

# RECYCLING GLOSSARY



RECYCLE MONTANA

## List of terms from various sources:

**3rd Party Certification** – Independent companies that have set up criteria to assess the environmental claims of various products. Products that have been certified by a third party normally have the 3rd party's seal of approval on the product packaging. Household and commercial cleaners are a common product that is certified by 3rd parties.

**Aerosol Products** - A substance packed under pressure in a container with a spraying device.

**Aerobic Bacteria** – Bacteria that thrive in an environment with oxygen. Most commercial and home compost systems rely on aerobic bacteria to break down organic matter and turn it into compost.

**Aerated Static Pile** - Composting system that uses a series of perforated pipes (or equivalent) as an air distribution system running underneath a compost pile and connected to a blower that either draws or blows air through the piles. Little or no pile turning is performed.

**Anaerobic** – An environment devoid of free oxygen, which allows for the proliferation of anaerobic bacteria in a compost pile.

**Aseptic Packaging** – Type of packaging commonly used for soy milk products and juice boxes. It is a composite packaging material made from paper, plastic and aluminum layers.

**Automotive Products** - A hazardous product category including waste motor oil, antifreeze, brake fluid, etc.

**Bacteria** - Group of single-cell micro-organisms, the smallest of the living organisms. Bacteria are found everywhere, in the soil, water and air.

**Bale** – Once separated, recyclable materials are compressed into rectangular bales which vary in size but are approximately one cubic yard in size. Bale weights vary, depending on what type of material they are made from but can range from a few hundred pounds to 1,500 lbs. or more. Garbage is sometimes baled to make it more efficient to transport to distant landfills.

**Best Management Practice (BMP)** - Methods that have been determined to be the most effective, practical means of preventing or reducing pollution from non-point sources.

**Biodegrade** - To decompose under natural conditions—the breakdown of a compound to simpler chemicals by microorganisms.

**Biomimicry** - Is the examination of nature, its models, systems, processes and elements to emulate or take inspiration from nature to solve human problems. The term biomimicry comes from the Greek words bios, meaning life, and mimesis, meaning to imitate.

**Bio-plastics** - A growing amount of plastics is made from feedstocks that are grown, such as sugar cane or corn. Although bioplastics represent an important area of innovation, attention should be paid to their sustainability considerations (environmental, economic and social), such as water use, recyclability, the effects of farming, greenhouse gas emissions, food supply and the cost of food. There are common misconceptions regarding bioplastics. Many people believe—incorrectly—that all bioplastics are biodegradable; however, the use of plant feedstocks does not necessarily lead to biodegradable plastics. For example, PET plastic made from plant feedstocks has the same chemical formula as PET made from natural gas and oil feedstocks. Bio-based PET plastic is not biodegradable, but it is recyclable. The bioplastic PLA, on the other hand, can biodegrade in a commercial composting facility—but it likely will not be accepted in many of today’s recycling programs.

**Blister-Pack Product Packaging** - Blister pack is a term for several types of pre-formed plastic packaging used for small consumer goods, foods and for pharmaceuticals.

**Bulk Buying** – The practice of purchasing food and other products in loose form, without packaging.

**Bulking Agent** - Material, usually high in carbon such as sawdust, wood chips, or shredded yard trimmings added to a compost system to maintain airflow by preventing settling and compaction of waste.

**Buy-Back Center** – Facility where individuals or groups bring recyclables in return for payment.

**Carbon Footprint** – A measure of the impact our activities have on the environment, in particular climate change. It relates to the amount of greenhouse gases produced in our day-to-day lives through burning fossil fuels for electricity, heating and transportation, etc. The carbon footprint is a measurement of all greenhouse gases we individually produce and has units of tons (or kg) of carbon dioxide equivalent.

**Carbon: Nitrogen Ratio** – The balance of carbon and nitrogen in an organic material. This ratio is an important factor in creating an environment that maximizes bacterial decomposition of organic waste.

**Caution** – As used on a product warning label. Indicates that the contents are toxic, but the level of toxicity is low. Ingesting products that contain more than an ounce can harm or produce a toxic effect in an adult.

**Chasing Arrows** - The “chasing arrows” symbol is the recognizable recycling symbol. Its intended use by manufacturers is to indicate that a product and/or its packaging is recyclable although it is often incorrectly used.

**Climate Change** - The term 'climate change' is sometimes used to refer to all forms of climatic inconsistency, but because the Earth's climate is never static, the term is more properly used to imply a significant change from one climatic condition to another. In some cases, 'climate change' has been used synonymously with the term, 'global warming;' scientists however, tend to use the term in the wider sense to also include natural changes in climate.

