5th International Conference on Sustainable Chemical & Environmental Engineering

SUST ENG 2026

2nd - 5th September 2026

Rethymno, Greece

hybrid event

secretariat.susteng@tuc.gr

organizers

Design of Environmental Processes Lab

Technical University of Crete
School of Chemical and Environmental Engineering

Dear friends and colleagues,

I am pleased to invite you to the 5th **International Conference on Sustainable Chemical and Environmental Engineering (SUSTENG 2026)**, which will be held in **Rethymno, Greece**, between **2nd to 5th September 2026.**

The conference is organized by the "Design of Environmental Processes Laboratory", of the School of Chemical and Environmental Engineering, Technical University of Crete.

The SUSTENG 2026 Conference will take place both with **physical** and **virtual** presence.

The conference aims to encourage the exchange of knowledge between academicians, scientists and engineers on hot issues and current developments in chemical and environmental engineering through sustainable perspective. The participants will have the opportunity to present their recent research findings on an extended spectrum of conference topics and be informed about new challenges, future trends, and technological innovations on sustainable processes following the principles of circular economy.

After the completion of the conference, all abstracts/full papers will be published in the SUSTENG 2026 Conference Proceedings with ISBN number.

The conference Chair

Petros Gikas

Professor

Head of the "Design of Environmental Processes Lab"

School of Chemical and Environmental Engineering

Technical University of Crete, Greece

SESSIONS OF SUSTENG2026

Session 1: Wastewater treatment

Session 2: Circular economy

Session 3: Climate Change & Environmental Policy

Session 4: Environmental Remediation and Restoration

Session 5: Resource Recovery and Valorization

Session 6: Natural Resources and Energy Management

Session 7: Green Chemistry

Session 8: Anaerobic Digestion

Session 9: Modeling and Optimization

Session 10: Novel Materials and Processes

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Head of Organizing Committee:

Dr. Petros Gikas, Professor, Chemical Engineer, Director of the Design of Environmental Processes Laboratory, School of Chemical and Environmental Engineering, Technical University of Crete.

Members of Organizing Committee:

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SUSTENG2026
PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

DAY 1 – Wednesday 2 September 2026	
Youth Center (Welcome reception)	
Registration	19:30 - 19:45
Registration	19:45 - 20:00
Welcome reception	20:00 - 22:00
DAY 2 – Thursday 3 September 2026	
House of Culture (Conference venue)	
Welcome Speeches/Registration	9:30 - 9:45
Welcome speeches/Registration	9:45 - 10:00
Welcome speeches/Registration	10:00 - 10:15
PLENARY LECTURE: Prof. Muhammad Arslan Ashraf	10:15-11:00
Coffee break - Posters viewing	*11:00-11:15*
Session 1: Wastewater treatment	11:15-13:30
Lunch break	*13:30-15:00*
Session 2: Circular economy	15:00-16:00
Session 3: Climate Change and Environmental Policy	16:00-17:15
Session 4: Environmental Remediation and Restoration	17:15-18:15
Gala Dinner	20:00-23:00
DAY 3 – Friday 4 September 2026	
House of Culture (Conference venue)	
Session 5: Resource Recovery and Valorization	9:30-10:30
Session 6: Natural Resources and Energy Management	10:30-11:15
Coffee break - Posters viewing	*11:15-11:30*
Session 7: Green Chemistry	11:30-12:30
PLENARY LECTURE: Prof. Ruihong Zhang	12:30-13:15
Lunch break	*13:15-14:45*
Session 8: Anaerobic Digestion	14:45-16:00
Session 9: Modeling and Optimization	16:00-16:45
Session 10: Novel Materials and Processes	16:45-17:30
Closing ceremony	17:30-18:30
DAY 4 – Saturday 5 September 2026	
Conference Excursion	9:00-18:00

