

# Glossary

**acid rain:** Rain with a pH of less than 5.6 caused by emissions from the burning of fossil fuels.

**acidity:** The measure of the compound that neutralizes alkalis.

**adopt:** To accept and take in.

**advertising:** The process or the product of making something known or public.

**aesthetic degradation:** Anything that causes the beauty of an area to decrease.

**air pollution:** Contaminants and particulates in the air

**alkalinity:** The measure of the base that neutralizes acids.

**All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs):** Vehicles that were made to go on surfaces other than traditional roads.

**anaerobic:** Able to live and grow in the absence of free oxygen; often, anaerobic decomposition of organic wastes results in the production and release of methane gas.

**aquatic:** An organism that grows or lives in water.

**aquifer:** An underground geological formation in which the cracks in rocks, sand, soil, or gravel are filled with water. A unique group of earth materials capable of storing and transmitting significant volumes of water to a well or spring.

**artificial:** Made by humans.

**artificial reef:** A reef made by humans.

**ash:** Mineral content of a product that remains after complete combustion.

**average:** The total of a set of numbers divided by how many numbers are in the set.

**bacteria:** A single-celled microorganism. Some cause diseases most often treated by antibiotics. Some consume waste or spill products such as sewage, oil, or even chemicals.

**bag limits:** Maximum amount of fish or game animals permitted by law to be taken by one person in a given period.

**bandwagon:** The popular or apparent winning side of a cause.

**barnacles:** Common name of a crustacean species that attaches itself to ship bottoms and floating timber.

**basin:** A broad area of the Earth beneath which the strata dip, usually from the sides to the center.

**biodegradable:** Capable of being decomposed (broken down) by natural biological processes.

**British thermal unit (Btu):** The amount of heat needed to raise the temperature of one pound of water one

degree Fahrenheit.

**by-product:** Something produced in addition to the principal product.

**canal:** An artificial waterway.

**caretaker:** One who looks after something or someone.

**chemical pollution:** Introduction of chemical contaminants into a body of water.

**chlorination:** The process of disinfecting water by chlorine gas or hypochlorite.

**Clean Vessel Act:** A 1992 Act that provides funds to states for the construction, renovation, operation, and maintenance of vessel sewage pumpout stations and waste reception facilities to improve water quality.

**colony:** Groups of organisms of the same species living or growing together.

**colonization:** The establishment of a colony.

**commercial fertilizers:** Fertilizers used for commercial purposes such as agriculture.

**commercial fishing:** Fishing on a large scale where the catch is sold to dealers or processors.

**composite plants:** Of, or relating to, a very large family (compositae) or dicotyledonous herbs, shrubs, and trees, often considered to be the most highly evolved plants and characterized by florets arranged in dense heads that resemble single flowers.

**compost:** Decayed matter formed by biodegradation that can be used as a soil conditioner.

**compost bin:** Bin or container used to contain or hold compost.

**conservation:** The use of natural resources in a way that assures their continuing availability to future generations because they are used wisely and intelligently.

**contaminant:** An impurity that causes air, soil, or water to be harmful to human health or the environment.

**corrode:** To wear away gradually by chemical action.

**crucial:** Of extreme importance.

**cullet:** Scrap glass that has been broken into tiny pieces.

**decompose:** To decay or rot; a result of microbial action.

**deinking:** A process used in paper recycling in which the ink is removed from the paper using special processes or chemicals.

**deteriorate:** To decline in the quality of equipment or structures after a period of time due to chemical or physical action of the environment.

**discard:** The municipal solid waste remaining after recovery for recycling and composting.

**disinfect:** To cleanse of harmful organisms.

**dissolved oxygen (DO):** Oxygen gas (O<sub>2</sub>) dissolved in water.

**distillates:** The liquid condensed from vapor in distillation.

**ditch:** Small artificial channel cut through earth or rock to carry water for irrigation or drainage.

***E. coli (Escherichia coli):*** Type of bacteria that is found in the gut of mammals and other animals.

**ecosystem:** A system dealing with the interrelationship of organisms living in one environment.

**efficiently:** The ratio of useful work done by a machine or device to the total energy supplied.

**energy:** The capacity to do work.

**entangle:** Stopped or hampered movement forward.

**environment:** All the conditions, circumstances, and influences surrounding and affecting the development or existence of people or other living things.

**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):** The United States agency responsible for efforts to control air and water pollution, radiation and pesticide hazards, ecological research, and solid waste disposal. It is the agency of the U.S. government that sets environmental protection and enforcement standards.

