



## INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ADVANCES IN CLEANER PRODUCTION

"KEY ELEMENTS FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD: ENERGY, WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE"

### Evolution of Industrial Environmental Approaches

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#### Abstract

The industrial sector has begun, in the 21st century, to rethink and redesign its production processes aiming to minimize natural resources depletion, to foster the use of environmental friendly materials, to research the impact related to the products throughout their life cycle, and to recognize the interdependence between environment and industrial systems in order to change from processes based on unidirectional flows of energy and materials into closed-loops systems. During this period, a number of instruments were developed to fulfill the industry needs. For that reason, this study analyzes the evolution of environmental approaches in the industrial scenario in order to discuss the instruments used to achieve the environmental sustainability of business.

*Keywords: Environmental approaches. Corporate environmental sustainability; Environmental management tools; Industrial Ecology.*

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