SUST ENG 2026

SUSTENG2026- PROGRAM

DAY 1 – Wednesday 2 September 2026	
Youth Center (Welcome reception)	
Registration	**19:30 – 20:00**
Welcome reception	**20:00 - 22:00**
DAY 2 – Thursday 3 September 2026	
House of Culture (Conference venue)	
Welcome Speeches/Registration	**9:30 -10:15**
Professor Muhammad Arslan Ashraf **Taurine: An emerging bio-stimulant for improving plant tolerance to environmental abiotic stresses** **Chair: P. Gikas, P. Melidis**	**10:15 - 11:00**
Coffee break - Posters viewing	***11:00-11:15***
Session 1: Wastewater treatment **Chair: P. Melidis, P.C. Sabumon**	**11:15-13:30**
Potato Peel Hydrochars for Carbamazepine Removal from Water: A Preliminary Investigation of Hydrothermal Carbonization Parameters J. Khong, B. Xiao and C. Mangwandi	11:15-11:30
Urban Wastewater Treatment with Anaerobic Membrane Bioreactors: Meeting EU Sustainability and Discharge Standards E. Politou, N. Remmas, S. Ntougias, and P. Melidis	11:30-11:45
Algal-Bacterial Systems: Dual Strategies for Nutrients Removal and Sludge Management R.P. Aishwariya, P.C. Sabumon	11:45-12:00
Removal of Rhodamine 6G and Iron (III) From Aqueous Solutions Using Negatively Charged Hydrogels P. Souliou, G. Bokias, V. Bekiari	12:00-12:15
Wastewater treatment in an edible oil refinery using dissolved air flotation and coagulation-flocculation D. K. Kovač, M. Kotris, S. Maričić Tarandek	12:15-12:30
Flocculent to Granular Sludge: Effect of Feast-Famine Regime role in Aerobic Granulation in a pilot scale Sequencing Batch Reactor M. Bency, P.C. Sabumon	12:30-12:45
Biochemical Methane Potential (BMP) Evaluation of Untreated Municipal Wastewater E. Politou, K.A. Karanasios, V. Karkania, A. Makri, S. Ntougias, P.Melidis	12:45-13:00
Quantifying Occupational Risk for Field Personnel in Hotel Water Systems: A Task Exposure Index Derived from Official Legionella Investigations A. Papadakis, E. Gika, E. Koufakis, P. Gikas	13:00-13:15
Full-Scale Circular Phosphorus Recovery from Wastewater via Controlled Struvite Crystallization K. Tsamoutsoglou, A. Anwar, W. Moerman	13:15-13:30
Lunch break	13:30-15:00

Session 2: Circular economy **Chair: E. Politou, V. Karmali**	**15:00-16:00**
From metrics to claim-safe labels: a low-burden framework for verifiable EV battery circularity claims B. Pacheco-Blanco, M. Arroyo-Vázquez, R. Viñoles-Cebolla	15:00-15:15
Influence of Thermal Pretreatment on Aerobic Co-Composting of Organic Waste G. Ragha Dharini, P. C. Sabumon, G. Anjali	15:15-15:30
Preserving Value in Spent Coffee Grounds: How Collection Timing Shapes Cascade Valorization Performance M. Tayouga, S. Yacout and M. Ouzineb	15:30-15:45
Large-scale valorization of ferronickel slag for the production of alkali-activated materials and eco-friendly concrete V. Karmali, D. Vathi, K. Komnitsas	15:45-16:00
Session 3: Climate Change and Environmental Policy **Chair: K. Tsamoutsoglou, E. Farmakis**	**16:00-17:15**
Citizen-Generated Activity Data for Urban CO_2e Metrics: A Scoping Review and Readiness Framework B. Pacheco-Blanco, M. Arroyo-Vázquez, V. Pérez-Belis	16:00-16:15
nZEB Shell at Glyfada: Life Cycle Cost Analysis, in terms of the Climate Resilience (2025-2050) and Short-Term Lease Economic Sustainability P. Kerpelis, T. Galanis	16:15-16:30
Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) as Nature-Based Solutions for Sustainable Development and Climate Resilience in Africa A. Assogbadjo	16:30-16:45
Cross-Country Assessment of Socio-Ecological Drivers of COVID-19 Dynamics in Africa: A Spatial Modelling Approach R. Glèlè Kakaï	16:45-17:00
Implementation and effectiveness of the Seveso III Directive in Greece for major accident prevention M. Chalkiadaki, A. Giannis	17:00-17:15
Session 4: Environmental Remediation and Restoration **Chair: J.C. Wasserman, T. Theodosiadis-Thomaidis**	**17:15-18:15**
High-definition nutrient gradient between sediment and water column in a hypersaline tropical lagoon R. de Oliveira Moreira, T. C. Soares de Mello Guimarães, J.C. Wasserman	17:15-17:30
Performance Evaluation of a Pilot-Scale Biofiltration System for Iron, Manganese, and Ammonium Removal from Groundwater: A Case Study at ASADA Maryland, Siquirres, Costa Rica A. Quesada-González, D.E. Esquivel-Fonseca, R. González-Rodríguez, L.G. Romero-Esquivel	17:30-17:45
Regime shifts in an eutrophicated tropical lagoon C. L. Trevisan, T. C. Soares de Mello Guimarães, M. de Carvalho Vicente, J. C. Wasserman	17:45-18:00
Beyond removal efficiency: a decision-oriented framework for evaluation biochar and biosurfactants for risk mitigation in contaminated soil under active use G. Beretta, A. Franzetti, I. Gandolfi, M. Puddu, F. Salotti, S. Saponaro, E. Sezenna, M. Di Basilio	18:00-18:15
Gala Dinner	**20:00-23:00**

