

## SUSTAINABILITY GLOSSARY

Sustainable practices	
biodegradable	capable of being broken down naturally into harmless substances by microorganisms, such as bacteria or fungi, and thereby reducing environmental impact
climate-smart (agriculture)	(agricultural) practices designed to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change, emphasizing sustainability, resilience, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions
compostable	materials that can be decomposed through composting, a process that turns organic waste into nutrient-rich soil, without leaving any toxic residues
eco-friendly	products or practices that are environmentally friendly and have minimal negative impact on the environment
endangered	refers to species at risk of extinction in the near future, often due to factors like habitat loss, pollution, or over-exploitation
energy-efficient	describes technologies, systems, or processes that use less energy to perform a particular function, contributing to conservation and sustainability
free range (hens)	describes a farming practice where hens have access to outdoor spaces and are not confined to cages, allowing for more natural behaviors
organic	relates to agricultural products produced without the use of synthetic pesticides, fertilizers, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), or irradiation, promoting ecological balance and sustainability
recyclable	materials or products that can be collected, processed, and used as raw materials in the production of new goods, reducing waste and conserving resources
single-use (item)	products or items designed for one-time use, typically disposed of after use, contributing to issues of waste and environmental pollution
viable	capable of being successful and sustainable, often used in the context of solutions, technologies, or practices that can endure and thrive over time

Environmental challenges	
acidification	the process by which a substance becomes more acidic, often referring to the increased acidity of water bodies due to factors such as air pollution or industrial discharges
biodiversity	the variety of life on Earth, including the diversity of species, ecosystems, and genetic variations within species
conservation	the sustainable management and protection of natural resources, ecosystems, and biodiversity to prevent depletion or degradation
deforestation	the clearing or removal of forests, often for agricultural purposes or urban development, leading to the loss of biodiversity and environmental disruption
desertification	the process by which fertile land becomes increasingly arid and unproductive, often due to factors such as climate change, overgrazing, or poor agricultural practices
drought	a prolonged period of abnormally low precipitation, leading to water shortages and environmental stress
eutrophication	the excessive enrichment of water bodies with nutrients, often from agricultural runoff or wastewater, leading to increased growth of algae and other plants, which can harm aquatic ecosystems
extinction	the complete disappearance of a species, occurring when there are no surviving individuals
fertilizer	substances added to soil or plants to enhance growth and productivity by providing essential nutrients
land degradation	the deterioration of land quality, often caused by factors such as deforestation, overgrazing, or inappropriate agricultural practices
natural disaster	a sudden and severe event resulting from natural processes of the Earth, such as earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, or wildfires
nutrition	the process by which living organisms take in and utilize nutrients for growth, development, and maintenance
pesticide	chemical substances used to control or eliminate pests, such as insects, weeds, or fungi, in agriculture or public health

pollution, contamination	the introduction of harmful substances or contaminants into the environment, causing adverse effects on ecosystems, human health, or the quality of air, water, or soil
rewilding	the restoration of natural ecosystems by reintroducing native species and allowing natural processes to occur, promoting ecological balance
wildfire, forest fire	uncontrolled fires that spread rapidly through vegetation, typically occurring in forests or grasslands.
<b>Carbon management</b>	
carbon credit	a tradable certificate representing the reduction or removal of one metric ton of carbon dioxide or its equivalent, often used to offset carbon emissions
carbon emissions	the release of carbon compounds, primarily carbon dioxide, into the atmosphere, contributing to the greenhouse effect and climate change
carbon footprint	the total amount of greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide, that is directly or indirectly associated with an individual, organization, event, or product over its life cycle
carbon neutral	achieving a balance between the amount of greenhouse gases emitted and the amount removed or offset, resulting in a net-zero carbon footprint
carbon offsetting	the practice of compensating for carbon emissions by investing in projects that reduce or capture an equivalent amount of greenhouse gases, such as reforestation or renewable energy initiatives
carbon sink	a natural or artificial reservoir that absorbs and stores more carbon than it releases, helping to mitigate the effects of carbon emissions.
emissions trading scheme (ETS)	a market-based approach to control carbon emissions, allowing entities to buy and sell emission allowances to achieve overall reduction targets
fossil fuels	carbon-rich energy sources derived from the remains of ancient plants and animals, such as coal, oil, and natural gas.
greenhouse effect	the trapping of heat in the Earth's atmosphere by certain gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, leading to a warming of the planet

