

# JOURNAL OF CLEANER PRODUCTION

*Special Issue on*

## ***Sustainability Management beyond corporate boundaries***

*Sustain beyond boundaries*

The Editor of the *Journal of Cleaner Production* (JCLP), Prof. Dr. Don Huisingh, is proud to welcome Prof. Dr. Stefan Seuring, Stefan Gold and Matthias Freise of the Department of International Management, at the University of Kassel, Germany, as the guest-editors of the Special Issue of JCLP devoted to “Sustainability Management Beyond Corporate Boundaries.”

Many environmental and sustainability challenges require action well beyond the boundaries of a single company. Climate change forms the most prominent example, where a single company can take proactive action, but would not be able “to solve” the problem(s) alone.

The same applies for a multitude of other problems/opportunities; therefore, more broadly it is clear that a key element of sustainability management is that many of the problems, challenges and opportunities arise beyond the boundaries of the single organisation. This is mirrored in the range of related concepts for inter-organisational sustainability management, which have been established or which are currently evolving. These include, but are not limited to, industrial ecology, sustainable supply chain management, life-cycle management, ‘end-of-life management of used products, remanufacturing of used products, corporate social responsibility, sustainability accounting, extended producer responsibility and integrated product policy.

Corporate responses to these pressures from various external groups are typically reactive in nature. However, encouragingly, increasing numbers of examples have been documented in which organizations and related stakeholders have introduced green and socially responsible products to the market or have taken other forms of proactive actions. The leaders of some of these organizations are convinced that these diverse issues must be addressed in order for them to remain competitive in an increasingly aware world with global markets. Both types of responses, the **reactive** and the **proactive** ones, are extremes on a continuum. Within this continuum a wide range of actions taken by companies aiming for sustainable supply chains are being or could be implemented.

We invite empirically based as well as multidisciplinary contributions that include, but are not limited to documents, which:

- provide systematic reviews of certain lines of conceptual and theoretical development regarding sustainability management beyond organisational boundaries. Such contributions are welcome, in particular, if they provide an in-depth comparison of similarities and differences among different concepts and provide integrative syntheses and recommendations of ways to go forward in the area of their literature review;
- report on empirical research results based upon surveys, expert studies or case studies of companies’ and other stakeholders’ initiatives that are designed to enhance integrate sustainability aspects into sustainability management;

- address concepts and cases on the integration of particularly relevant sustainability management initiatives. These topics might cover environmental and/or social issues only, but we prefer documents that address all three dimensions of sustainability;
- wrestle with and evaluate the philosophical, procedural, managerial, ethical, ecological and economic dimensions of companies and other organisations working within the context of the TBL of Sustainability, within & beyond the boundaries of their organisations;
- report on case studies on how actors improve the sustainability performance of products and services by collaboration with suppliers, customers or other stakeholders.
- address the significant influences of cultural and global aspects in the context of sustainability and supply chain management;
- report on successes and failures in integration of Corporate Social Responsibility and supply chain management;
- report on advances in and experiences with analytical and simulation models that support decision-making in this area; furthermore, we even more strongly encourage submission of reports on *actual applications* of such.

In all documents submitted for this special issue, which are based upon empirical research, must include a clear and rigorous description of the research process that was used.

As other forms of contributions to the special issue, the following forms would be welcome:

- a) Notes from the field,
- b) Letters to the Editors,
- c) Editorials,
- d) Reports on Governmental Policy Initiatives in this area,
- e) Updates on experiences with the integration of GRI/ISO 26000 and
- f) other elements in this trans-organizational focus.
- g) Book Reviews on relevant books or software or educational and training modules.

## 2. Schedule

Contributors for this special issue of JCLP will be asked to submit their complete papers of approximately 5000–8000 words in length by 31 August 2010.

The Elsevier online platform will be used for handling the review process. Hence, authors are asked to submit their papers via this platform ([www.ees.elsevier.com/jclepro/](http://www.ees.elsevier.com/jclepro/)). Please select Article Type "Sustain beyond boundaries" when submitting your paper.

Please note that since correspondence and submission of documents and reviews is completed electronically, there is no need to develop a HARD COPY of the documents. Also, please note that only materials that have not been published can be included within this special issue.

Upon receipt of the completed documents, a minimum of four independent reviewers will be selected to provide peer reviews for each document. Upon receipt and acceptance of the author's revised documents, all will be published in this special issue of the JCLP.

Please use manuscript guidelines under the “Instructions to Authors” in the *Journal of Cleaner Production* or visit <http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jclepro> and click on “A Guide for Authors”.

For further information, or to discuss ideas for contributions, please contact any of the corresponding Guest Editors:

Prof. Dr. Stefan Seuring  
Stefan Gold  
Matthias Freise

Please use [mana@uni-kassel.de](mailto:mana@uni-kassel.de) for all correspondence with the guest-editorial team!

You may also confer with the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Cleaner Production, Professor Dr. Donald Huisingh, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, USA. E-mail: [dhuising@utk.edu](mailto:dhuising@utk.edu).