

**Special issue on the First International Conference
“Strategies toward Green Deal Implementation — Water and Raw Materials”
(ICGreenDeal2020), held online 14–16 December 2020, Cracow, Poland**

Preface

Sustainable water and wastewater management is one of the most important elements of counteracting climate change and environmental degradation. In recent years, the role of water and wastewater management has been emphasized in strategies for the Green Deal, which are systematically implemented in various regions and countries of the world, including the United States and the European Union. The Green Deal strategies, apart from economic and social perspectives, focus on global climate change and the progressive depletion of non-renewable resources and destruction of biodiversity. Therefore, activities in the field of water and wastewater management, as well as circular management of waste generated in this sector (such as sewage sludge or ash from its incineration) may contribute to the improvement of the quality of the natural environment, and at the same time prevent climate change.

This special issue presents selected high quality and peer-reviewed papers presented on the 1st International Conference “Strategies toward Green Deal Implementation — Water and Raw Materials” (ICGreenDeal2020) that was held on December 14–16, 2020 in Cracow, Poland. Due to the coronavirus pandemic the Conference was organised as the virtual event. The conference was organised by the Division of Biogenic Raw Materials at the Mineral and Energy Economy Research Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The Conference program was comprised of a wide spectrum of presentations, oral and poster, that included research on water and raw materials in the Green Deal strategies. A total of 150 papers in 14 thematic sessions during this 3-day online Conference. This Special Issue includes 23 water and wastewater related papers which could contribute to the Green Deal implementation in various regions of the world. This special issue has been dedicated to the water and wastewater related themes as selected case studies for the riverside areas; sustainable and circular sewage sludge management — including nutrients recovery, biogas production and sewage sludge treatment; zero pollution in water and wastewater — including high effective technologies for the removal of selected pollutants (as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, chemotherapeutic agents and odors) from aqueous solutions and solids.

The Guest Editor would like to thank the Editor-in-Chief of *Desalination and Water Treatment*, Professor Miriam Balaban for the opportunity to publish this Special Issue. I am also grateful to Ms. Suzanne Trauffer and the staff members of *Desalination and Water Treatment* editorial office for their essential support in the entire editorial process. The special thanks also go to all the Reviewers for their valuable comments and review of manuscripts submitted for this Special Issue. I would like to also thank all Authors, including Scientists and Academics, Environmentalists and Nature Lovers for their valuable contributions in this Special Issue.

Guest Editor
Associate Professor, Dr. Marzena Smol
Head of Division of Biogenic Raw Materials
Mineral and Energy Economy Research Institute, Polish
Academy of Sciences
Wybickiego 7A str., 31-261 Cracow, Poland
Tel. +48 12 617 16 60, +48 695 922 722
E-mail smol@meeri.pl