



Glossary of Terms

Air

A mixture of gases found in the atmosphere around the earth that is comprised of oxygen, nitrogen, hydrogen, carbon dioxide and other trace gases.

Biodegradable

Products that are capable of being broken down into harmless products by microorganisms as well as other living things.

Compost

The fertilizing mixture of decomposed organic material.

Environment

The conditions that surround one; surroundings.

Environmental Scientist

A scientist who studies the environment and works to protect it.

Hazardous Waste

Any type of waste that is or can be harmful to the environment or to humans.

Idling

To run at low power.

Landfill

A specially engineered site where waste is buried.

Natural Resources

Materials supplied by nature that are useful or necessary for life, such as minerals, water, and wood.

Non-point source pollution

An unconfined, usually broad, discharge or emission; Examples would be runoff from agricultural fields and streets and air deposition of chemicals.

Nonrenewable resources

Resources that do not replenish themselves soon after being used.

Point-source pollution

An identifiable and confined discharge or emission point for one or more pollutants

Pollutant

A waste material that contaminates air, soil, or water.



Raw Material

Processed material that can be converted by manufacture, processing, or combination into a new and useful product.

Recycle

To reuse or remanufacture a material into products after the material has served its original purpose.

Renewable Resources

Resources that replenish themselves naturally or can be created.

Solid Waste

Garbage, construction debris, commercial refuse, and other discarded materials, that are not hazardous.

Solid Waste Reduction

The practice of reducing the amount of solid waste in residential, municipal, and industrial settings.

Transportation

An act, process, or instance of transporting.

Vermicompost

The cultivation of worms for use in composting.

Waste Stream

The waste material (trash) from a community.

Water Cycle

The continuous movement of water from ocean to air and land then back to the ocean in a cyclic pattern.

