Call for Papers:

**Achieving Absolute Reductions in material throughput and energy use in society**

*Special Volume of the Journal of Cleaner Production*

Climate change, environmental pollution, exhaustion of raw materials, and ecosystem deterioration are some of the ecological challenges facing humanity. In addition, poverty and inequity are persisting problems, enhanced by population growth; challenging sustainable development. A deep change in the way we produce and consume is necessary; which would include changes in the economic system and in culture and lifestyles.

A critical challenge for humanity is thus to bring society’s consumption of materials and energy, and its generation of wastes, to within ecological limits and to do this quickly enough to avoid serious irreversible damage to the planet’s life-supporting systems. For most of the natural resources used in modern society this means that the current level of global consumption needs to be reduced, for some resources quite drastically. This special volume asks a deceivingly simple question: How can a significant reduction in material throughput be achieved – to a ‘one-planet’ level and within a timeframe that avoids serious harm?

Mainstream discussions among experts and policy makers on how to address humanity’s overconsumption of the Earth’s resources tend to focus on technical solutions and enhanced efficiency. However, it is becoming increasingly clear that technological advances and efficiency improvements are insufficient for dealing with the challenges we are currently facing. There is growing understanding that overreliance on technological progress and efficiency can further deepen our ecological predicament by postponing more fundamental systemic changes and perpetuating a social and economic order that is fundamentally flawed.

The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, the Global Research Forum for Sustainable Production and Consumption, the World Resources Forum, and the
Wuppertal Institute are running an exploratory project on REDUCTIONS – “Reducing Environmental Degradation & Unsustainable Consumption Trends & Impacts On Nature & Society: Research, Policy and Practice”. The project aims to identify, describe and analyze approaches to reduction in material throughput and energy use in production-consumption systems. It further aims to demonstrate reduction possibilities and highlight effective characteristics and implementation mechanisms of reduction policies and practices. With this CfPs, the REDUCTIONS consortium wishes to engage with other researchers who share an interest in exploring approaches to global downscaling of anthropogenic material throughput.

Papers submitted in response to this CfPs will be used for two publication types:

- a Special Volume of the Journal of Cleaner Production
- a policy report and synthesis, identifying key approaches to reductions, current knowledge, and knowledge gaps

The special volume invites contributions that go beyond the dominant discourse on resource scarcity by exploring approaches and pathways to reduced global material throughput. Papers for consideration can be of various kinds: analytical literature reviews, conceptual discussions, analyses of specific initiatives/cases, secondary analyses of existing case studies with demonstrable reductions, and modeling results. Potential topics include, but are not limited to the following:

- Cases where reductions seem to be happening – either on the production side (e.g. through resource capping, lightweight design, or servicizing) or on the consumption side (e.g. through sustainable lifestyles, downshifting, mindful consumption, collaborative consumption)
- Political and economic implications of radical reductions concepts, such as “stranded assets” (non-use of environmentally harmful natural resources)
- Substitutability of rare or harmful resources
- Anticipating and addressing rebound effects and unintended consequences in implementing reductions
- Approaches to a systemic shift to global dematerialisation – drivers and challenges
• Options for developing countries to achieve prosperity and wellbeing with lower levels of resource consumption (leap-frogging)
• Socio-economic effects of absolute reductions.
• Defining limits and boundaries of (resource and energy) consumption/per/capita?
• Measuring absolute reductions: developing indicators

Scientific Committee

• Arnold Tukker,
  Director of the Institute of Environmental Sciences,
  Leiden University
  P.O.Box 9518
  2300 RA Leiden
  The Netherlands
  Tukker@cml.leidenuniv.nl

• Raimund Bleischwitz
  BHP Billiton Chair in Sustainable Global Resources
  UCL Institute for Sustainable Resources
  Central House, 14 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0NN
  r.bleischwitz@ucl.ac.uk

• Satoshi Kojima
  Principal Researcher and Senior Coordinator
  Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
  2108-11 Kamiyamaguchi, Hayama
  Kanagawa 240-0115, JAPAN
  kojima@iges.or.jp

• Philip J. Vergragt
  Professor Emeritus of Technology Assessment
  Research Professor, Clark University
  Fellow, Tellus Institute
  11 Arlington Street, Boston MA 02116-3411 USA
  pvergragt@tellus.org
Managing Editors

- Magnus Bengtsson,
  Principal Policy Researcher
  Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
  2108-11 Kamiyamaguchi, Hayama
  Kanagawa 240-0115, JAPAN
  bengtsson@iges.or.jp

- Bas de Leeuw
  Managing Director, World Resources Forum
  Lerchenfeldstr. 5, CH-9014 St. Gallen, Switzerland,
  bas.deleeuw@worldresourcesforum.org

- Sylvia Lorek
  Sustainable Consumption Research, Chair
  SERI, Sustainable Europe Research Institute Germany e.V.
  Schwimmbadstr. 2e: 51491 Overath: Germany
  sylvia.lorek@seri.de

- Lewis Akenji
  Senior Policy Coordinator
  Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), JAPAN
  akenji@iges.or.jp

Readings:
Related literature can be found under: dematerialisation, sustainability transition, innovations, degrowth, absolute decouling, new economics, etc

Tentative schedule for this Special Volume:
Dec. 15, 2014  Publication of the CfP
Jan. 30, 2014  Submission of Abstracts (400-500 words)
Feb. 28, 2014  Response from Editors – Invitation to submit full papers
May 31st      Submission of full papers
July 31st      Peer review process– Feedback to authors
Oct. 30, 2014  Submission of revised papers
Dec. 15, 2014  Second round of reviews finished
Feb. 15, 2015  Final papers
March. 1, 2015  Publication of Special Volume

Submissions and inquiries:
Please send extended abstracts / by email (or address questions) to:
Lewis Akenji (akenji@iges.or.jp)

After authors have been invited to develop and submit their full papers, they should submit their papers to Elsevier’s EES system.

For detailed instructions and editorial guidelines access and follow the instructions for authors for the “Journal of Cleaner Production,” which can be accessed from the website:

Authors 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: donalduisingh@comcast.net  Tel: (+1) 865 692 4066  SKYPE name: huisinghdon