

Ecology Vocabulary List

Energy & Pollution

Natural resource:	parts of the environment that are useful or necessary for the survival of living organisms
Renewable resource:	a natural resource that is recycled or replaced constantly by nature
Nonrenewable resource:	natural resources that are used up more quickly than they can be replaced by natural processes
Fossil fuels:	fuels form in Earth's crust over hundreds of millions of years; source for most energy
Contaminants:	impurities in water caused by natural processes
Water pollutants:	impurities in water caused by people
Leach:	when chemicals soak into groundwater
Point source:	pollution that comes from a particular spot
Nonpoint source:	pollution comes from widespread areas, not just a particular area
Watershed:	land area that drains into a water system such as a river, stream or lake
Wetland:	areas of land that are often covered by water and act as a natural filter for water soaking into the ground
Sediment:	solid particles, such as soil, carried by water and is a major source of water pollution
DDT's:	a toxic pesticide used by farmers that lasts a very long time in the environment. DDT's are currently banned