**Closed Loop** – A product that is continually recycled into the same product, for example glass bottles into glass bottles.

**Commingling** – A collection method where recyclable materials are collected together and separated manually or by special machinery.

**Compact Fluorescent Lamp (CFL)** - Small fluorescent lamps used as more efficient alternatives to incandescent lighting. Also called PL, CFL, Twin-Tube, or BIAX lamps.

**Composite Material Packaging** – Product packaging that is made from mixed-materials that are inseparable, such as milk cartons made of plastic-coated paper. Separating the paper from the plastic makes recycling such composites expensive.

**Compost** – Material formed from the decomposition of various forms of plant debris. Sometimes the word is used as a verb, to compost a material is to place it into environment that will cause it to decompose. Also, crumbly, earthy, sweet-smelling mixture of decomposing organic matter (e.g., leaves and food scraps) that is often used to improve the texture, water-retaining capacity and aeration of soil.

**Composting** – A process that allows for the controlled biological decomposition of organic material.

**Conservation** - Preserving and renewing, when possible, human and natural resources. The use, protection and improvement of natural resources according to principles that will ensure their highest economic or social benefits.

**Consumable Products** – Products such as food and fuel that, when used, are permanently transformed into energy and/or waste product.

**Consumerism** - A doctrine advocating a continual increase in the consumption of goods as a basis for a sound economy.

**Contaminant** - A substance that contaminates (to make impure or unsuitable by contact or mixture with something unclean, bad, etc.). In the recycling and composting industries, contaminants are materials that should not have been placed in the recycling bin or yard debris carts.

**Crumb Rubber** - Ground rubber fragments the size of sand or silt used in rubber or plastic products, or processed further into reclaimed rubber or asphalt products.

**Cullet** – Broken or crushed glass suitable for re-melting.

**Curbside Collection** – Garbage haulers pick up recyclables from residents. Containers of some sort are usually provided.

**Curing** - The last stage of composting that occurs after much of the readily metabolized material has been decomposed. Provides for additional stabilization, reduction of pathogens, and allows further decomposition of cellulose and lignin.

**Danger** – As used on a product warning label. Indicates the contents are highly toxic (less than a teaspoon can harm or kill an adult), corrosive (can burn the skin or the eyes) or flammable.

**Decomposition** - The breakdown of matter by bacteria and fungi, changing the chemical makeup and physical appearance of materials.

**Degradable** - Relating to a compound that breaks down into simpler compounds by stages.

**Deposit System** – The generic term for any recycling program that involves a deposit that is recouped (all or part) through participation in a qualified recycling program.

**Digestion** - The biochemical decomposition of organic matter, resulting in partial gasification, liquefaction and mineralization of pollutants.

**Dirty MRFs** – A term for a material recovery facility that processes garbage to remove recyclable or compostable materials.

**Disposable Products** – Products such as paper and plastic dishware and utensils, batteries, etc., which are designed and produced for a one-time use and then become part of the waste stream.

**Diversion Rate** – The percentage of waste materials diverted from traditional disposal such as landfilling or incineration to be recycled, composted or re-used.

**Downstream Impacts** - Energy and pollution associated with collection and transportation of waste and recyclables, leachate from MSW and ash landfills, methane and other air emissions from landfills, air emissions from waste incinerators, land, air, and water quality impacts of burning, stockpiling, and illegal dumping of garbage. While downstream impacts have negative environmental impacts as described above, upstream impacts are normally more environmentally destructive.

**Drop-off Center** – A central, predesignated area, building, or facility set up to receive recyclables which are dropped off by individuals.

**Dual Stream Sort** – A collection method for recycling whereby most materials are mixed together but one or more items (i.e. glass or motor oil) are collected separately from the commingled (mixed) recycling.

**Durable Products** – Products such as clothing, furniture and tools that are designed to be used repeatedly and can be maintained and repaired to insure longer life.

**End User** - Consumer of products for the purpose of recycling. Excludes products for re-use or combustion for energy recovery.

**Environmentally Preferable Purchasing** – Green procurement is the purchase of environmentally friendly products and services, the selection of contractors and the setting of environmental requirements in a contract. Green procurement stems from pollution prevention principles and activities. Also known as green or environmental purchasing, green procurement compares price, technology, quality and the environmental impact of the product, service or contract. Green procurement policies are applicable to all organizations, regardless of size. Green procurement programs may be as simple as purchasing renewable energy or recycled office paper or more involved such as setting environmental requirements for suppliers and contractors.

