

Term	Definition	Source
Adaptation	The reaction to climate change that seeks to reduce vulnerability to climate change effects. This can apply to natural or human communities.	US Global Change Research Program
Climate	The long-term average of the atmospheric and weather conditions in a given area.	US Global Change Research Program
Climate Change	A significant and persistent change in the mean state of the climate or its variability. climate change occurs in response to changes in some aspect of Earth's environment: these include regular changes in Earth's orbit about the sun, re-arrangement of continents through plate tectonic motions, or anthropogenic modification of the atmosphere.	UCAR Center for Science Education
Climate Gentrification	The term used to describe the process in which wealthier populations move to areas that are more resilient to climate stressors, displacing lower income residents in the process.	Environmental Law Institute
Climate Literacy	"Climate Science Literacy is an understanding of your influence on climate and climate's influence on you and society."	NOAA
Climate Migrant	"People who leave their homes because of climate stressors. Climate stressors, such as changing rainfall, heavy flooding, and sea level rise, put pressure on people to leave their homes and livelihoods behind."	UNU-EHS
Climate Variability	"Natural changes in climate that fall within the normal range of extremes for a particular region, as measured by temperature, precipitation, and frequency of events. drivers of climate variability include the El Niño Southern Oscillation and other phenomena."	US Global Change Research Program
Coastal Resilience	The ability of a coastal area to adapt to changing conditions and react to emergencies that lead to disruptions or issues.	NOAA
Community Resilience	"Community resilience is a measure of the sustained ability of a community to utilize available resources to respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations." This is applicable but not limited to climate change resilience.	RAND
Environmental Justice	A term used to describe the movement against the inequitable burden placed on poor and predominantly nonwhite communities in relation to environmental issues.	NRDC
Federally-recognized Tribal Land	"An American Indian or Alaska Native tribal entity that is recognized as having a government-to-government relationship with the United States, with the responsibilities, powers, limitations, and obligations attached to that designation, and is eligible for funding and services from the Bureau of Indian Affairs."	US Department of the Interior
Global Warming	One type of climate change. This term commonly refers to the recorded warming of the Earth's surface and atmosphere as a result of increased greenhouse gas emissions from human activities.	US Global Change Research Program
Greenhouse Gases	The term greenhouse gas refers to the gases that trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere.	EPA

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Indigenous Knowledge	"Local and indigenous knowledge refers to the understandings, skills and philosophies developed by societies with long histories of interaction with their natural surroundings."	UNESCO
Industrial Canal	"The Industrial Canal is a 5.5 mile (9 km) waterway in New Orleans, Louisiana, United States. The waterway's proper name, as used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and on NOAA nautical charts, is Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC)."	Wikipedia
Migrant	"Any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of (1) the person's legal status; (2) whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary; (3) what the causes for the movement are; or (4) what the length of the stay is."	United Nations
Mitigation	The human reactions to climate change that seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or enhance the ability of "sinks" to remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.	US Global Change Research Program
Ocean Acidification	Ocean acidification occurs when carbon dioxide from the atmosphere is dissolved into the ocean. This leads to a chemical reaction between water and carbon dioxide to produce carbonic acid. This acid dissociates, releasing hydrogen ions and causing the ocean to become more acidic over time. This has dangerous implications for the wildlife in the ocean.	NOAA
Refugee	"Someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Most likely, they cannot return home or are afraid to do so. War and ethnic, tribal and religious violence are leading causes of refugees fleeing their countries."	United Nations
Relative Sea Level Rise (RSLR)	A gauge of sea level rise that incorporates global trends in sea level change and local trends in land subsidence.	USGS
Saltwater intrusion	The encroachment of seawater into freshwater ecosystems.	USGS
Slow-Onset Disaster	Gradual changes in the climate that lead to worsening conditions over time. Examples include sea-level rise, glacial retreat, and ocean acidification. (Also referred to as slow-onset event.)	Migration Policy Institute
Social Vulnerability	A measure of the economic and social factors that limit an individual's ability to respond to and recover from climate hazards such as flooding events.	CPRA
Sudden-Onset Disaster	Sudden events that create climate extremes. Examples include heat waves, hurricanes, and floods. (Also referred to as a sudden-onset event.)	Migration Policy Institute
Weather	"The specific conditions of the atmosphere at a particular place and time, measured in terms of variables that include temperature, precipitation, cloudiness, humidity, air pressure, and wind."	US Global Change Research Program