

Glossary on Sustainability terms

Active Transport: Moving from one place to another by walking, cycling, running, skateboarding, or scooting.

Air Pollution: When the air gets dirty because of things like chemicals or smoke. This can affect the weather and nature.

Biodegradable: Things that can break down and go back into the Earth. It's good if no harmful stuff is left behind.

Biodiversity: Lots of different plants and animals living together.

Biomass / Biogas: Stuff from nature, like plants or waste, that can be turned into electricity or fuel. It's renewable and doesn't harm the environment much.

Blue Economy: Doing business and making money in a way that's good for the oceans and coasts.

Business Resilience: A business's ability to change and do well, even when things around it are changing.

Business Transformation: Making big and important changes to how a business works, not just small ones.

Carbon Credit: A special certificate that lets a company in a pollution trading system release a certain amount of pollution. It's like permission.

Carbon Dioxide (CO₂): A gas that we can't see or smell. It's natural but can be bad when too much is released, usually from burning things or cutting down trees.

Carbon Emissions: It's another definition for greenhouse gases that is the stuff we put in the air that can make the planet warmer.

Carbon Footprint: How much of the warming stuff an activity or group makes.

Carbon Neutral: Balancing the warming stuff with things that help, like planting trees.

Carbon Offsetting: Doing things that make up for the warming stuff, like buying special credits.

Carbon Positive: Doing things that help more than harm, like planting lots of trees.

Carbon Sequestration: Capturing and keeping the warming stuff, like when we plant trees.

Circular Economy: Making sure nothing is wasted, and everything is used or recycled.

Climate: How the weather is on average in one place over a long time.

Climate Action: Doing things to stop the planet from getting too warm.

Climate Change: A long-term shift in global weather patterns or average temperatures. Rising temperatures can lead to extreme weather such as droughts, sea level rises and retreating glaciers.

Collective Impact: Everyone working together to make big changes.

Compostable: Things that can break down and help plants grow.

Conscious Consumerism: Buying products and services that are produced responsibly.

Conscious Capitalism: Doing business that helps people and the Earth.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR): Companies doing good things for the world.

Crowdfunding: Many people giving small amounts of money to support something.

Decarbonisation: Getting rid of or reducing the warming stuff people make.

Eco-friendly: Things that are kind to the Earth and don't harm it.

Electric Vehicle: A car that runs on electricity, like a battery-powered car.

Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS): Making businesses pay for the warming stuff they make.

E-waste: Old electronic things like phones or computers that we throw away.

Environmental Management Systems: Ways for companies to reduce how much they harm the environment.

Environment, Social, Governance (ESG): Checking how companies act in terms of the environment, society, and how they are managed.

Ethical Investment: Investing in things that are good and not harmful.

Fair Trade: Trading things in a way that's fair to everyone involved.

Fast Fashion: Making and selling cheap clothes really quickly, but it can lead to too much buying, low-quality clothes, and lots of waste.

Fossil Fuels: Stuff like coal and oil from the ground that we burn to make energy.

Global Surface Temperature: How hot or cold the Earth is on average. It's gone up because of things people do, like burning fossil fuels.

Global Warming: When the Earth gets hotter because of things like burning fossil fuels.

Greenhouse Effect: Gases in the air that trap heat, like a warm blanket around the Earth.

Greenhouse Gases: Gases in the air that can make the Earth warmer, like carbon dioxide.

Hybrid Vehicle: A car that uses both a regular engine and special brakes to save energy.

Kyoto Protocol: An agreement between many countries to reduce the gases that make the Earth warmer.

Life Cycle Assessment (LCA): Checking how something, like a product, affects the environment from start to finish.

Nature-based Solutions: Ideas that learn from and help nature, giving benefits to the environment, society, and more.

Natural Capital: Earth's 'assets,' like soil, air, water, and all living things.

Net-zero: Trying to make all the bad stuff we put in the air equal to the good stuff we take out.

Paris Agreement: A promise between many countries to stop the Earth from getting too warm.

Recycling: Using old things to make new things instead of throwing them away.

Recyclable: Something that can be collected and used to make new things.

Regeneration: Helping nature get better by supporting natural processes.

Renewable Energy: Energy from things that never run out, like wind or sunlight.

Sustainability: Balancing what's good for people, money, and the Earth to last a long time.

Sustainable Business: A business that's fair, responsible, and thinks about the environment.

Sustainable Consumption: Using things in a way that doesn't hurt the Earth, society, or the economy.

Sustainable Design: Making things with the Earth in mind, so they're not bad for it.

Sustainable Development: Making progress without hurting the chances for the next generation.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): A collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. They were adopted by the UN in 2015.

Sustainable Packaging: Packaging made and used in a way that doesn't hurt the environment.

Sustainable Fashion: Making, using, and getting rid of clothes in a way that's good for the Earth and people.

Waste Stream: The whole process of how certain types of waste move from places to recovery or disposal.

Zero Carbon: Something that doesn't make any greenhouse gases while being made or used.

Zero Waste: Trying not to throw anything away by recycling or reusing everything.