**E-waste** – Electronics that are collected for recycling are considered e-waste.

**Extended Producer Responsibility** - (EPR) is a mandatory type of product stewardship that includes, at a minimum, the requirement that the producer's responsibility for their product extends to post-consumer management of that product and its packaging. There are two related features of EPR policy: (1) shifting financial and management responsibility, with government oversight, upstream to the producer and away from the public sector; and (2) providing incentives to producers to incorporate environmental considerations into the design of their products and packaging.

**Externalized Benefits** - An external benefit is a benefit that someone gains because of someone else's action, outside of any market transaction between them. Immunizations give external benefits. When you get a vaccine for a certain disease, you make it less likely that you will contract the disease. That is the internal benefit. What you also do is make it less likely that other people will get the disease, because they probably will not catch it from you. That is the external benefit.

**Externalized Costs** - Externalized costs are negative impacts associated with economic transactions which concern people outside of those transactions, meaning that neither the buyer nor the seller bears the brunt of the costs. An example is factory pollution, which can have a negative influence on the surrounding community.

**Ferrous Metals** - Magnetic metals derived from iron or steel; products made from ferrous metals include appliances, furniture, containers, and packaging like steel drums and barrels. Recycled products include processing tin/steel cans, strapping, and metals from appliances into new products.

**Fill** - Man-made deposits of natural soils or rock products and waste materials.

**Flammables** – Products that are easily set on fire; combustible.

**Fluorescent Lamps** – An electric lamp that produces light through fluorescence. In most fluorescent lamps, a mixture of argon and mercury gas contained in a glass bulb is stimulated by an electric current, producing ultraviolet rays. These rays strike a fluorescent phosphor coating on the interior surface of the bulb, causing it to emit visible light. Fluorescent lamps are much more efficient than incandescent lamps because very little energy is lost as heat.

**Food Chain** - A sequence of organisms, each of which uses the next, lower member of the sequence as a food source.

**Food Processing Waste** - Food residues produced during agricultural and industrial operations.

**Food Waste** - Uneaten food and food preparation wastes from residences and commercial establishments such as grocery stores, restaurants, and produce stands, institutional cafeterias and kitchens, and industrial sources like employee lunchrooms.

**Food Web** - The feeding relationships by which energy and nutrients are transferred from one species to another.

**Generation Rate** – This is a measurement of everything that is disposed, recycled or composted. It is a measure of how much society consumes.

**Garbage** - Animal and vegetable waste resulting from the handling, storage, sale, preparation, cooking, and serving of foods.

**Gaylord** - The trade name for a large reusable corrugated container used for shipping materials (dimensions approximately 40 by 48 by 37 inches).

**Glass Containers** - For recycling purposes, containers like bottles and jars for drinks, food, cosmetics and other products. When being recycled, container glass is generally separated into color categories for conversion into new containers, construction materials or fiberglass insulation.

**Global Warming** - An increase in the near surface temperature of the Earth. Global warming has occurred in the distant past as the result of natural influences, but the term is most often used to refer to the warming predicted to occur as a result of increased emissions of greenhouse gases. Scientists generally agree that the Earth's surface has warmed by about 1-degree Fahrenheit in the past 140 years. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recently concluded that increased concentrations of greenhouse gases are causing an increase in the Earth's surface temperature and that increased concentrations of sulfate aerosols have led to relative cooling in some regions, generally over and downwind of heavily industrialized areas. (See Also Climate Change)

**Grass Cycling** – Leaving cut clippings on the lawn as a natural way to return nutrients to the lawn. It is a source reduction activity in which grass clippings are left on the lawn after mowing. The practice consists of mowing grass so it is never more than two to three inches tall. The grass clippings are left where they fall and allowed to decompose, returning nutrients to the lawn.

**Green Building** - Green building is the practice of creating structures and using processes that are environmentally responsible and resource-efficient throughout a building's life-cycle from siting to design, construction, operation, maintenance, renovation and deconstruction. This practice expands and complements the classical building design concerns of economy, utility, durability and comfort. Green building is also known as a sustainable or high-performance building.

**Green Marketing** – A style of marketing that makes packages and products look “green” or environmentally friendly to the consumer.