greenhouse gases	gases in the Earth's atmosphere, such as carbon dioxide, methane, and water vapor, that trap heat and contribute to the greenhouse effect
high emitter	an entity or source that releases a significant amount of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, often associated with industrial or energy-related activities
net zero emissions	achieving a balance between the total amount of greenhouse gases emitted and the amount removed or offset, resulting in no net increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide
renewable energy	energy derived from naturally replenishing sources, such as sunlight, wind, and water, which have minimal environmental impact compared to fossil fuels
<b>Sustainable business</b>	
circular economy	an economic model that emphasizes the continuous use of resources by minimizing waste, promoting recycling, and encouraging the reuse and refurbishment of products
closed-loop system	a system in which resources are reused and recycled to create a sustainable and circular flow, minimizing waste and environmental impact
conscious consumerism	the practice of making informed and ethical choices as a consumer, considering the social and environmental impact of products and supporting sustainable practices
corporate social responsibility (CSR)	the commitment of businesses to operate in an ethical and socially responsible manner, taking into consideration the well-being of society, the environment, and stakeholders
fair trade	a trading system that promotes equitable and fair partnerships between producers in developing countries and buyers in developed countries, ensuring fair wages and ethical practices
green economy	an economy that aims to enhance human well-being and social equity while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities
greenwashing	the deceptive practice of conveying a false impression or misleading information about the environmental benefits of a product, service, or company to appear more environmentally friendly

linear economy	a traditional economic model where resources are extracted, used to create products, and then discarded as waste, without a focus on recycling or reusing materials
sharing economy	an economic system based on sharing resources, often facilitated by digital platforms, to maximize the use of goods and services and reduce overall consumption
supply chain traceability	the ability to track and trace the origin, production processes, and distribution of products within a supply chain to ensure transparency and accountability
<b>Climate awareness</b>	
climate action	initiatives, policies, and measures taken to address and respond to the challenges posed by climate change, aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase resilience
climate change	long-term changes in temperature, precipitation, and other atmospheric conditions on Earth, primarily attributed to human activities that increase the concentration of greenhouse gases
climate change mitigation	efforts and strategies aimed at reducing or preventing the emission of greenhouse gases to mitigate the impacts of climate change
climate sceptic	a person who expresses doubt or disbelief in the scientific consensus that human activities are a major contributor to climate change or the severity of its consequences
environmental impact	the measurable effects of human activities on the environment, including changes to ecosystems, biodiversity, air and water quality, and other natural resources
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)	an international scientific body established to assess and provide comprehensive reviews of the scientific knowledge on climate change, its impacts, and potential adaptation and mitigation strategies
Paris Agreement	an international treaty adopted in 2015 that aims to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, with efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius
summit	a meeting or conference where leaders, representatives, or experts from different countries come together to discuss and address important global issues, such as climate change

Sustainable Development Goals	a set of 17 global goals established by the United Nations (UN) in 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the goals are designed to address a wide range of global challenges and guide international efforts toward a more sustainable and equitable future; each goal is interconnected and aims to balance economic, social, and environmental dimensions
<b>Sustainable waste management</b>	
clean tech	technologies that aim to provide sustainable solutions and minimize environmental impact, often in the fields of energy, transportation, and waste management
electronic waste, e-waste	discarded electronic devices or components, such as computers, smartphones, and appliances, that require special disposal methods due to their potential environmental hazards.
incineration	the process of burning waste materials to generate energy or reduce their volume
landfill	designated area where waste is disposed of by burying it in the ground
microplastics	tiny plastic particles, typically smaller than 5 millimeters, that result from the breakdown of larger plastic items or are intentionally manufactured at a small size
naked packaging	packaging that is minimalistic and uses the least amount of materials, reducing waste and environmental impact
sanitation	the provision of conditions and facilities to promote cleanliness and protect public health, often involving the management of human waste and wastewater
sewage	the waste and wastewater, including human excreta, carried away in sewers or drains
waste stream	the flow of waste materials generated by households, businesses, or industries, from the point of generation to disposal or recycling
wastewater	water that has been used in various processes, such as domestic, industrial, or agricultural activities, and contains pollutants
zero waste	a philosophy and lifestyle that aims to minimize waste generation by adopting practices such as recycling, composting, and reducing consumption