

Earth-Friendly Glossary

Biodegradable: A substance that can be naturally broken down into harmless elements by bacteria and other organisms.

Conservation: The protection, restoration, and management of wildlife, natural resources, or ecosystems.

Ecosystem: All living and nonliving things plus their interactions that create and define a particular place.

Ecology: The study of how living things interact with each other and with the nonliving things that surround them.

Environment: Everything that surrounds a living creature and affects it.

Fossil Fuels: Coal, oil, natural gas and other substances that formed from plant and animal remains deep in the earth's crust. These substances release energy and carbon dioxide when burned.

Hazardous Waste: Trash that is harmful to humans or the environment, especially if it is likely to catch fire, explode, release toxins, burn skin, or corrode metals.

Landfill: A designated pit or hole dug into the ground where collected trash is dumped.

Litter: Trash that has been carelessly tossed out instead of being recycled or disposed of properly.

Pesticide: Chemicals used to destroy or control plant, fungus, or animal pests.

Pollution: Substances added to the air, water or soil that are unnatural and can harm living things or cause undesired changes to the environment.

Recycle: To collect used materials and process them to make new materials that can be used again.

Renewable Resource: Things such as trees, solar (sun) energy, wind and water, which naturally regenerate after they are used or have an endless supply.

Reuse: To take something old and fix it up or find a new way to use it.

Runoff: Water that flows across the surface of the land and empties into a body of water.

Sustainable: Methods that protect and provide for future generations of living things and the environment.

Stormwater: Refers to water from rainfall or snowmelt that flows over our yards, streets, parking lots, and buildings and either enters the storm drain system, seeps into the ground, or runs directly into a lake or stream.

Watershed: A region of land that drains into a particular body of water, such as a river, lake, sea, or ocean.

