

# Inglês Técnico

# **Engenharia Ambiental**





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### Introdução

Neste material, exploraremos os termos e expressões essenciais necessários para uma comunicação eficaz no campo da engenharia ambiental e sustentabilidade.

Você desenvolverá habilidades para articular conceitos e projetos ambientais de forma clara e precisa, enquanto adquire a capacidade de compreender e responder às demandas e desafios específicos da proteção ambiental e conservação dos recursos naturais.

Estamos entusiasmados para iniciar esta jornada de aprendizado com você, contribuindo para o seu sucesso profissional como Engenheiro Ambiental!

Vamos começar!



### Orientação

# Siga estas orientações para otimizar o uso deste material e potencializar o seu aprendizado

- 1 Imprima este PDF;
- 2 Destaque com caneta marca-texto as palavras desconhecidas;
- 3 Leia a coluna meaning para descobrir o significado, sem usar tradutores;
- 4 Construa frases com aplicação das novas palavras que você está aprendendo.

Se precisar de inspiração, use o dictionary.cambridge.org

Faça isso por meio da escrita e não da digitação, pois isso potencializa o armazenamento do novo conhecimento na memória de longo prazo.



# **Expressões**

Exemplos		
Air pollutants	Just as fuel consumption grows disproportionately, so does the emission of air pollutants.	
Poluentes atmosféricos	Assim como o consumo de combustível cresce desproporcionalmente, também aumenta a emissão de poluentes atmosféricos.	
Biome	The encroaching fields of soy have literally torn the biome in half, driving dozens of species of animals and plants into extinction.	
Bioma	Os campos invasivos da soja literalmente rasgaram o bioma ao meio, levando dezenas de espécies de animais e plantas à extinção.	
Blackwater	Precaution needs to be taken when handling blackwater and if it is to be used as fertilizer sufficient treatment is needed.	
Água negra	É necessário ter cuidado ao manusear águas negras e se for ser usado como fertilizante é necessário um tratamento adequado.	
Breeding place	The marshy land provided a breeding place for the birds.	
Local de reprodução	O terreno pantanoso forneceu um local de reprodução para os pássaros.	
Chronic daily intake	It may be appropriate to base the maximum total chronic daily intake of a nutrient to be unlikely to pose a risk of adverse health effects.	
Ingestão diária crônica	Pode ser apropriado basear a ingestão diária crônica máxima de um nutriente como sendo improvável que apresente risco de efeitos adversos à saúde.	
Chronic exposure	The environmental aspects, including chronic exposure to pesticides, will also be taken into account.	
Exposição crônica	Os aspectos ambientais, incluindo a exposição crônica a agrotóxicos, também serão levados em consideração.	
Coal-fired	Coal-fired plants are mainly located inland, and very close to existing coalfields.	
A carvão	As usinas a carvão estão localizadas principalmente no interior e muito perto de campos de carvão existentes.	
Contamination assessment	The contamination assessment for groundwater could not be concluded due to insufficient data.	
Avaliação de contaminação	A avaliação de contaminação das águas subterrâneas não pôde ser concluída devido a dados insuficientes.	
Diatomaceous earth	The cylinders were filled with a porous filler material consisting of diatomaceous earth, charcoal, asbestos, and cement.	
Terra diatomácea	Os cilindros foram preenchidos com um material de enchimento poroso consistindo em terra diatomácea, carvão, amianto e cimento.	
Flue gas	This limits the concentration of dangerous substances in the flue gas emissions to the legal minimum.	
Gases de combustão	Isso limita a concentração de substâncias perigosas nas emissões de gases de combustão ao mínimo legal.	



