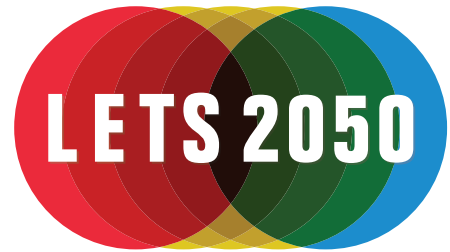


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Abstract

Themes and challenges in making supply chains environmentally sustainable

- A systemic literature review

The purpose of this study is to explore themes and challenges in making supply chains environmentally sustainable.

The study began with a systematic review and content analysis of articles in top-ranking related journals from logistics, transport, sustainability and environmental areas and ended with research propositions contributing to the further advancement of supply chain management.

Our findings illustrate the major themes being published in 18 journals on sustainable supply chains with special focus on environmental issues. Out of the systematic review five major areas of challenges for supply chain management are found: cost, complexity, operationalisation, mindset and culture changes, and uncertainty. From all of these areas synthesising discussions are provided and research propositions suggested. It is concluded that there is great need for models and frameworks that consider the complexity involved, take holistic perspectives, and challenges the basic assumptions underlying most of the research published (i.e. reductionism, positivism and economic growth).

Identification, classification and analysis of the current themes and challenges of environmental sustainability of logistics are new. This study also presents a thorough summary of previous approaches to, and studies of sustainable supply chains.

The results offered in this study provide a systematic structure for classifying issues related to logistics sustainability; something which will be beneficial for managers and policy-makers when they approach sustainable supply chain management challenges.

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