

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.