

Glossary

Environment	Land, forest, water, air, flora and fauna, people and includes buildings and settlements
Adaptation	How we change to reduce our vulnerability and build resilience to the harmful effects of climate change
Biodiversity	Variety of life in the world
Climate change	Change in the average long-term climate conditions
Climate resilience	Our ability to understand, prepare for and respond to various disturbances caused by changing climate
Ecosystem	Dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit
Environmental management	Strategies put in place to make use of and conserve energy, water and resources and to reduce negative impacts on the environment by human activities
Environmental sustainability	Rate of renewable resource harvest, pollution creation and non-renewable resource depletion that can be continued indefinitely
Greenhouse gasses (GHG)	Examples include carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide. GHGs trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere and as a result speed up global warming
Mitigation	Reducing the flow of heat-trapping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere
Natural resource	Things that occur in nature, things that are not manmade
Non-renewable resources	Resources available in limited quantities and which cannot be replenished
Renewable resources	Natural assets that are naturally replenished or can be used over and over again
Vulnerability	Degree to which you're unable to cope with adverse effects of climate change