

Companion Metal Recyclability, Loss, and Human Toxicity

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Companion metals are those in which a metal is largely or entirely recovered from geologic ores as a by-product of one or more host metals. In a number of cases the companion metals are not recycled, but are lost to the environment. The human toxicities and global warming potentials of the companion metals are generally higher than those of the widely-used host metals. This presentation selects a sample of companion metals and illustrates and discusses their “companionality”, recyclability, loss to the environment, and human and ecosystem implications.