**Green Team** - Green teams are dedicated groups of employees, regardless of discipline or organizational level, which facilitate the pragmatic implementation of sustainable operations principles at their organization. Schools, businesses and places of worship can all have green teams. Green teams range from the informal - a few employees working together to increase recycling opportunities for themselves and their community, to the formal - a group specifically chartered by leadership to promote and foster sustainable operations that reduce a unit's environmental footprint. Green teams are often "place-based," meaning that the issues they choose to work on are meaningful to their specific community and geographic location.

**Green Washing** - Greenwashing (a compound word modeled on "whitewash"), is a form of spin in which green PR or green marketing is deceptively used to promote the perception that an organization's aims and policies are environmentally friendly. Whether it is to increase profits or gain political support, greenwashing may be used to manipulate popular opinion to support otherwise questionable aims.

**Halogen** - A type of incandescent lamp with higher energy-efficiency than standard ones.

**Hazardous Products** – A term applied to those products that because of their chemical reactivity, toxic, explosive, corrosive, radioactive or other characteristics, cause danger, or are likely to cause danger, to health or the environment.

**Herbicide** - A hazardous product category that describes products intended to kill unwanted plants. Includes Weed and Feed lawn products, Diazinon, Moss killers, Round up and other weed killers.

**High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)** – A type of plastic used to make milk jugs and other rigid plastic bottles. A material used to make plastic bottles and other products that produces toxic fumes when burned. Coded #2.

**Holding Unit** – A simple container used to store yard and garden waste in an organized way until these materials break down or are needed in an active compost pile.

**Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)** - Small quantities of unused or leftover hazardous products used in the home that become waste. Paints, pesticides and some cleaners are examples of household hazardous waste. Caution must be taken when handling, storing or disposing of these products.

**Household Hazardous Waste Site** – A collection facility that accepts hazardous materials from the public and then disposes of the waste safely. In rural areas that do not have easy access to a hazardous waste facility, periodic collection events are scheduled to safely manage these materials.

**Humus** - The dark-brown or black substance resulting from the slow decomposition and oxidization of organic matter on or near the surface of the earth, which, with the products of the decomposition of various rocks, forms the soil in which plants grow.

**Incandescent Lamp** - A lamp that produces light by heating up a filament of wire inside a bulb with an electric current, causing incandescence. The glass bulb containing the filament is filled with a nonreactive gas, such as argon, to prevent the wire from burning.

**Incineration** – The process of burning solid waste under controlled conditions to reduce its weight and volume, and often to produce energy. Facilities that use the heat to generate energy are called waste-to-energy facilities.

**Inorganic** - Substance in which carbon-to-carbon bonds are absent; mineral matter.

**Inorganic Chemicals** - Chemical substances of mineral origin, not of basically carbon structure.

**Integrated Waste Management** – A system combining several alternatives for solid waste management, including recycling, composting and disposal options such as landfilling.

**KRAFT** - A strong, usually brown paper processed from wood pulp, used chiefly for grocery bags and as wrapping paper. Usually it is recycled with the similarly made corrugated cardboard fibers.

**Lamp** (also referred to as "universal waste lamp") – defined as the bulb or tube portion of an electric lighting device. A lamp is specifically designed to produce radiant energy, most often in the ultraviolet, visible and infra-red regions of the electromagnetic spectrum. Examples of common universal waste electric lamps include, but are not limited to, fluorescent, high intensity discharge, neon, mercury vapor, high pressure sodium and metal halide lamps.

**Landfill** - A waste disposal site for the deposit of solid waste (or ashes that result from incineration). Also, an engineered disposal site where solid wastes are deposited, compacted to the smallest practical volume and covered by soil or other material applied at the end of each operating day. Hazardous wastes are taken to special disposal sites selected and designed to minimize the chance of releasing hazardous substances into the environment. Many larger landfills have methane capture systems to reduce the amount of methane (a powerful greenhouse gas) from entering the atmosphere. The methane is burned to generate electricity and to eliminate the methane gas.

**Leachate** - Liquid that has seeped through solid waste in a landfill and has extracted soluble, dissolved or suspended materials in the process.

**Life-Cycle Analysis** – Analyzes the total environmental impacts of a specific product or product category, including energy use, air pollution and water pollution. This analysis tracks every stage of the products life, including mining, manufacturing, transportation, use and disposal.

**Life Cycle of a Product** - All stages of a product's development, from extraction of fuel for power to production, marketing, use and disposal.

**Litter** - The highly visible portion of solid waste carelessly discarded outside the regular garbage and trash collection and disposal system.

**Mandatory Recycling** - Programs which, by law require consumers to separate trash so that some or all recyclable materials are recovered for recycling rather than going to landfills or incinerators.