DAY 3 – Friday 4 September 2026	
House of Culture (Conference venue)	
Session 5: Resource Recovery and Valorization **Chair: F. Ferella, R. Mariychuk**	**9:30-10:30**
Olive Pomace-Derived Activated Carbon as a Low-Cost Adsorbent for Pb(II) and Cu(II) Removal from Aqueous Solutions Saad A. Aljlil	9:30-9:45
The use of functionalized biopolymers in the selective recovery of rare earths from waste solutions D. Fila, Z. Hubicki, D. Kołodyńska	9:45-10:00
Synthesis and characterization of biochar sorbents modified with thickening agents for lanthanide removal S. Gustaw, J. Bąk, D. Kolodynska	10:00-10:15
Production of Potato Peel-Derived Activated Carbon under Different Pyrolysis Conditions for the Adsorption of Tetracycline from Aqueous Solutions J. Khong, B. Xiao, C. Mangwandi	10:15-10:30
Session 6: Natural Resources and Energy Management **Chair: M. Galetakis, Y. Mira**	**10:30-11:15**
Transforming post mining areas into innovative small and medium Pumped Hydroelectric Storage Systems M. Galetakis, F. Stathogianni, P. Moczko	10:30-10:45
Post-harvest losses and food waste occur differently according to food chains and countries: a review F. J. Chadare, F. T. K. Fassinou	10:45-11:00
Energy Flow Modeling Waste Heat Recovery Potential in a Tyre Vulcanization Press Y. Mira, M. Sorin	11:00-11:15
Coffee break - Posters viewing	***11:15-11:30***
Session 7: Green Chemistry **Chair: M. Haj Zaroubi, M. Smyk**	**11:30-12:30**
Valorization of Olive Mill Wastewater and Willow (Salix spp.) for the Development of Sun-Protective Formulations with Antioxidant Activity M. Haj Zaroubi, S. Ghadir, H. Azaizeh	11:30-11:45
Determination of testosterone in blood plasma samples using the transient matrix effect K.J. Siwek, M.P. Dybowski	11:45-12:00
Effect of Background Radionuclides Bioaccumulation on Polyphenolics Compounds in Vaccinium myrtillus L O. Sukhareva, R. Mariychuk, S. Sukharev	12:00-12:15
Application of positron annihilation lifetime spectroscopy in catalytic research M. Smyk	12:15-12:30
PLENARY LECTURE: Professor Ruihong Zhang **Transforming Food and Agricultural Waste into Bioenergy and Bioproducts** **Chair: P. Gikas, P. Melidis**	**12:30-13:15**
Lunch break	13:15-14:45
Session 8: Anaerobic Digestion **Chair: P. Pochwatka, J. Dach**	**14:45-16:00**

Assessment of the potential of waste biomass as a feedstock for biogas production in the closed-loop energy systems P. Pochwatka	14:45-15:00
Hydrolytic Bottlenecks: A Meta-Analysis of Physical and Chemical Barrier in Anaerobic Waste Conversion I. Vaskina, J. Dach, R. Vaskin	15:00-15:15
Recycling before recovery: dry reforming of methane using a reconditioned spent CO-oxidation catalyst A. Sinopoli, A. Abotaleb, N. Abounahia, F. Ferella	15:15-15:30
Magnetite-assisted salinity adaptation in benzoate-fed anaerobic digestion M. Song, S. Jung, M. Kim, S. Kang, C. Rhee, S. G. Shin, J. Lee	15:30-15:45
Improving Anaerobic Digestion Stability of Furfural Wastewater Using Magnetite nanoparticles S. Kang, J. Lee, J. Lee	15:45-16:00
Session 9: Modeling and Optimization **Chair: J. Mąkinia, A. Giannis**	**16:00-16:45**
Prediction and optimization of lactic acid recovery from food waste fermentation based on mechanistic and machine learning models E. Zaborowska, X. Xu, B. Szeląg , X. Li, W. Zhang, J. Mąkinia	16:00-16:15
Predicting methane production from chemically pretreated biomass using Artificial Neural Network P. Bachtalias, N.A. Diangelakis, A. Giannis	16:15-16:30
Modeling N_2O Emissions and Mitigation Strategies in Full-Scale Wastewater Treatment Plants E. Zaborowska, P. Szulc, Z. Dymaczewski, B. Chahkandi, J. Mąkinia	16:30-16:45
Session 10: Novel Materials and Processes **Chair: T. Theodosiadis-Thomaidis, E. Politou**	**16:45-17:30**
Synthesis of LDH@BC composites and their application for Ce(III) sorption: Effect of pH and contact time J. Bąk, D. Kołodyńska	16:45-17:00
Fast Fashion, Consumer Behavior and Textile Waste Management in Greece E. Chondrogianni , A. Zafeirakou, G. Pekroulidis	17:00-17:15
FLEXPRESS® Material-as-a-Service: An Innovative Fluid Thermal Expansion Damping Mechanism - From Materials Science to Digital Transformation T. Theodosiadis-Thomaidis, G. Panagopoulou, A. Aivazoglou, T. Matikas	17:15-17:30
Closing ceremony	**17:30-18:30**
DAY 4 – Saturday 5 September 2026	
Conference Excursion	**9:00-18:00**

