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Production of biofuels and biobased compounds in urban biorefineries

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“Urban biorefining” is an original concept aiming at using urban wastes (household wastes, municipal wastes, industrial liquid and or solid residues and side-products etc) mainly of vegetal origin for the production of an array of biofuels and bio-products. This “urban bio-refining” concept fits particularly with the economic, geographic and politic contexts and constraints of the Walloon Region (south part of Belgium). Indeed, Walloon Region is a very small territory (area of about 6,504 sq mi) with a temperate climate. Supply feedstock mainly arising from forestry and agriculture are thus rather restricted, submitted to importation and subjected to non-standardized quality. Several examples of our regional strategy still available on an industrial scale are herein proposed and detailed.

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Climate changes and its effects on the Arab area

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Climate change is a phenomenon of concern not only to countries in the Arab World but also to all countries all over the world, though the Arab region is at a disadvantage due to its predisposition to harsh climatic conditions. The energy sector is the main contributor to climate change which in turn results in changes in water quality and quantity, sea level, human health, food production, tourism and security. Arab World countries have attempted to adapt to or mitigate the effects of climate change but there are numerous challenges that they must overcome in order to keep up with these changes. Some mitigation factors in the industrial sector and building sector mainly those in search of substitute fuels to oil are far-reaching if the countries can cooperate in their efforts. Since the area has resources to implement comprehensive changes, it is recommended that stakeholders work together in order to achieve synchrony in their efforts.

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