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Glossary of terms

Alternative technologies

Manufacturing or production methods that are less polluting and more resource efficient than the traditional methods.

Carbon emissions

Carbon dioxide emissions that are released into the atmosphere by the burning of fossil fuels such as oil, coal and gas.

Carbon Trust

A non-profit making company providing specialist support to help business and the public sector cut carbon emissions, saving energy and invest in low carbon technologies.

Carbon footprint

A person or businesses' carbon footprint refers to the amount of carbon being released into the atmosphere for which they are responsible - whether directly, via their home energy use, their transport use, or indirectly via the products and services they buy and use.

Climate change

The change in the earth's atmosphere that affects temperature, weather patterns and environments. This change can be natural and influenced by the global warming effect.

Energy efficient

Machines and equipment that use the least possible amount of energy in the performance of their job, while still performing that job successfully.

European Social Fund

A European initiative set up to improve employment opportunities in the European Union and so help raise standards of living. It aims to help people fulfil their potential by giving them better skills and better job prospects.

Global warming

Global warming refers to the increase in the earth's surface temperature due to higher levels of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane which trap heat within the atmosphere, and the projected worsening of this effect over time.

Landfill site

Landfill sites are where local authorities and industry can take waste to be buried and compacted with other wastes.

Low carbon jobs

'Low-carbon jobs' refer to employment in sectors that include such aspects as energy efficiency, renewable energy technologies, alternative transport and fuels. Defined primarily

according to industry rather than occupation, they include a range of medium and high-skilled activities; in design, production, marketing and retail, transport and distribution, assembly, installation, maintenance and support services including legal, IT and technical consultancy.

Low carbon economy

An area whose economic status means that they can support low carbon initiatives, businesses and societies. (is an economy that has a minimal output of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions into the environment biosphere.)

Low carbon skills

Working skills held in the subjects of energy efficiency, renewables, alternative transport and fuels.

Sustainable Development

Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

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