



Design for Sustainability in the Minerals Sector

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Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

31 December 2024

Message from the Guest Editors

Over the last few decades, sustainability researchers have expanded concepts such as design for the environment and eco-design to include more social impacts, thus leading to the concept of design for sustainability (DfS). While mining sustainability researchers may not be using DfS directly, the global minerals sector and researchers who focus on mining sustainability are working on ways to better incorporate sustainability considerations into the design of mining systems and mine development plans. There is currently a keen interest in sustainability considerations in the minerals sector.

The relationship between sustainability and minerals has never been stronger. For example, the material needs for the transition to green energy to address climate change are significant, and those materials should be extracted in a sustainable manner. As we have depleted the easily accessible and high-grade deposits, new mines are increasingly in locations that are eco-sensitive and lack a history of mining, and they are encountering more socio-political resistance.





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