



Green Glossary

Greening: The activity of adding sustainability principles into the planning process of an event or operation.

Green Building: A building that minimizes its impact on the environment through conservation of energy, water, and other resources, while contributing to the health of its occupants without compromising the aesthetic design.

Greenhouse Gases: Any gas that absorbs infrared radiation in the Earth's atmosphere. Carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrogen oxides are of particular concern due to their length of time they remain resident in the atmosphere. Primarily, the emissions of coal-fired power plants and combustion engine automobiles produce carbon dioxide that prevents excess heat from escaping through the atmosphere, thereby raising the surface temperature of the earth. More than 80 percent of all U.S. greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide emissions from energy-related sources.

Green Power: Electricity generated from renewable energy sources. This includes solar, wind, biomass, geothermal, and hydroelectric power.

Greenwash (a [portmanteau](#) of [green](#) and [whitewash](#)) is a term that is used to describe the act of misleading consumers regarding the environmental practices of a company or the environmental benefits of a product or service.^[1] The term **Green sheen** has similarly been used to describe organizations which attempt to appear that they are adopting practices beneficial to the environment.^[2]