

“Green” Vocabulary

bio- (prefix) means “to live” or “of living things.”

biodegradable (adjective) waste is usually from a plant or animal source and may be broken down by other living organisms.

bioregionalism (noun) is sometimes called “living in place.” Bioregionalism means you are aware of the ecology, economy and culture of the place where you live, and are committed to making choices that enhance them.

biosphere (noun) is all parts of Earth in which organisms can live.

CFL – compact fluorescent lamp (noun) designed to replace incandescent lamps because they generally use less power and have a longer life.

conservation (noun) means to use a resource such as air, water, land, animals, and other natural resources carefully, allowing them to last longer and remain in good condition.

eco- (prefix) means environment or habitat.

ecology (noun) is the study of how living things interact with one another and with their environment.

ecosystem (noun) is all the living and non-living things in an area and their interactions with one another.

environment (noun) is all the living and non-living things that surround an organism where it lives.

environmentally friendly (**eco-friendly** and **nature-friendly**) are synonyms used to refer to goods and services considered to inflict minimal or no harm on the environment.

hydro- (prefix) means water (H₂O) or containing hydrogen.

hydroelectricity (noun) is electricity generated by hydropower, i.e., the production of power through use of the gravitational force of falling or flowing water.

natural resource (noun) is a material found in nature that is valuable to humans. Examples are water, wood, and coal.

non-renewable resource (noun) A non-renewable resource is a natural resource that exists in a fixed amount that cannot be re-made, re-grown or re-generated as fast as it is consumed or used up. Coal, oil, and natural gas are examples of non-renewable resources.

organic matter or **organic material** (noun) is matter that has come from a once-living organism.

photo- (prefix) means light

photovoltaics (PV) (noun) is the field of technology and research related to the application of solar cells for energy.

re- (prefix) means again.

recycling (noun) is the process of taking a product at the end of its useful life and using all or part of it to make another product.

renewable resource (noun) Renewable resources are sometimes living resources, (trees and soil, for example), which can restock (renew) themselves if used thoughtfully and not over-harvested. There are also non-living resources that are renewable, such as water power, solar power, and wind power.

retrofit (noun) refers to the addition of new technology or features to older systems.
retrofitting (verb)

solar energy (noun) is energy from the sun.

sustainability (noun) can be defined as the ability of an ecosystem to maintain ecological processes, functions, biodiversity and productivity into the future.

wind power (noun) is the conversion of wind energy into a useful form, such as electricity, using wind turbines.



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