

Be Greener by Using Hazardous Reactions

Dr. Markus Blocher

CEO and Chairman, Dottikon Exclusive Synthesis, Switzerland

It is common practice to base green chemistry on a set of principles. The claim is that when such principles are used in the design, development and implementation of chemical products and processes, they enable scientists to protect and benefit the economy, people and the planet. One of the principles is "less hazardous synthesis".

The promoted antithesis is that green chemistry is not about principles; it is about balanced interests within the social, environmental, and economic spheres. If the regulatory framework sets the right incentives regarding the conflicts of interest between those spheres, cost improvement as the only driver will lead to green chemistry. The antithesis will be supported, next to other examples, by the notion that the use of hazardous reactions might indeed lead to greener chemistry.