Posters
House of Culture Conference venue
Reduction of Heavy Metals from Sewage Sludge Ash Disposal using Waste Material as Stabilizer D. Vamvuka, E. Iliopoulou, D. Pentari **Evaluation of Mass Loading Effects on Measurement Artifacts in Fine and Coarse Particulate Matter Fractions** D. Chyzhykov, K. Widziewicz-Rzońca, P. O. Czechowski **Biosorption of Methylene Blue dye by Walnut Shell Biomass** P. Haskis, C. Lykos, P. Mpeza, I. Pashalidis, M. Arkas, L. Symochko, I. Konstantinou, I. Anastopoulos **Biosorption of Eriochrome Black T from olive cake** P. Haskis, G. Valinos, K. Stamou, M. Arkas, P. Mpeza, I. Pashalidis, L. Symochko, I. Anastopoulos **Solubilization Pretreatment Severity Affects Thermophilic Anaerobic Digestion of Polyhydroxybutyrate in Sequencing Batch Reactor** T.T.T. Ngo, J. Lee **Sulfide Inhibition of Methanogenic Activities Depends on Microbiome of Anaerobic Digester Inocula** H. Jin, S. Jung, J. Lee **Environmental transformation of carbapenem antibiotics: implications for monitoring, treatment and antimicrobial resistance** A. Martínez i Quer, F. Krijom, A. Johansen, V. Kisielius **Methyl Red Degradation via an ABTS-Mediated System Using Laccase Immobilized on Polymeric Materials** A.R. Leonties, R. Toma, G. Stingă, A. Baran, L. Aricov **Sustainable removal of naphthol green B using activated fungal laccase** L. Aricov, R.-M. Toma, A. Raducan, M.E. Maxim, and A.R. Leontieș **Study of the removal of the organic contaminant propyl paraben from water using biochars as adsorbent materials** G.-A. Lekka, S. Voutsalas, P. Souliou, E. Grilla, A. Ioannidi, D. A. Chalkias, M. Papadaki, V. Bekiari **Processing of Grape Pomace for Methane Production** S. Griva, N. Charisiou, S.Gkaras, N. Kiratzis

Long-Term Quality Assessment of Compost-Like Output from a Full-Scale Mechanical–Biological Treatment Facility Using Multivariate Statistical Analysis
D. Gavrilescu, P.Apopei, R. Ciobanu, M.M. Enache-Cozma, M.E. Abalasei, C. Teodosiu

A Deep Learning Approach for the Automatic Detection of Packaging Waste in Natural Environments
M. Gavrilescu, D. Gavrilescu

Gordofactin: A robust microbial biosurfactant/bioemulsifier for sustainable industrial applications
S.M. Paixão, J. Tavares, T.P. Silva, L. Alves

Using the Air Pollution Tolerance Index in Mangroves Species as Indicators of Power Plants Emissions
E. López-López, J. E. Sedeño-Díaz

Water Quality Assessment in Qanats, a Multivariate Approach in Tehuacan Valley, Mexico
J. E. Sedeño-Díaz, E. López-López

Mangrove phenology: Its relationship to climatic conditions in a Ramsar site in the Mexican Pacific Ocean Coast
J. E. Sedeño-Díaz, E. López-López

Influence of polymer properties on microplastic removal using a natural mineral sorbent
M. Kida, S. Ziembowicz, P. Koszelnik

The Influence of UV-induced aging of microplastics on their removal efficiency from natural waters
S. Ziembowicz, M. Kida, J. Kalińska, K. Pilip, B. Kołodziej

Venue

Rethymno City map – SUSTENG 2026

Gala Dinner

On Day 2 of the SUSTENG 2026 Conference, Thursday, 3 September, the Gala Dinner will take place from 20:00 to 23:00 at "Zambia" Restaurant, Priskosoridi Street, Rethymno, offering participants the opportunity to enjoy authentic local cuisine.

EXCURSION

DAY 4 – Saturday 5 September 2026

Conference Excursion on DAY 4 – Saturday 5 September 2026 (Free of charge for conference participants).

During the excursion we are going to:

- **Visit the historical Monastery of Preveli and the relative Museum, at the southern coast of Rethymno.**
- **Cross the Kourtaliotis Gorge**
- **Visit the "Zoumberakis Winery" in Kali Sykia village**
- **Lunch in a country tavern (lunch is included in conference fee)**
- **Visit the Olive Press Museum in Armenoi village**

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