

Glossary

A - C

APPLIANCE	A device or gadget that helps you do everyday things
ATOM	A tiny part of something – everything is made of atoms
BACTERIA	Small, microscopic organisms that can cause illness and disease and break down materials; some are friendly, useful bacteria
BATTERIES	A small item that stores energy and in turn can power items like watches and radios
BIO FUEL	A type of fuel made from animal and plant matter - unlike fossil fuels these plants and animals did not die millions of years ago but died more recently and are less polluting
BIOMASS	Natural vegetation that can be burnt to produce energy
BRICK	A hard block of baked clay used to build
BRICK LAYER	A builder who works with bricks
CABLES	Wires that carries electricity
CAVITY WALL	A special type of wall that is made from two rows of brick with an insulating layer in the middle
CHARACTERISTIC	A quality or something that is different about a person or a thing
CLIMATE	The weather conditions in a certain area
COAL	A fossil fuel – a hard black mineral that can be burnt to make energy
COMMUNITY	A group of people living or working in a certain area
COMPOST	A type of garden fertiliser made from rotting plants or food

Glossary

C - E

CONDUCTS (electricity)	Allows heat or energy to pass through or along
CONTAMINATED	Dirty – mixed with something else that is not clean
CONVERTED (electricity)	Changed the use of something or when energy changes from one form to another
CORRUGATED	Shaped into ridges
CULTIVATED	To prepare and use land for gardening or to grow crops
DECLINED	To become smaller in number
DEMOLISHED	Knocked or torn down
DONATE	To give something away
DOUBLE GLAZING	Windows made from two pieces of glass with an insulating layer between them
DOWN PIPE	The pipe on the side of a building that collects rainwater and moves it down the building toward the drain or water butt
DRAINAGE	The system of removing waste water
DRAUGHT PROOFING	Method of making sure doors, windows etc do not allow hot air to escape, or cold to enter
DRILLED	Holes dug into the ground by a machine (drill)
EFFECTIVE	Successful, working well
ELECTRICIAN	A skilled tradesman who fits, maintains and repairs electrical equipment, including cables

Glossary

E - F

ELECTRICITY	A flash of lightning in the sky is electricity formed naturally, but most of our electricity is made in generating stations – the power to give us heat, light and sound
EMERGENCY	A sudden, serious situation that needs quick action
EMISSION	Something that is released or 'given off'
ENERGY	The power to make things work
ESSENTIAL	Necessary, needed
EVAPORATES	Changes from liquid to vapour
FALLOW	When crops have not been planted in a field so the soil can 'rest' and rebuild its nutrients
FARMER	A person who works on a farm
FIBRE OPTIC	A very thin strand of fibre or glass that conducts electricity
FIELD	A space of land used to grow crops, farm animals or left fallow
FILTERING	The process of cleaning or passing something through a filter
FLOORS	Hard surfaces that people walk on
FLOAT GLASS	The scientific name given to glass used in windows
FORESTATION	A piece of land covered with trees
FOSSIL FUELS	A natural fuel such as coal, oil or gas formed over millions of years from the remains of plants and animals

Glossary

F - K

FOUNDATION	The hard, solid base that a building is built upon usually deep in the ground. The basis of something.
FUEL	Something that is usually burnt to make energy
FUSES	Safety devices that stop too much electricity entering an object by burning up so the electrical current cannot pass
GARDEN	A piece of land where flowers, vegetables and fruit are grown usually next to houses
GAS	A type of fossil fuel that can be burnt to make energy
GENERATE	Make electricity
GEOTHERMAL	A type of energy generated by underground heat sources
GREEN ROOF	A building roof made from living plants
GREENHOUSE GAS	Gases (carbon dioxide and methane) that are trapped inside the earth's atmosphere, insulating the earth
GREY WATER	Reusable waste water
HARNESS	Collect and make use of
HYDROELECTRIC	Water power that makes electricity
HYDROGEN	A light gas that when mixed with oxygen makes water (H ₂ O)
INDUSTRIALISATION	Developing industry in a country
INSULATION	Stopping heat, cold or electricity from passing through an object
KINETIC	A form of energy - movement