**Manual Separation** - Hand sorting of recyclable or compostable materials in waste.

**Material Recovery Facility (MRF)** – A facility that manually and/or mechanically separates recyclable materials out of mixed waste. The remainder of the waste is sent to the landfill.

**Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)** - A compilation of information required under the OSHA Communication Standard on the identity of hazardous chemicals, health and physical hazards, exposure limits and precautions.

**Minimization** - A comprehensive program to minimize or eliminate wastes, usually applied to wastes at their point of origin.

**Mixed Glass** - Recovered container glass not sorted into categories (e.g. color, grade).

**Mixed Metals** - Recovered metals not sorted into categories such as aluminum, tin, or steel cans or ferrous or non-ferrous metals.

**Mixed Paper** - Recovered paper not sorted into categories such as old magazines, old newspapers, old corrugated boxes, etc. (EPA Glossary)

**Mixed Plastic** - Recovered plastic unsorted by category.

**Mixed Waste Processing** - Central facility for inspecting and sorting commingled waste materials generally, for recovering materials of value for recycling. Same as a material recovery facility (MRF).

**Mobius Loop** – This “chasing arrows” symbol inside a circle is supposed to be used by manufacturers to indicate that a product and/or its packaging is made from recycled content.

**Mulch** – Organic material (wood chips, sawdust, etc.) placed on the soil surface to control weeds, lessen evaporation and stop soil erosion.

**Municipal Solid Waste** - Wastes such as durable goods, disposable goods, containers and packaging, food scraps, yard trimmings and miscellaneous inorganic wastes from households, certain commercial establishments (e.g., businesses or restaurants), institutions (e.g., schools or hospitals), and some industrial sources. It does not include nonhazardous industrial wastes, sewage, agricultural waste, hazardous waste or construction and demolition waste. Also known as garbage, trash, refuse or debris.

**Newspaper** – Used or discarded newsprint which has a minimum contamination by food or other material.

**NIMBY** – An acronym for the “Not in My Back Yard” syndrome when neighborhoods fight against the placement of unwanted facilities near their homes, like landfills or waste processing facilities.

**Non-Ferrous Metals** - Nonmagnetic metals such as aluminum, lead and copper. Products made all or in part from such metals include containers, packaging, appliances, furniture, electronic equipment and aluminum foil.

**Nonpoint-Source Pollution** – Undefined sources of water pollution, such as street runoff, erosion from construction and agricultural areas, etc.

**Nonrenewable Resources** – Resources not capable of being naturally restored or replenished or that are replaced more slowly than they are used such as oil, iron ore or uranium.

**Office paper** – Used or discarded high grade white paper and manila paper, including paper utilized for file folders, tab cards, writing, typing, printing, computer printing and photocopying, which is suitable for recycling with minimum contamination

**Organic Matter** – Plant and animal residue that decomposes and becomes a part of the soil.

**Other Ferrous Metals** - Recyclable metals from strapping, furniture and metal found in tires and consumer electronics but does not include metals found in construction materials or cars, locomotives and ships.

**Other Glass** - Recyclable glass from furniture, appliances, and consumer electronics. Does not include glass from transportation products (cars trucks or shipping containers) and construction or demolition debris.

**Other Nonferrous Metals** - Recyclable nonferrous metals such as lead, copper and zinc from appliances, consumer electronics and non-packaging aluminum products. Does not include nonferrous metals from industrial applications and construction and demolition debris.

**Other Paper** - For Recyclable paper from books, third-class mail, commercial printing, paper towels, plates and cups; and other non-packaging paper such as posters, photographic papers, cards and games, milk cartons, folding boxes, bags, wrapping paper, and paperboard. Does not include wrapping paper or shipping cartons.

**Other Plastics** - Recyclable plastic from appliances, eating utensils, plates, containers, toys and various kinds of equipment. Does not include heavy-duty plastics such as yielding materials.

**Other Wood** - Recyclable wood from furniture, consumer electronics cabinets and other nonpackaging wood products. Does not include lumber and tree stumps recovered from construction and demolition activities and industrial process waste such as shavings and sawdust.

**Pallet** – A wooden platform used in connection with a forklift for moving bales or other large items. Also called a 'skid.'

**Paper** - In the recycling business, refers to products and materials, including newspapers, magazines, office papers, corrugated containers, bags and some paperboard packaging that can be recycled into new paper products.

**Paper Processor/Plastics Processor** - Intermediate facility where recovered paper or plastic products and materials are sorted, decontaminated and prepared for final recycling.

