essential to achieve the SDGs and reach the Net-Zero targets, while finding sustainable green solutions has never been more important [1].

At the heart of this effort is climate-neutral materials and a circular future that combines with sustainable production methods. Climate-neutral materials have no impact on the greenhouse gas budget throughout their entire life cycle [2]. Climate-neutral materials can be recycled and reused again and again without increasing climate change when put into a circular system [3].

It is great to think about a future where climate-neutral materials promote a circular system, but it also comes with its own challenges: (i) New discoveries in materials science, (ii) changing the way things are made, (iii) changing consumer behaviour, and (iv) having rules to support these changes are needed. Developing and scaling these materials will require a lot of research and development. We are at a crossroads in the climate crisis, and the time to act is now. Climate-neutral materials and a circular future are not the goal, but they are the way to a sustainable future.

e-Journal of Soft Materials hopes to demonstrate its dedication to sustainable development across the globe by focusing on climate-neutral materials and demonstrating its commitment to a circular economy.

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Conflict of interest

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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