



## Glossary of Environmental Terms

**ALUMINIM:** A bluish silver-white malleable ductile light trivalent metallic element is commonly used to make soda cans.

**BIODEGRAABLE:** Capable of being broken down especially into innocuous products by the action of living things (as microorganisms).

**COMPOSTABLE:** Able to biodegrade, or break down, when exposed to microorganisms under the right environmental conditions.

**CONSERVATION:** Planned management of a natural resource to prevent exploitation, destruction, or neglect.

**DECOMPOSE:** To break up into constituent parts by or as if by a chemical process

**DISPOSABLE:** Designed to be used once and then thrown away.

**DURABLE:** Able to exist for a long time without significant deterioration.

**ECOSYSTEM:** The complex of a community of organisms and its environment functioning as an ecological unit.

**GARBAGE:** Waste or trash.

**GLOBAL WARMING:** An increase in the earth's atmospheric and oceanic temperatures widely predicted to occur due to an increase in the greenhouse effect resulting especially from pollution.

**LANDFILL:** A Place where unwanted materials are dumped, compacted, and covered with dirt.

**LEACHATE:** Water that percolates through a dump or landfill, picking up pollutants along the way.

**LITTER:** Trash, wastepaper, or garbage lying scattered about.





**NATURAL RESOURCES:** Industrial materials and capacities (as mineral deposits and waterpower) supplied by nature.

**OZONE LAYER:** An atmospheric layer at heights of about 20 to 30 miles (32 to 48 kilometers) that is normally characterized by high ozone content which blocks most solar ultraviolet radiation from entry into the lower atmosphere.

**PAPER:** A felted sheet of usually vegetable fibers laid down on a fine screen from a water suspension.

**PHOTODEGRADATION:** The process of breaking down through exposure to sunlight.

**POLLUTION:** The action of contaminating especially by environmental contamination with man-made waste.

**RECYCLE:** To reuse or make (a substance) available for reuse.

**REDUCE:** To diminish in size, amount, extent, or number.

**REFUSE:** The worthless or useless part of something; trash or garbage.

**RENEWABLE RESOURCES:** Something we use from nature that can be replenished.

**REUSE:** To use again especially in a different way or after reclaiming or reprocessing.

**SOLID WASTE:** Materials we throw away, such as household trash or yard and kitchen waste.

**TOXIC:** Containing or being poisonous material especially when capable of causing death or serious debilitation.

**UNINHABITABLE:** Unable to support life.