**Passively Aerated Windrow System (PAWS)** – A composting method in which windrows are constructed over a series of perforated plastic pipes, which serve as air ducts for passive aeration. Windrows are not turned.

**Pay-As-You-Throw/Unit-Based Pricing (PAYT)** - Systems under which residents pay for municipal waste management and disposal services by weight or volume collected, not a fixed fee.

**Participation Rate** – Portion of population participating in a recycling program.

**Pesticides** – A hazardous product category that describes products intended to kill a pest. Includes insecticides, mothballs, fungicides, etc.

**Planned Obsolescence** – Designing a product to become obsolete because of fashion or function with other elements, not because it is worn out. This practice is most common in computers and software, clothing, sporting equipment, home interiors and automobiles.

**Point-Source Pollution** – Water pollution sources that may be traced to a specific source, such as sewer line or a discharge pipe of an industrial facility.

**Polishes and Waxes** - A hazardous product category including floor wax, furniture and shoe polish, auto wax, nail polish, etc.

**Polyethylene Terephthalate (PETE)** - A type of plastic used to make soft drink bottles and other kinds of food containers. PET is also used to make fabric. Coded #1.

**Polylactic Acid or Polylactide (PLA)** – Polylactic acid or Polylactide (PLA) is a biodegradable, thermoplastic, aliphatic polyester derived from renewable resources. Corn starch (in the U.S.) or sugarcane are the common feedstock. Bacterial fermentation is used to produce lactic acid, which is oligomerized and then catalytically dimerized to make the monomer for ring-opening polymerization.

**Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)** - A tough, environmentally indestructible plastic that releases hydrochloric acid when burned.

**Post-Consumer Material** – Material generated by a consumer or business that has served its intended use and has been separated or diverted from solid waste for recycling, collection or disposal. Post-consumer does not include manufacturing waste. Recycling done at home is considered post-consumer material.

**Pre-Consumer Material** – Material such as factory trimmings, damaged or obsolete products and overruns, which are generated by manufacturers. Such materials have been recycled for years.

**Precycling** – The practice of reducing or avoiding waste before it enters the home by prethinking your purchase based on packaging waste; one of the most effective ways to decrease household garbage.

**Product Stewardship** - Product Stewardship is the act of minimizing health, safety, environmental and social impacts, and maximizing economic benefits of a product and its packaging throughout all lifecycle stages. The producer of the product has the greatest ability to minimize adverse impacts, but other stakeholders, such as suppliers, retailers and consumers, also play a role. Stewardship can be either voluntary or required by law.

**Putrefaction** - Biological decomposition of organic matter; associated with anaerobic conditions.

**Reclamation** - (In recycling) Restoration of materials found in the waste stream to a beneficial use, which may be for purposes other than the original use.

**Recovery Rate** – Percentage of usable recycled materials that have been removed from the total amount of municipal solid waste generated in a specific area or by a specific business.

**Recyclable** - Products that can be collected and remanufactured into new products after they've been used. These products do not necessarily contain recycled materials and only benefit the environment if people recycle them after use.

**Recycle** - Minimizing waste generation by recovering and reprocessing usable products that might otherwise become waste.

**Recycled-Content** - Products are made from materials that would otherwise have been discarded. That means these products are made totally or partially from material contained in the products you recycle, like aluminum soda cans or newspaper. Recycled-content products also can be items that are rebuilt or re-manufactured from used products.

**Recycled Wood** – Any wood or wood fuel which is derived from such products or processes as pallets, skids, spools, packaging materials, bulky wood waste or scraps from newly built wood products, provided such wood is not treated wood.

**Recycling** – The process of converting waste materials into new materials and objects.

**Recycling Facility/Recycling Center** – Land and appurtenances thereon and structures where recycling is conducted, including but not limited to, an intermediate processing center.

**Refuse** – (See solid waste)

**Region** – Two or more municipalities which have joined together by creating a district or signing an interlocal agreement or signing a mutual contract for a definite period concerning solid waste management within such municipalities.

**Regional Authority** – The administrative body delegated the responsibility of solid waste management for two or more municipalities which have joined together by creating a district or signing an interlocal agreement or signing a mutual contract for a definitive period.

**Regulated Wood Fuel** – Processed wood from construction and demolition activities which has been sorted to remove plastics, plaster, gypsum wallboard, asbestos, asphalt shingles and wood which contains creosote or to which pesticides have been applied or which contains substances defined as hazardous.

