

Carbon Footprint

A measure of the amount of carbon dioxide and other carbon compounds emitted due to the consumption of fossil fuels by a particular person, group, etc.

"The average carbon footprint for a person in the United States is 16 tons, one of the highest rates in the world."

Biodegradable

Substance or object capable of being decomposed by bacteria or other living organisms.

"Consumers have forced a shift to more biodegradable products."

Biofuel

A fuel derived directly from living matter.

"He needs to find an alternative biofuel to replace conventional petroleum products."

Climate

The weather conditions prevailing in an area in general or over a long period.

"Our cold, wet climate."

Drought

A prolonged period of abnormally low rainfall, leading to a shortage of water.

"The cause of Europe's recent droughts."

Environment

The surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal, or plant lives or operates.

"Survival in an often-hostile environment."

The natural world, as a whole or in a particular geographical area, especially as affected by human activity.

"The impact of pesticides on the environment."

Fossil fuel

A natural fuel such as coal or gas, formed in the geological past from the remains of living organisms.

"It is made from plant products, not fossil fuel, which means it is renewable."

Humidity

A quantity representing the amount of water vapor in the atmosphere or in a gas.

"The temperature is seventy-seven, the humidity in the low thirties."

Atmospheric moisture.

Mitigation

The action of reducing the severity, seriousness, or painfulness of something.

"The emphasis is on the identification and mitigation of pollution."

Pollution

The presence in or introduction into the environment of a substance or thing that has harmful or poisonous effects.

"The level of pollution in the air is rising."

Recycle

To convert (waste) into reusable material.

"Car hulks were recycled into new steel."

Return (material) to a previous stage in a cyclic process.

Renewable Energy

Energy from a source that is not depleted when used, such as wind or solar power.

"The environmental benefits of renewable energy."

Aerosols

A substance enclosed under pressure and able to be released as a fine spray, typically by means of a propellant gas.

"An aerosol is a gas containing very small particles of a solid or liquid."

Biodiversity

The variety of life in the world or in a particular habitat or ecosystem.

"There are many threats to the earth's biodiversity."

Carbon Dioxide

A colorless, odorless gas produced by burning carbon and organic compounds and by respiration. It is naturally present in air and is absorbed by plants in photosynthesis.

≈Plants clean the very air we breathe, trapping pollutants, taking in carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen.Δ

Deforestation

The action of clearing a wide area of trees.

"A key aim is to try to halt widespread deforestation in the Amazon."

Emissions

The production and discharge of something, especially gas or radiation.

"The effects of lead emission on health."

Flooding

The covering or submerging of normally dry land with a large amount of water.

"The dam burst, flooding a small town."

Greenhouse Gas

A gas that contributes to the greenhouse effect by absorbing infrared radiation, e.g., carbon dioxide and chlorofluorocarbons.

"Agriculture contributes a hefty 30% to our total greenhouse gases."

Intervention

The action or process of intervening.

"They are plants that grow naturally without human intervention."

Methane

A colorless, odorless flammable gas which is the main constituent of natural gas. It is the simplest member of the alkaline series of hydrocarbons.

"Cows produce methane as part of their digestive process."

Ozone

A colorless unstable toxic gas with a pungent odor and powerful oxidizing properties, formed from oxygen by electrical discharges or ultraviolet light. It differs from normal oxygen (O₂) in having three atoms in its molecule (O₃).

Short for ozone layer.

"In particular, the ozone layer protects us from the UV radiation, known as UV-B, which causes sunburn."

Weather

The state of the atmosphere at a place and time as regards heat, dryness, sunshine, wind, rain, etc.

"If the weather's good we can go for a walk"

Sustainability

The ability to be maintained at a certain rate or level.

"The sustainability of economic growth"

Avoidance of the depletion of natural resources in order to maintain an ecological balance.

"The pursuit of global environmental sustainability"

Metal waste

Metal waste or scrap metal is any product that's broken or no longer usable, which is made completely or mostly from a metal material. For example, it could be broken tools, metal sheets from manufacturing, a bent pipe, old electrical appliances, and more.

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