

Call for Papers

The *M&SOM* Special Issue on the Environment

Co-Editors

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The objectives for this special issue are: (i) to publish innovative papers on environmental issues (broadly defined) in operations management (OM) and (ii) to help set the research agenda for this emerging area by expanding the horizons of and catalyzing innovative research by the OM community. Possible sample topics include:

- Analysis of novel operational problems faced by organizations that develop or adopt new products or services in areas such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, green chemicals, organic agriculture, sustainable mobility, or green building;
- Adaptation of supply chain design and operations to scarcity of fresh water, seaport disruption, and other manifestations of climate change;
- Integration of environmental impact measurement into the optimal design and operation of manufacturing and service systems.

The co-editors aim to publish a set of relevant, interdisciplinary, and rigorous papers that collectively have substantial implications for policy, practice, and future research both inside and outside the OM community. Consequently, papers in the special issue will ideally satisfy a number of the following criteria:

- **Well-grounded in reality** (e.g., a model-based paper might include concrete numerical examples from practice, or the work may be empirical or data driven);
- **High-impact** (likely to change the practice of OM or environmental policy);
- **Illustrative of novel trade-offs and decisions for operations managers** (likely to generate research by others);
- **Multidisciplinary** (which will likely involve having co-authors from environmental disciplines, using methods that are unusual in the OM literature, or writing an excellent review of related literature in multiple disciplines).

The co-editors view this special issue as an opportunity to publish work on little or unstudied topics at the intersection of OM and other disciplines such as environmental policy, science, or engineering. Papers that are in well-established areas of sustainable operations or that reinterpret a parameter of a familiar OM model as “environmental” are not automatically good candidates for this special issue but are welcome if they meet the criteria given above.

Timeline and Process

The co-editors strongly encourage prospective authors to email a letter of intent to MSOMEnvironment@gsb.stanford.edu (with a maximum length of 2 pages) by **October 15, 2010**, which outlines the proposed research and explains how it addresses the criteria set forth in the call for papers. The co-editors will review those letters for fit and possibly redirect some authors to other outlets. They may, if warranted, offer suggestions to authors that will help them improve the fit of their work with the objectives of the special issue. Having the letters of intent will help the co-editors begin to identify and recruit appropriate reviewers from the environmental as well as the OM communities.

Submissions for the special issue will be accepted between April 1, 2011 and an absolute deadline of October 15, 2011. Submitted papers should follow the *M&SOM* formatting and length requirements. Papers that are directed to the full review process will ideally be reviewed by a team that includes a researcher from outside the mainstream OM community. The review process will follow the usual *M&SOM* guidelines, and authors will be strongly encouraged to revise and resubmit their papers within 3 months.

The target time frame for publication of the special issue is **Spring 2013**.