**Render** - To reduce, convert or melt down (fat) by heating. To try out or extract (oil, lard, tallow, etc.) from fatty animal substances; as, to render tallow. Finished product often used in animal feed, cosmetics and soaps.

**Residential Waste** - Waste generated in single and multi-family homes, including newspapers, clothing, disposable tableware, food packaging, cans, bottles, food scraps and yard trimmings other than those that are diverted to backyard composting.

**Residual** - Amount of a pollutant remaining in the environment after a natural or technological process has taken place.

**Residue** – Bottom ash, air pollution control residue and other residues from the combustion process at resources recovery facilities, wood-burning facilities, municipal solid waste incinerators and biomedical waste incinerators.

**Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA)** – The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) gives EPA the authority to control hazardous waste from the "cradle-to-grave." This includes the generation, transportation, treatment, storage and disposal of hazardous waste. RCRA also set forth a framework for the management of non-hazardous solid wastes. The 1986 amendments to RCRA enabled EPA to address environmental problems that could result from underground tanks storing petroleum and other hazardous substances.

The Federal Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA) are the 1984 amendments to RCRA that focused on waste minimization and phasing out land disposal of hazardous waste as well as corrective action for releases. Some of the other mandates of this law include increased enforcement authority for EPA, more stringent hazardous waste management standards and a comprehensive underground storage tank program. (EPA, RCRA On-Line).

**Resources Recovery Facility** – A facility utilizing processes to reclaim energy from municipal solid waste.

**Reuse** - Using a product or component of municipal solid waste in its original form more than once.

**Rubbish** - Solid waste, excluding food waste and ashes, from homes, institutions and workplaces.

**Run-Off** - That part of precipitation, snow melt or irrigation water that runs off the land into streams or other surface-water. It can carry pollutants from the air and land into receiving waters.

**Salvage** – Saving something from destruction or waste and putting to further use.

**Scavenger** - 1. a person who searches through and collects items from discarded material. 2. An animal or other organism that feeds on dead organic matter. 3. a street cleaner.

**Scrap** - Materials discarded from manufacturing operations that may be suitable for reprocessing.

**Scrap Metal Processor** - Intermediate operating facility where recovered metal is sorted, cleaned of contaminants and prepared for recycling.

**Secondary Materials** - Materials that have been manufactured and used at least once and are to be used again.

**Sewage** - The waste matter that passes through sewers.

**Sharps** - Hypodermic needles, syringes (with or without the attached needle), Pasteur pipettes, scalpel blades, blood vials, needles with attached tubing and culture dishes used in animal or human patient care or treatment, or in medical, research or industrial laboratories. Also included are other types of broken or unbroken glassware that were in contact with infectious agents, such as used slides and cover slips and unused hypodermic and suture needles, syringes and scalpel blades.

**Signal Words** - The words used on a pesticide label--Danger, Warning, Caution--to indicate level of toxicity.

**Single Stream Collection** – Collection system where recyclables are fully commingled, mixing fiber (papers) and containers (glass bottles, metal cans and plastic containers).

**Sludge Processing Facility** – A volume reduction plant, the operations of which involve solely the reduction in volume of water treatment, sewage treatment or industrial sludge generated elsewhere.

**SMART** (Save Money and Reduce Trash) - Another name for Pay-As-You-Throw - Systems under which residents pay for municipal waste management and disposal services by weight or volume collected, not a fixed fee.

**Solid Waste** – Unwanted or discarded solid, liquid, semisolid or contained gaseous material, including, but not limited to, demolition debris, material burned or otherwise processed at a resources recovery facility or incinerator, material processed at a recycling facility and sludges or other residue from a water pollution abatement facility, water supply treatment plant or air pollution control facility.

**Solid Waste Facility**- Any solid waste disposal area, volume reduction plant, transfer station, wood-burning facility or biomedical waste treatment facility.

**Solid Waste Disposal Area**– Any location, including a landfill or other land disposal site, used for the disposal of more than ten cubic yards of solid waste.

**Source Reduction** - Reducing the amount of materials entering the waste stream from a specific source by redesigning products or patterns of production or consumption.

**Source-Separated Organic Material Composting Facility** – Land, including structures and appurtenances thereon, where the composting of organic material that has been separated at the point or source of generation from non-organic material, takes place. Organic materials mean substances composed primarily of carbon and nitrogen, including but not limited to food scraps, food processing residue, soiled or unrecyclable paper and yard trimmings.

**Source Separation** - Segregating various wastes at the point of generation (e.g., separation of paper, metal and glass from other wastes to make recycling simpler and more efficient).