**estuary:** An arm of the sea at the mouth of a river where fresh fish and salt water mix.

**eutrophication:** A naturally occurring change that takes place after a water body receives inputs of nutrients, mostly nitrates and phosphates, from erosion and runoff of surrounding lands.

**fecal coliform:** See *E. coli*.

**fishery biologist:** One who studies the life of fishes.

**flotation deinking:** The process of deinking paper in which the ink is removed from the paper by submerging it in water and mixing air bubbles into the pulp slurry. The ink rises to the top and is skimmed off the top.

**food chain:** A predator-prey relationship in which a single species feeds upon another single species, which in turn feeds upon another single species. As a result, energy in the chain flows in one direction, generally from primary producers to herbivores to carnivores.

**food web:**

**game fish:** Any fish regularly caught for sport.

**garbage:** Another word for solid waste, particularly household waste.

**garbologist:** One who studies waste, particularly household waste.

**generic:** Characteristic of a genus, kind, or class.

**groundwater:** Water that infiltrates into the Earth and is stored in usable amounts in the soil and rock below the Earth's surface. Water within the zone of saturation supplies wells and springs.

**habitat:** Native environment of an animal or plant; part of an ecosystem.

**habitat destruction:** A situation in which a species loses its normal habitat due to environmental or human changes.

**harmful:** Causing or able to cause harm.

**hazardous substance:** Risky or dangerous substance that can cause organisms to become sick or die.

**hazardous waste:** Waste or a combination of wastes that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics, may cause, or may significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious, irreversible, or incapacitating illness.

**HDPE (high density polyethylene):** A plastic resin commonly used to make milk jugs, detergent containers, and base cups for plastic soda bottles. The standard plastic code of HDPE is 2.

**heat:** A form of kinetic energy resulting from the random motions of molecules.

**heavy metals:** Metallic elements (for example, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel, and zinc) that are often used to manufacture products.

**hydroelectric:** The generation of electricity that conveys the energy of running water into electric power.

**identify:** To establish the identity of.

**ignitable:** Products that may catch fire easily.

**incinerate:** To burn waste.

**inshore waters:** Water located near the shore.

**insulated:** The prevention of the transfer of electricity, heat, or sound.

**intermittent:** Occurring at intervals.

**invertebrates:** Animals without a backbone.

**issue:** A matter that is in dispute between two or more parties; a point of debate or controversy.

**kilowatt hour (kwh):** A quantity of electric power equivalent to using one kilowatt for one hour.

**landfill:** A large outdoor area for waste disposal.

**leachate:** Rain water or other liquid that has percolated through solid waste and has extracted possibly hazardous dissolved or suspended materials from it.

**life cycle analysis/assessment:** A holistic evaluation of all direct and indirect, pre-market and post-market,

and recycle/disposal aspects of a product.

**limit:** Restrict.

**litter:** Highly visible solid wastes that are generated by the consumer and carelessly discarded outside the regular disposal system.

**malnutrition:** Less than the minimum amount of the foods essential for sound growth and health.

**manatee:** Any of a family of sirenians living in shallow tropical waters near the coasts of South and North America and West Africa.

**manure:** Material that fertilizes land, especially refuse of stables and barnyards consisting of livestock excretion with or without litter.

**marine sanitation device:** (MSD) Any device installed on-board a vessel that is designed to receive, retain, treat, or discharge sewage.

**marketing:** An aggregate of functions involved in moving goods from producer to consumer.

**methane gas:** A highly combustible gas with no smell or color. Methane is produced by solid waste as it decomposes.

**microorganisms:** Organisms too small to be seen with the unaided eye, including bacteria, protozoan, yeast, viruses, and algae.

**migrate:** To move from one habitat to another.

**minerals:** Inorganic substances found in nature; gold, silver, and iron ore are examples of minerals.

**monofilament line:** A plastic line used in fishing and in numerous fishing nets.

**municipal solid wastes:** The combined residential and commercial solid waste generated in an area. It includes paper, cans, bottles, food scraps, and other yard waste items.

**natural resources:** Valuable, naturally occurring items, such as plants, animals, minerals, water, and air, which are used by people to help make things such as energy, food, clothes, and buildings.

**navigable:** Deep enough and wide enough to afford passage to ships.

**nitrogen:** Chemical element symbol N, atomic number 7, atomic weight 14.0067; the largest single component of the atmosphere.

**noise pollution:** Excessive noise in the human environment.

**nonrenewable resources:** Resources that, in terms of human time scales, are contained within the Earth in fixed quantity and, therefore, can only be used once in the foreseeable future.

**offshore waters:** Water not adjacent to land in which the physical properties are slightly influenced by continental conditions.

