

Term	Definition	Source
Aquatic Macroinvertebrates	"Aquatic macroinvertebrates are small organisms that have no internal skeletal system and live part or all of their lives in water. They are ubiquitous in freshwater ecosystems around the world."	National Park Service
Biodiversity	"Refers to the variety of life on Earth at all its levels, from genes to ecosystems, and can encompass the evolutionary, ecological, and cultural processes that sustain life."	American Museum of Natural History
Climate	The long-term average of the atmospheric and weather conditions in a given area.	US Global Change Research Program
Climate Literacy	"Climate Science Literacy is an understanding of your influence on climate and climate's influence on you and society."	NOAA
Conservation	"A mission-oriented science that focuses on how to protect and restore biodiversity, or the diversity of life on Earth."	Society for Conservation Biology
Corrosive Communities	"Communities in which individuals' lack of social connectedness due to fears, stress, anxiety, and conflict after a disaster impedes the communities' ability to recover."	Sea Grant / GOMRI
Cyanobacteria	"Cyanobacteria, also called blue-green algae, are microscopic organisms found naturally in all types of water... . In warm, nutrient-rich (high in phosphorus and nitrogen) environments, cyanobacteria can multiply quickly, creating blooms that spread across the water's surface."	CDC
Dead Zone	"An area in water that has less dissolved oxygen, making it inhospitable for marine life. Dead zones are also call hypoxic zones."	NOAA's Ocean Service
Dispersant	"Dispersants are chemicals that are sprayed on a surface oil slick to break down the oil into smaller droplets that more readily mix with the water. Dispersants do not reduce the amount of oil entering the environment, but push the effects of the spill underwater."	Center for Biological Diversity
Effluent	"Effluent discharge is liquid waste, other than waste from kitchens or toilets, surface water or domestic sewage. It is produced and discharged by any industrial or commercial premises, such as a food processing factory or manufacturing business."	Detectronic
Endocrine Disruptor Chemicals (EDCs)	Substances that interfere with the normal endocrine function of the body.	Hormone Health Network
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
Fenceline Communities	Communities that live on or near the "fenceline" of polluting facilities such as oil refineries.	Earthjustice

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Fracking	"A technique used to enable the extraction of natural gas or oil from shale and other forms of "tight" rock... Large quantities of water, chemicals, and sand are blasted into these formations at pressures high enough to crack the rock, allowing the once-trapped gas and oil to flow to the surface."	NRDC
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
Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)	"Harmful algal blooms, or HABs, occur when colonies of algae grow out of control and produce toxic or harmful effects on people, fish, shellfish, marine mammals and birds. The human illnesses caused by HABs, though rare, can be debilitating or even fatal."	NOAA
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
Mitigation	"The process or result of making something less severe, dangerous, painful, harsh, or damaging."	Merriam Webster
Nitrogen	A nutrient that is valuable for plant growth and found in many fertilizers.	Mosaic
Nonpoint Source Pollution	Pollution that comes from multiple sources over a wide area.	National Geographic
Nutrient Pollution	"The process where too many nutrients, mainly nitrogen and phosphorus, are added to bodies of water and can act like fertilizer, causing excessive growth of algae."	NOAA
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
Phosphorus	"Phosphorus is a common constituent of agricultural fertilizers, manure, and organic wastes in sewage and industrial effluent. It is an essential element for plant life, but when there is too much of it in water, it can speed up eutrophication."	USGS
Point Source Pollution	Pollution that comes from one identifiable source.	National Geographic
Saltwater Intrusion	The encroachment of seawater into freshwater ecosystems.	USGS
Sediment	"Sediment is solid material that is moved and deposited in a new location. Sediment can consist of rocks and minerals, as well as the remains of plants and animals."	National Geographic

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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.	<u>CPRA</u>
Urbanization	"The process through which cities grow, and higher and higher percentages of the population comes to live in the city."	<u>National Geographic</u>
Urban Wetlands	A wetland habitat found within or in close proximity to an urban area.	<u>Ramsar Convention on Wetlands</u>
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."	<u>NOAA</u>
Zooplankton	"Zooplankton are animals that live all or part of their life as plankton (from the Greek word for "drifting") suspended and drifting in fresh or saltwater rarely, if ever, coming in contact with hard surfaces."	<u>Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute</u>