

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
Blue Carbon	Carbon that is stored in aquatic and marine systems. Blue carbon is stored in coastal wetlands.	Blue Carbon Initiative
Carbon Sink	A place that absorbs more carbon than it produces.	National Geographic
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 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
Conservation		
Conservation Easement	"A conservation easement is a voluntary, legal agreement that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values. Also known as a conservation restriction or conservation agreement, a conservation easement is one option to protect a property for future generations."	National Conservation Easement Database
Conservation Servitude	The term used in Louisiana to describe a conservation easement. See Conservation Easement for more.	
Ecosystem Services	A benefit provided by a given ecosystem or the wildlife that inhabit it.	NWF
Endangered Species	Any species that is in danger of becoming extinct.	FWS
Endemic Species	A species that is only found in a specific region or area of land.	UNM

Term	Definition	Source
Denitrification	"Denitrification is a natural soil microbial process where nitrate (NO ₃ ⁻) is converted to nitrogen (N) gases that are lost to the atmosphere. Denitrification occurs when soil bacteria use nitrate for their respiration in the place of oxygen in the air. This process occurs most rapidly in warm, wet soils with an abundance of nitrate."	IPNI
Environmental Justice	A term used to describe the movement against the inequitable burden placed on poor and predominantly non white communities in relation to environmental issues.	NRDC
Eutrophication	"Excessive plant and algal growth due to the increased availability of one or more limiting growth factors needed for photosynthesis (Schindler 2006), such as sunlight, carbon dioxide, and nutrient fertilizers."	Nature
Fragmentation	"Habitat fragmentation is defined as the process during which a large expanse of habitat is transformed into a number of smaller patches of smaller total area isolated from each other by a matrix of habitats unlike the original (Fahrig, 2003)."	ScienceDirect
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
Habitat Degradation	A decrease in the quality of a habitat caused by "pollution, invasive species, and disruption of ecosystem processes," among other factors. Habitat degradation leads to a decreased ability to support native species.	NWF
Habitat Destruction	Outright destruction of a natural habitat through physical means. Examples include filling a wetland or cutting down trees in a forest.	NWF
Hydric Soil	"A soil that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part."	USDA
Hypoxia	Depleted oxygen in a body of water, often due to the presence and abundance of certain algae species. Hypoxia can lead to the presence of dead zones, in which aquatic wildlife cannot survive.	NOAA
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

Term	Definition	Source
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
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
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
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
Sustainable Development	"Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."	Our Common Future
Urban Growth Boundary	A distinction that separates land intended for urban use and land intended to be preserved as a natural or green area. Urban growth boundaries are intended to limit outward expansion of urban areas into surrounding natural areas.	Oregon Metro
Urbanization	"The process through which cities grow, and higher and higher percentages of the population comes to live in the city."	National Geographic
Watershed	"A land area that channels rainfall and snowmelt to creeks, streams, and rivers, and eventually to outflow points such as reservoirs, bays, and the ocean."	NOAA
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
Wetland	"Wetlands are areas where water covers the soil, or is present either at or near the surface of the soil all year or for varying periods of time during the year, including during the growing season."	EPA