**Special Wastes** – The following wastes, so long as they are not hazardous waste pursuant to section 22a-115 of the General Statutes or radioactive material subject to section 22a-158 of the General Statutes: (1) water treatment, sewage treatment or industrial sludges, liquid, solids and contained gases; fly-ash and casting sands or slag; and contaminated dredge spoils; (2) scrap tires; (3) bulky waste, as defined in this section; (4) asbestos; (5) residue; and (6) biomedical waste.

**Sustainability** – Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

**Toxic Substance** - A chemical or mixture that may present an unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment.

**Toxic Waste** - A waste that can produce injury if inhaled, swallowed, or absorbed through the skin.

**Transfer Station** – Any location or structure, whether located on land or water, where more than ten cubic yards of solid waste, generated elsewhere, may be stored for transfer or transferred from transportation units and placed in other transportation units for movement to another location, whether such waste is stored at the location prior to transfer.

**Trash** - Material considered worthless or offensive that is thrown away. Generally defined as dry waste material, but in common usage it is a synonym for garbage, rubbish or refuse.

**Treated Wood** – Wood which contains an adhesive, paint, stain, fire retardant, pesticide or preservative.

**Used Oil** - Spent motor oil from passenger cars and trucks collected at specified locations for recycling.

**Vector** - 1. An organism, often an insect or rodent, that carries disease. 2. Plasmids, viruses, or bacteria used to transport genes into a host cell. A gene is placed in the vector; the vector then "infects" the bacterium.

**Vermicomposting** – The process by which worms convert organic waste into worm castings – the dark, fertile, granular excrement of a worm. Castings are rich in plant nutrients.

**Volume Reduction** - Processing waste materials to decrease the amount of space they occupy, usually by compacting, shredding, incineration or composting.

**Volume Reduction Plant** – Any location or structure, whether located on land or water, where more than two thousand pounds per hour of solid waste generated elsewhere may be reduced in volume, including but not limited to, resources recovery facilities and other incinerators, recycling facilities, pulverizers, compactors, shredders, balers and composting facilities.

**Waste** - Unwanted materials left over from a manufacturing process and refuse from places of human or animal habitation.

**Waste Characterization** - Identification of chemical and microbiological constituents of a waste material.

**Waste Exchange** - Arrangement in which companies exchange their wastes for the benefit of both parties.

**Waste Feed** - The continuous or intermittent flow of wastes into an incinerator.

**Waste Generation** - The weight or volume of materials and products that enter the waste stream before recycling, composting, landfilling or combustion takes place. Can represent the amount of waste generated by a given source or category of sources.

**Waste Management Project**– Any solid waste disposal and resources recovery area, plant, works, system, facility or component of a facility, equipment, machinery or other element of a facility which the authority is authorized to plan, design, finance, construct, manage, operate or maintain under the provisions of this chapter, including real estate and improvements thereto and the extension or provision of utilities and other appurtenant facilities deemed necessary by the authority for the operation of a project or portion of a project, including all property rights, easements and interests required.

**Waste Minimization** - Measures or techniques that reduce the amount of wastes generated during industrial production processes; term is also applied to recycling and other efforts to reduce the amount of waste going into the waste stream. See also Waste Reduction.

**Waste Stream** - The total flow of solid waste from homes, businesses, institutions and manufacturing plants that is recycled, burned or disposed of in landfills, or segments thereof such as the "residential waste stream" or the "recyclable waste stream."

**Waste-to-Energy Facility/Municipal-Waste Combustor** - Facility where recovered municipal solid waste is converted into a usable form of energy, usually via combustion.

**Waste Reduction** - Reducing the amount of materials entering the waste stream from a specific source by redesigning products or patterns of production or consumption (e.g., using returnable beverage containers). Synonymous with Source Reduction.

**Windrow** – A long, relatively narrow, and low (compost) pile. Windrows have a large exposed surface area which encourages passive aeration and drying.

**Wood Packaging** - Wood products such as pallets, crates and barrels.

**Yard Trimmings** – Leaves, grass clippings, weeds, branches up to one (1") inch in diameter and prunings from yards or gardens.

**Zero Waste** - Zero Waste is a goal that is both pragmatic and visionary, to guide people to emulate sustainable natural cycles, where all discarded materials are resources for others to use. Zero Waste means designing and managing products and processes to reduce the volume and toxicity of waste and materials, conserve and recover all resources, and not burn or bury them. Implementing Zero Waste will eliminate all discharges to land, water or air that may be a threat to planetary, human, animal or plant health.