Ceramics: Consumer of Energy and Enabler of New Energy Technologies

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Abstract

Ceramics and fire (energy) are almost synonymous. The ceramic manufacturing sector is indeed energy intensive. The global commitment of achieving net zero emission by 2050 is driving worldwide efforts to transform the energy scenario – its production, use and management. The response of the ceramic sector to this transformation can be discussed from two perspectives: 1) ceramic manufacturing industry as consumer of energy, 2) ceramic products and component as enablers of new generation of efficient, green and renewable energy technologies. Ceramic manufacturing industry across the globe are making efforts to address the energy issues in different ways which can be grouped into 1) improving energy efficiency, 2) using alternative energy, 3) implementing process/materials innovation to reduce energy consumption. In parallel, advanced ceramic components and ceramic based devices are proving crucial to the emergence of new energy technologies in different areas, such as, alternative energy production (solar, wind power etc.); energy storage (battery, supercapacitors etc.); energy harvesting; as well as in conventional energy industry for improved energy efficiency. This presentation provides a brief overview of the response and contributions of the ceramic industry world-wide to the energy issues. The presentation will also touch upon Bangladesh scenario towards the end. This talk is intended to provide a backdrop for the subsequent panel discussion by industry experts.



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