Natural resources

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Environmental Systems and Societies · HL · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
environmental impact assessment	An **environmental impact assessment** studies how a new dam would affect nature.
natural resource	Fresh water is a **natural resource**.
natural capital	A lake's fish are part of its **natural capital**.
natural income	Fish caught without shrinking the stock are **natural income**.
renewable /rɪˈnjuːəbl/	Wind is a **renewable** energy source.
non-renewable /nɒn rɪˈnjuːəbl/	Coal is a **non-renewable** resource.
rare earth element	A **rare earth element** is used in the magnets of wind turbines.
substitution /ˌsʌbstɪˈtjuːʃn/	Using aluminium instead of copper is **substitution**.
resource security	Buying from many suppliers improves **resource security**.
nuclear /ˈnjuːklɪə/	A **nuclear** power station gets energy from splitting atoms.
solar /ˈsəʊlə/	A **solar** panel converts sunlight into electricity.
wind /wɪnd/	A **wind** turbine uses moving air to generate electricity.

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hydroelectric /ˌhaɪdrəʊɪˈlektrɪk/	A **hydroelectric** station uses flowing water to drive turbines.
biomass /ˌbaɪəʊˈmæs/	Wood is **biomass** that can be burned for energy.
intermittent /ˌɪntəˈmɪtənt/	Wind power is **intermittent** because wind speed changes.
energy mix	An **energy mix** may include coal, wind and solar power.
energy security	Reliable electricity supplies improve **energy security**.
rebound effect	The **rebound effect** happens when saving energy makes it cheaper, so people use more.
municipal solid waste	Household rubbish is part of **municipal solid waste**.
electronic waste	An old broken phone is **electronic waste**.
• **microplastics** /ˌmaɪkrəʊˈplæstɪks/	**Microplastics** are plastic pieces smaller than five millimetres.
landfill /ˈlændfɪl/	A **landfill** buries waste in the ground.
leachate /ˈliːtʃeɪt/	Dirty liquid called **leachate** can leak out of a landfill.
incineration /ɪnˌsɪnəˈreɪʃn/	**Incineration** burns waste and leaves ash.
composting /ˈkɒmpɒstɪŋ/	**Composting** turns food and garden waste into useful organic material.
recycling	**Recycling** turns waste materials into new products.

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Word	Example
waste hierarchy	The **waste hierarchy** says reduce first, reuse next, recycle next, and throw away last.
life cycle assessment /laɪf ˈsaɪkl əˈsesmənt/	A **life cycle assessment** looks at a product's effects from start to finish.

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