Land and Water Use

AP Environmental Science · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
tragedy of the commons /ˈtrædʒədi ɒvðə ˈkɒmənz/	Overfishing is an example of the **tragedy of the commons**.
clearcutting /ˈklɪəkʌtɪŋ/	**Clearcutting** removes all the trees in an area.
soil erosion /sɔɪl ɪˈrəʊʒn/	**Soil erosion** washes or blows soil away.
Green Revolution /ɡriːn ˌrevəˈluːʃn/	The **Green Revolution** brought new crops that gave much bigger harvests.
synthetic fertilizers /sɪnˈθetɪk ˈfɜːtəlaɪzəz/	**Synthetic fertilizers** are made in factories.
pesticides /ˈpestɪsaɪdz/	**Pesticides** kill insects that eat crops.
monoculture /ˈmɒnəʊkʌltʃə/	A **monoculture** grows only one kind of crop.
eutrophication /ˌjuːtrəfɪˈkeɪʃn/	**Eutrophication** happens when fertiliser runs into a lake.
soil salinization /sɔɪl ˌseɪlɪnaɪˈzeɪʃn/	**Soil salinization** leaves salt in the soil after irrigation.
irrigation /ˌɪrɪˈɡeɪʃn/	**Irrigation** brings water to crops.
aquifers /ˈækwɪfəz/	**Aquifers** store water underground.
pesticide resistance /ˈpestɪsaɪd rɪˈzɪstəns/	**Pesticide resistance** means pests are no longer killed by the spray.
overgrazing /ˌəʊvəˈɡreɪzɪŋ/	**Overgrazing** removes plant cover and exposes soil.

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desertification /dɪˌzɜːtɪfɪˈkeɪʃn/	**Desertification** makes dry land less productive.
methane /ˈmiːθeɪn/	Cows give off **methane**.
overfishing /ˌəʊvəˈfɪʃɪŋ/	**Overfishing** takes fish faster than they can breed.
mining /ˈmaɪnɪŋ/	**Mining** digs metals and coal out of the ground.
acid mine drainage /ˈæsɪd maɪn ˈdreɪnɪdʒ/	**Acid mine drainage** makes rivers acidic.
subsurface mining /ˈsʌbsəfɪs ˈmaɪnɪŋ/	**Subsurface mining** digs tunnels deep underground.
urbanization /ˌɜːbənaɪˈzeɪʃn/	**Urbanization** means more people moving to cities.
hydrologic cycle /ˌhaɪdrəˈlɒdʒɪk ˈsaɪkl/	The **hydrologic cycle** is another name for the water cycle.
saltwater intrusion /ˈsɒltwɔːtə ɪnˈtruːʒn/	**Saltwater intrusion** happens when sea water moves into wells.
impervious surfaces /ɪmˈpɜːvɪəs ˈsɜːfɪsɪz/	Roads and roofs are **impervious surfaces**: water cannot soak in.
urban heat islands /ˈɜːbən hiːt ˈaɪləndz/	**Urban heat islands** are city areas warmer than the countryside.
ecological footprint /ˌekəˈlɒdʒɪkl ˈfʊtprɪnt/	Eating less beef can reduce an **ecological footprint**.
sustainability /səˌsteɪnəˈbɪlɪti/	Planting new trees helps **sustainability**.

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permeable pavement /ˈpɜːməbl ˈpeɪvmənt/	**Permeable pavement** lets rain soak into the ground.
green roofs /ɡriːn ruːfs/	**Green roofs** are covered with plants.
integrated pest management /ˈɪntɪɡreɪtɪd pest ˈmænɪdʒmənt/	**Integrated pest management** uses several methods, not just sprays, to control pests.
crop rotation /krɒp rəʊˈteɪʃn/	**Crop rotation** changes crops grown in a field over time.
contour plowing /ˈkɒntʊə ˈplaʊɪŋ/	**Contour plowing** follows the shape of the hill to stop erosion.
terracing /ˈterɪsɪŋ/	**Terracing** creates flat steps for farming on hills.
rotational grazing /rəʊˈteɪʃənl ˈɡreɪzɪŋ/	**Rotational grazing** moves animals between fields so grass can grow back.
aquaculture /ˈækwəkʌltʃə/	Raising fish in ponds is **aquaculture**.
selective cutting /sɪˈlektɪv ˈkʌtɪŋ/	**Selective cutting** removes only some trees.
reforestation /rɪˌfɒrɪˈsteɪʃn/	**Reforestation** means planting trees where forests were cut.
prescribed burn /prɪˈskraɪbd bɜːn/	A **prescribed burn** is a small, planned fire that prevents bigger fires.
open-pit mine /ˈəʊpən pɪt maɪn/	An **open-pit mine** is a huge hole dug in the ground.
urban sprawl /ˈɜːbən sprɔːl/	**Urban sprawl** spreads cities into the countryside.

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