**organic fertilizers:** Fertilizers that are made from natural ingredients.

**perennial:** Present at all seasons of the year; persisting for several years.

**PET (polyethylene terephthalate):** A plastic commonly used to make soft drink bottles; the standard code for PET is 1.

**pH:** A measure of the concentration of hydrogen ions in a solution; the pH scale ranges from 1 to 14, where 7 is neutral, values less than 7 are acidic, and values greater than 7 are basic or alkaline; pH is an inverted logarithmic scale so that every unit decrease in pH means a 10-fold increase in hydrogen ion concentration. Thus, a pH of 3 is 10 times as acidic as a pH of 4 and 100 times as acidic as a pH of 5.

**pH meter:** An instrument used to test the pH of a particular substance.

**plastic:** Material made from hydrocarbons known for its light weight and durability.

**pollute:** To cause harm to human health or the environment by contaminating the air, water, or soil.

**population:** Any group of organisms of the same species that occupies a given space at a given time.

**predation:** The act of preying on another animal or animals.

**pulp:** A soft, moist, sticky mass of fibers made up of wood or straw used to make paper and paperboard.

**pumpout station:** A station located on or near the water used by boats to unload their raw sewage.

**raw material:** Unprocessed material used in manufacturing.

**raw sewage:** Untreated sewage.

**reactive:** A product that may explode.

**receptacle facilities:** Facilities capable of storing materials.

**recreational:** Term used to describe something pleasurable.

**recreational boating:** Boating for pleasure.

**recreational fishing:** Fishing done for pleasure.

**recyclable:** Products or materials that can be collected, separated, and processed to be used as raw materials in the manufacture of new products.

**recycling:** Any process by which materials that would otherwise become solid waste are collected, separated, and processed and are then reused or returned to use in the form of raw material or products.

**reduce:** To cut down on the amount of something produced such as trash.

**refuse:** A general term for solid waste materials, also called garbage or trash.

**remnant:** Something left over.

**reservoir:** A body of water collected and stored in an artificial lake.

**reuse:** To use a product again, either for what it was originally made or for something else.

**sanitary landfill:** A large outdoor area for waste disposal.

**scum:** Impure or extraneous matter that rises to the surface of boiling or fermenting liquids.

**season:** Time or period of time characterized by the Earth's orbiting around the sun.

**sewage:** Mostly liquid waste, including human waste, which is transported away by sewers and is purified in a sewage treatment plant.

**size limits:** The largest size of a fish that can be legally caught and kept.

**sludge:** Solid matter that settles to the bottom of septic tanks, or wastewater treatment plant sedimentation. It must be disposed of by bacterial digestion or other methods or must be pumped out for land disposal or incineration.

**slurry:** A thin mixture of water and fine substances such as clay.

**society:** A community.

**soil erosion:** The wearing away of soil due to wind or rain.

**solid waste:** Garbage, refuse, or sludge from a waste treatment facility, water purification plant, or air pollution control facility. It also includes solid, liquid, semi-solid, or contained gaseous material resulting from industrial, commercial, mining, and agricultural operations and community activities.

**solid waste facility:** An operation or plant that handles solid waste.

**stability:** Ability to maintain original state while external forces are applied.

**stewardship:** Idea that people have the responsibility to maintain the environment and take care of it.

**stream:** A flow of water in a channel or bed. A body of running water smaller than a river flowing on the Earth.

**streamflow:** The amount of water flowing in a stream.

**substrate:** A layer beneath the surface soil.

**temperate:** Having a moderate climate.

**tipping fee:** The price individuals, communities, and trash haulers pay to dispose of their waste at a landfill.

**toxic:** Having the characteristic of causing death or damage to humans, animals, or plants.

**toxic waste:** Waste that can cause death or damage to humans, animals, or plants.

**treated:** The process of adding chemicals to a toxic substance to make it less toxic for the environment.

**tropical:** Of, or related to, the tropics.

**volume:** The amount of space an object can occupy.

**waste:** Any substance, solid, liquid, or gaseous, for which no use can be found by the organism or system that produces it.

**waste disposal:** The disposal of waste.

**waste management:** The proper handling and disposal of waste.

**waste material:** Material that no longer has any use.

**wastewater:** Water that has been used, either to manufacture a product or in the home, and that requires treatment and purification before it can be reused.

**wastewater treatment:** Physical, chemical, and biological processes used to remove pollutants from wastewater before discharging it into a water body.

**water pollution:** Water that has harmful or objectionable material in it.

**waterways:** Bay or channel through which water may flow.

**wetlands:** Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

**worm castings:** Excretions from a worm.