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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Glossary** |  | | **Chapter 21** |  | | **biomimicry** | Process of observing certain changes in nature, studying how natural systems have responded to such changing conditions over many millions of years, and applying what is learned to dealing with some environmental challenge. | | **closed-loop recycling** | Process in which materials are recycled into new products of the same type?turning used aluminum cans into new aluminum cans, for example. See primary recycling. | | **composting** | Partially decomposed organic plant and animal matter used as a soil conditioner or fertilizer. Also see compost. | | **environmental justice** | Fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, sex, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. | | **hazardous waste** | Any solid, liquid, or containerized gas that can catch fire easily, is corrosive to skin tissue or metals, is unstable and can explode or release toxic fumes, or has harmful concentrations of one or more toxic materials that can leach out. These substances are usually by-products of manufacturing processes. See also toxic waste. | | **industrial solid waste** | Solid waste produced by mines, factories, refineries, food growers, and businesses that supply people with goods and services. Compare municipal solid waste. | | **integrated waste management** | Variety of strategies for both waste reduction and waste management designed to deal with the solid wastes we produce. | | **landfill** | Waste disposal site on land in which waste is spread in thin layers, compacted, and covered with a fresh layer of clay or plastic foam each day. Compare open dump. See sanitary landfill. | | **municipal solid waste (MSW)** | Solid materials discarded by homes and businesses in or near urban areas. See solid waste. Compare industrial solid waste. | | **open dump** | Fields or holes in the ground where garbage is deposited and sometimes covered with soil. They are rare in developed countries, but are widely used in many developing countries, especially to handle wastes from megacities. Compare sanitary landfill. | | **primary recycling** | Process in which materials are recycled into new products of the same type?turning used aluminum cans into new aluminum cans, for example. | | **radioactive waste** | Waste products of nuclear power plants, research, medicine, weapon production, or other processes involving nuclear reactions. See radioactivity. | | **recycle** | To collect and reprocess a resource so that it can be made into new products; one of the four R's of resource use. An example is collecting aluminum cans, melting them down, and using the aluminum to make new cans or other aluminum products. See primary recycling, secondary recycling. Compare reduce and reuse. | | **reduce** | To consume less of a good or service in order to reduce one's environmental impact and to save money. Compare recycle, refuse, reuse. | | **refuse** | To refrain from buying or using a good or service in order to reduce one's ecological impact and to save money. Compare recycle, reduce, reuse. | | **reuse** | To use a product over and over again in the same form. An example is collecting, washing, and refilling glass beverage bottles. One of the 4 Rs. Compare recycle, reduce, and refuse. | | **sanitary landfill** | Waste disposal site on land in which waste is spread in thin layers, compacted, and covered with a fresh layer of clay or plastic foam each day. Compare open dump. | | **secondary recycling** | A process in which waste materials are converted into different products; for example, used tires can be shredded and turned into rubberized road surfacing. Compare primary recycling. | | **solid waste** | Any unwanted or discarded material that is not a liquid or a gas. See industrial solid waste, municipal solid waste. | | **toxic waste** | Form of hazardous waste that causes death or serious injury (such as burns, respiratory diseases, cancers, or genetic mutations). See hazardous waste. | | **waste management** | Managing wastes to reduce their environmental harm without seriously trying to reduce the amount of waste produced. See integrated waste management. Compare waste reduction. | | **waste reduction** | Reducing the amount of waste produced; wastes that are produced are viewed as potential resources that can be reused, recycled, or composted. See integrated waste management. Compare waste management. | | /var/folders/fw/mxp2_55s611_5zr3sfbq_vgc0000gp/T/com.microsoft.Word/WebArchiveCopyPasteTempFiles/spacer_tr.gif |