

# Tribology meets sustainability

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### Abstract

**Purpose** - This paper aims to present a comprehensive perspective on how tribology and sustainability are related and intertwined and are linked to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. This paper emphasizes on how tribological aspects affect everybody's life and how tribological research and progress can improve energy efficiency, sustainability and quality of life.

**Design/methodology/approach** - Based upon available data and predictions for the next 50 years, the potential of tribological research and development is addressed.

**Findings** - The effects of tribological design can significantly increase energy savings and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Taking advantage of tribological technologies and applying them to current infrastructure would have the largest energy savings coming from the transportation and power generation at 25% and 20%, respectively. Implementing these technologies can also cut down global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by about 1,460 megatons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year in the immediate future and 3,140 megatons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year in the long term. The extraction and processing of resources inevitably generates CO<sub>2</sub>. Doubling the lifetime of machine components and the use of circular economy reduces the material footprint with associated reductions in CO<sub>2</sub>.

**Originality/value** - This perspective summarizes concisely the interrelation of tribology and sustainability with CO<sub>2</sub>.

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**Palabras clave de autor:** [Sustainability](#); [Tribology](#); [CO<sub>2</sub> emissions](#); [Energy consumption](#); [Renewable energy](#); [Friction reduction](#); [Material footprint](#); [Wear protection](#)

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