Book Review

Applying Nanotechnology for Environmental Sustainability

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Applying Nanotechnology for Environmental Sustainability
Sung Hee Joo
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Applying Nanotechnology for Environmental Sustainability is the latest entry in IGI Global's series on Advances in Environmental and Green Technologies. The aim of the series is to use advances in technology as a conduit for positive change to promote sustainable green initiatives.

Nanomaterials have emerged as a key ingredient in consumer products, textile production, and biomedicine. These materials, while widely embraced by industry as an efficient and cost-effective material for use as a material component, have not been appropriately vetted for safety, toxicity, transportation, and removal concerns. To ensure that the materials are being handled safely, it is important that the materials are properly vetted and researched through a uniquely environmental, rather than a for-profit, lens. This unique worldview to exploring an emerging field is one that is explored in the book, and is profoundly useful for two reasons: the research explored in the book is exemplary, and the research represents a precious small amount of scholarly research on an important topic.

The book numbers over 550 pages, and is broken down into 17 chapters. The chapters, written by scholars in the field, include entries from the basic ("What is Nanotechnology?") entries to the more complex "Assessment of Advanced Biological Solid Waste Treatment Technologies for Sustainability."

There is no doubt that this book is written at a high level and requires a certain amount of complex understanding to tackle. It goes without saying that this work is not light reading; however, its target audience is not the individual seeking light reading. The book may most properly be viewed as a response to a problem: nanotechnologies

are an emerging and underexplored area of study, especially as it relates to their impact on our environment. While nanotechnologies may represent an exciting advancement for both industry and end consumers, they must be explored through an environmental lens to ensure that the environment is protected and properly preserved. This book begins to start that conversation, and should be viewed as a welcome addition to communal learning and knowledge. This book is recommended for academic libraries.