



Appendix a – Glossary

A - C

Allotment	An allotment is a small piece of land of varying shapes and sizes which can be owned by the local council, private individuals and even not-for-profits and charities. They can be leased by individuals to grow fruit and vegetables for personal consumption
Biodiversity	This term refers to all of the animals in this world (including humans) and the spaces in which they live and this can refer to one small part of the world, or in this case, our entire planet. All life on this planet is dependent on biodiversity so that we can eat, drink and breathe fresh air however, humans are responsible for a significant decrease in biodiversity
Biomass boiler	This is a certain type of boiler which burns logs, pellets or wood chips (biomass) and is connected to your central heating or hot water
Carbon dioxide CO₂	This is the main gas which is in our atmosphere (around 60%) and is often referred to in its chemical formula, CO ₂ ; we need CO ₂ to survive, importantly however, it is not to be confused with carbon monoxide, which is poisonous. Carbon dioxide, CO ₂ magnifies the sun's rays and helps the planet to keep warm and sustain life. However, too much causes the planet to act as a greenhouse and leads to global warming

Carbon emissions	The amount of carbon dioxide CO ₂ released into the atmosphere
Carbon footprint (individual)	This is a term which was developed to measure the amount of carbon emissions used by an individual
Cavity walls	These are two walls, usually made of brick or concrete with a hollow space in between in which air travels
Climate change	This is significant and on-going change in weather patterns in certain parts of the world and can be viewed as a result of global warming
Cob	A cob house is made of straw, hay, clay and sand. It is often found in old British houses
Compact fluorescent light (CFL)	These energy efficient light bulbs fit into traditional fixtures and they use fluorescent lighting as an excellent alternative to incandescent bulbs
Compost	Food scraps and other organic matter which has broken down and decomposed and can be used as fertiliser
Consumers	People who buy a product or use a service for a price



Appendix a – Glossary

D - G

Double glazing	A method of insulation in which two panes of glass with space in between are installed in windows and doors (particularly French doors)
Draught proofing	This is a method where seals are fitted to minimise the gap around doors and windows
Dwelling	This is your home, and applies to any place of residence such as a flat or house
Eco resorts	A holiday place which aims to minimise its environmental impact
Energy Company Obligation (ECO)	This is an obligation used to implement the government's Green Deal, whereby domestic energy companies must facilitate the installation of energy efficiency
Energy efficient	It is used to describe a product or service (such as cycling as a mode of transport) that uses less energy whilst maintaining our standard of living
Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs)	These contain information on your home's energy use and carbon dioxide emissions and recommendations on how to reduce energy use and carbon dioxide emissions. All homes bought, sold or rented require an EPC

Environmentally friendly	Actions, products and services which do not harm the environment
Feed-in Tariffs (FiT)	A Government incentive to encourage people to install and generate their own electricity from a renewable source and which guarantees a tax free payment in return. The tariffs (payments you will receive) are index linked and paid to you by your energy company
Fuel poverty	Households are considered by the Government to be in 'fuel poverty' if they would have to spend more than 10% of their household income on fuel to keep their home warm
Global Warming	This describes the overall warming of the planet due to an increase in greenhouse gases. Global warming is what causes regional climate change
Grants	This is a free gift of money, goods, or services which you don't have to pay back
Green Deal	The Green Deal is a government initiative which enables private firms to offer consumers energy efficiency improvements to their homes at no upfront cost, and to recoup payments through a charge in installments on their energy bills



Appendix a – Glossary

G - I

Green Deal assessor	Is qualified and certified to visit homes and collect the information they need to produce a Green Deal Advice Report for the householder showing the energy efficiencies and savings that can be made
Green Deal installer	Only an authorised Green Deal installer can install energy efficiency improvements if they are to qualify for Green Deal finance
Green Deal mark	All Green Deal organisations must be authorised and approved to deliver the Green Deal. The quality mark is awarded by the Green Deal Registration and Oversight Body
Green Deal plan	This is the contract that sets out the financial terms of the agreement (e.g. amount and duration of installments)
Green Deal provider	A Green Deal provider provides the finance and arranges for the Green Deal measures to be installed
Greenhouse gases	The gases that make up our ozone. The ozone is predominately made up of nitrogen, oxygen and argon with a small percentage of methane, carbon dioxide CO ₂ and others
Hippo/hog (for the toilet cistern)	A device which shrinks the space in the toilet, lessening the amount of water used in each toilet flush

Hydro-electricity	The energy from the gravitational fall of stream/river water can be made into electrical energy for the household. The higher the height and the more water there is flowing through the turbine (system used to generate electricity), the more electricity can be made
Immersion heater	An attachment at the bottom of the hot water tank which, using electricity, allows the water to be heated to above its initial temperature
Incandescent light bulbs	Light is created as a result of heating a 'metal filament' wire until it glows. The glass covering the wire is filled with an unreactive gas, which stops any reaction happening, making this a safe way to create light
Incentives	Financial incentives are monetary benefits offered to encourage behaviour or action
Initiative	An idea/step/plan/strategy which leads to action
Insulation	The process of layering different materials to prevent heat escaping/cold air coming in
Internal wall insulation	An extra wall built inside the outer wall, which acts as an extra layer; within the gap between the two walls insulating materials are used. Overall the effect is to keep heat within the house



Appendix a – Glossary

L - W

Light-emitting diode (LED)	A semiconductor diode that converts applied voltage to light and is used in lamps and digital displays
Longer term investments	Investments that are made for a prolonged and fixed period of time. It is often less exposed to change than short term, therefore considered safer
Natural resources	A naturally occurring resource as opposed to a man made one. Distinction is often made between those that are needed and those that are not a human requirement
Organic produce	Food that is made in a way that is as natural as possible, for example not using artificial substances such as pesticides and chemical fertilizers to create a certain product
Renewable energy	Any energy that comes from a source that is naturally replenished, for example the sun (solar), water (hydro) and wind power
Smart meter	An electrical meter that records the amount of electric energy used and delivers that information regularly back to the utility provider for monitoring and billing purposes
Solar panels	Panels that consist of a collection of solar cells that absorb sunlight and transfer it into energy, often seen on the roofs of houses

Sustainability	Sustainability is the effort to preserve the world as it is, with as little long term effect on the environment as possible
The Golden Rule	For the Green Deal, this is that the expected financial savings must be equal to or greater than the costs attached to the energy bill
The Green Energy Supply Certification Scheme	UK electricity tariffs that are independently checked, which meet a set of guidelines. The certification ensures: your energy will be matched by renewable energy, provide extra environmental positives and be regularly monitored by a specialist panel
Twin Tap Inserts	An attachable fixture for taps, used to reduce water flow. The result is lower electricity and gas bills, due to control of hot water being used and also less water used
Utility supplier	A company that provides a public service for utilities such as water, gas, electricity and sewage
Vegetable boxes	A scheme in which fruit and vegetables are either delivered to the door or to a collection point, in order to provide people with food that is both in season and local
Water butt	A barrel for collecting rain water