Glossary

L - P

LEAD	A soft yet heavy metal
MATERIALS	Anything that is used to build or make something
MANUALLY	To do something by hand
MECHANICAL ENERGY	The energy that can be generated by a machine
METAL	A hard substance that melts when heated at high temperatures
MICRO ORGANISMS	Tiny, living organisms that can only be seen under a microscope – bacteria is one kind of micro organism
NEIGHBOUR	A person who lives next door or near to you
NON RENEWABLE	Not able to be replaced after it is used
NUCLEAR POWER	Power and energy made by heating and splitting atoms
NUTRIENTS	A food or chemical that all living things need to grow
ODOURLESS	Has no smell – some gases are odourless
OIL	A fossil fuel that is buried deep in the earth and is burnt to produce energy
ORE	A type of rock that contains minerals such as metal
PETROL	A type of fuel that is burnt to give power to cars, buses and other vehicles
PHOTOVOLTAIC	A type of solar panel that uses heat energy from the sun to make electrical energy
PIPES	Hollow tubes that water or gas travel through

Glossary

P - R

PLASTIC	A strong man-made material that can be heated and shaped
PLUMBER	A skilled tradesman who fits and maintains water and gas pipes
POPULAR	Liked or enjoyed by lots of people
PREVENT	To stop something from happening
PROPERTIES	A quality or characteristic of something
POWER	The energy to do something
POWER POINT	Electricity points set into walls where you can plug in electrical appliances
PURIFIED	Cleaned by a filter process
PYLONS	Tall structures that support cables carrying electricity across the country
RAIN	Droplets of water that fall from clouds in the sky
RAIN GUTTER	The open channel along the edge of a roof that collects rainfall and diverts it into the down pipe
RECLAIMED MATERIALS	Used materials that are recycled and used again
RECYCLE	Turning something that has already been used into another useful product
RECYCLING	The process of turning something that has been used back into its natural state and making something new and usable out of it
REDUCE	To use less
REED BED	A natural filtration process with plants and stones used to clean water

Glossary

R - S

REFINING	Separating fossil fuels into different layers for different uses
RENEWABLE	Never completely used up, something that can be replaced or renewed
REPLACE	To put something back or to put something new in the place of something old
RESERVOIR	A type of lake where water is stored
REUSE	To save and use again
ROOFING (houses)	The shelter that covers the top of a building
SCRAP	Something that is no longer useful
SEWAGE	Waste water carried away in drains
SOLAR ENERGY	Energy made by the heat from the sun
SOLAR PANELS	Panels that use or harness the Sun's heat in order to heat water
STONE	A hard, solid material
SUBSTANCE	Something used to make things
SUPPLIER	The person or organisation that provides (supplies) something
SUSTAINABLE	Something that can constantly be made, or kept going easily or cheaply for the longer term
SUSTAINABLE LIVING	Living in a way that doesn't cost the person or environment too much
SYSTEM	Parts that work together or an organised way of doing something

Glossary

T - Z

THATCH	Straw, reeds or grass used as a roofing material
TILES	Thin pieces of hard, baked material used to cover a roof
TRADITIONAL	Something that has existed for a long period of time, a custom or way of doing things
TRANSPORT	A way of taking people or things from one place to another
TRIPLE GLAZING	Three layers of glass each with an insulating layer between them that helps traps heat inside a building
VENTILATION	The process of letting air enter
VINYL	A type of plastic
WALLS	A hard, strong outer structure of a building or the structure that separates internal rooms
WASTE	Something that is not needed anymore or has already been used
WATER BUTT	A container for collecting and storing rain water
WATER CYCLE	The process of water circulation on earth
WIND TURBINE	Huge blades turned by the wind that power motors and generate electricity
WOOD	The substance that trees are made from