

Meet Prof. J. C. (Chris) Slootweg, Our Editor-in-Chief at Sustainability & Circularity NOW (#SusCircNOW)!



Prof. Slootweg is the first Editor-in-Chief of Sustainability & Circularity NOW. His research at the University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands) focuses on state-of-the-art synthetic chemistry, mechanistic design and computational chemistry to enable the discovery of novel sustainable chemistry by developing novel functional molecules with unique properties based on renewable resources.

Prof. Slootweg obtained his PhD in Chemistry in 2005 under Prof. Koop Lammertsma. Following his PhD, he pursued postdoctoral studies at the ETH Zurich with Peter Chen. In 2006, he started his independent scientific career in 2006 at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 2014 and moved to the University of Amsterdam in 2016.

SusCircNOW: Why are you passionate about the topic of sustainability and circularity?

Prof. Slootweg: With the new journal Sustainability and Circularity NOW, we have the opportunity to contribute to the timely development of a sustainable and circular society. In the past 25 years, academia as well as industry have applied the principles of green chemistry to design chemical products and processes that minimize or even eliminate the use of hazardous substances and waste. But there is still a lot of work to do. For example, Earth Overshoot Day, the day when humanity's yearly demand on Nature exceeds the Earth's biocapacity, happened this year for the Netherlands already on April 12. To improve that, we need a strong focus on circularity. Having a new platform that highlights the design and discovery of durable, reusable, recyclable products is therefore of key importance.

SusCircNOW: What should be the role of publishers over the next 10 years?

Prof. Slootweg: To make high-quality research data and publications OA (= open access) for all.

SusCircNOW: What advice would you give to young chemists about how to handle stress and pressure during their PhD?

Prof. Slootweg: A PhD is a wonderful adventure where you can explore, discover and learn in a protective environment. Focus on the things that bring joy, excitement and energy. The opportunity to discover something new, and the opportunity to share your newly generated knowledge with peers is truly rewarding.

SusCircNOW: Given the chance you meet any chemist (living or dead), who would it be and what would you ask him or her?

Prof. Slootweg: I would love to interact with Alexander von Humboldt, Johannes van der Waals, and Jacobus van 't Hoff and discuss the role of the natural sciences in providing solutions to our current global waste issues.

SusCircNOW: As Editor in Chief of SusCircNOW, you certainly have a vision for the journal, could you share it, please?

Prof. Slootweg: With its key and unique focus on circularity, Sustainability and Circularity NOW offers a timely platform for truly sustainable solutions.

SusCircNOW: As Editor in Chief, what are your recommendations to those who want to publish their results (in Sustainability & Circularity NOW, of course 😊)?

Prof. Slootweg: I would definitely encourage all researchers in the natural sciences to investigate the planetary boundaries concept closely, and develop solutions, ideally from a systems perspective, for the multitude of global waste issues that we face.

SusCircNOW: What do you do in your free time?

Prof. Slootweg: Spending time with my family, CrossFit, hiking, photography, and hunting for minerals.

Prof. J. C. (Chris) Slootweg

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