# **Expressões**

Exemplos		
Fugitive emissions	The draft report does not actually address the issue of unintended or fugitive emissions.	
Emissões fugitivas	O relatório preliminar não aborda realmente a questão das emissões não intencionais ou fugitivas.	
Greenhouse gas	Currently, tropical deforestation is the single largest source of greenhouse gas emissions globally.	
Gases de efeito estufa	Atualmente, o desmatamento tropical é a maior fonte de emissões de gases de efeito estufa globalmente.	
Groundwater	An investigation revealed that the mine was polluting both the air and the groundwater.	
Águas subterrâneas	Uma investigação revelou que a mina estava poluindo o ar e as águas subterrâneas.	
Leachate	In these cases, the leachate is collected and sent to treatment plants onsite or to municipal sewage treatment plants.	
Lixiviado	Nesses casos, o lixiviado é coletado e enviado para estações de tratamento no local ou para estações de tratamento de esgoto municipais.	
Mimicry	Mimicry may have adaptive value enhancing the chances of successful procreation.	
Mimetismo	Mimetismo pode ter valor adaptativo, aumentando as chances de procriação bem-sucedida.	
Noxious Gases	The function of autocatalysts is to convert these noxious gases to less harmful components (carbon dioxide, nitrogen and water).	
Gases nocivos	A função dos autocatalisadores é converter esses gases nocivos em componentes menos nocivos (dióxido de carbono, nitrogênio e água).	
Phreatic sheet	This makes it possible to understand the direction of the flow of the underground water of the phreatic sheet.	
Lâmina freática	Isso possibilita entender a direção do fluxo das águas subterrâneas da lâmina freática.	
Sludge	Sewage plants that turn sludge into safer materials certainly help the environment, but they do release some chemicals.	
Resíduo/Lama/Lodo	As estações de esgoto que transformam o lodo em materiais mais seguros certamente ajudam o meio ambiente, mas liberam alguns produtos químicos.	
Solid waste management	Over 20% of the funding in this sector was applied to solid waste management, primarily to landfill projects.	
Gestão de resíduos sólidos	Mais de 20% do financiamento neste setor foi aplicado na gestão de resíduos sólidos, principalmente em projetos de aterros.	
Thermal mass	This construction keeps the thermal mass on the inside and the insulation and heat reflective cladding on the outside.	
Massa térmica	Esta construção mantém a massa térmica no interior e o isolamento e o revestimento refletor de calor no exterior.".	



# **Expressões**

Exemplos		
Threshold level	The toxicologic study showed exposure level dangerously close to the threshold level.	
Nível limiar	O estudo toxicológico mostrou nível de exposição perigosamente próximo ao nível limiar.	
Trace metal	Contamination by trace metals does not appear to be a basin-wide problem.	
Metais-traço	A contaminação por metais-traço não parece ser um problema em toda a bacia.	
Watershed	That deforestation of this critical watershed area could have disastrous consequences for downstream regions.	
Bacia hidrográfica	O desmatamento dessa área crítica de bacias hidrográficas pode ter consequências desastrosas para as regiões a jusante.	
Wastewater	The world development will continue at a high pace, and the need for wastewater treatment is growing even faster.	
Águas residuais	O desenvolvimento mundial continuará em um ritmo acelerado e a necessidade de tratamento de águas residuais está crescendo ainda mais rápido.	
Yield coefficient	The results indicate that the sludge net yield coefficient increases with the seawater salinity.	
Coeficiente de rendimento	Os resultados indicam que o coeficiente de rendimento líquido do lodo aumenta com a salinidade da água do mar.	





### Abiotic environment

The part of an ecosystem that includes the nonliving surroundings.

#### **Activated sludge**

An active population of microorganisms used to treat wastewater, or the process in which the organisms are employed.

#### **Adsorption**

A surface phenomena in which a solute (soluble material) concentrates or collects at a surface (the adsorbent).

Advanced wastewater treatment

The removal of any dissolved or suspended contaminants beyond secondary treatment, often this is the removal of the nutrients nitrogen and/or phosphorus.

#### **Aeration**

Intimate contact of the atmosphere and water to add air (oxygen) to the water. The term is also applied to gas stripping where an undesirable gas is removed from the water.

#### **Aerobes**

Organisms which require molecular oxygen as an electron acceptor for energy production.

#### **Aerobic process**

A process which requires molecular oxygen.

#### Alcohol

An organic compound with one or more hydroxyl "-OH" groups.

#### **Aldehyde**

An organic compound with a carbonyl group at one end of a hydrocarbon chain.

### **Alkalinity**

The capacity of a water to neutralize acids.

#### Amine

Any of a group of substances formed from ammonia by replacing hydrogen atoms with a group of atoms containing carbon.

#### **Amino acid**

Molecules specifically containing an amine group, a carboxylic acid group and a side-chain.

#### Anaerobes

A group of organisms that do not require molecular oxygen. These organisms obtain energy through other means, such as using inorganic ions like nitrate or sulfate.

#### **Anaerobic process**

A process which only occurs in the absence of molecular oxygen.



#### **Anoxic process**

A process which conditions do not contain molecular oxygen, but may contain nitrates or nitrites.

#### **Anthropogenic**

Of, made, or caused by human activity or actions.

#### **Aromatic**

A form of bonding in which ring compounds share electrons over more than two atoms. The electrons are delocalized. This leads to unusual ring stability.

# Attached growth reactor

A reactor in which the microorganisms are attached to engineered surfaces within the reactor. Examples of attached growth reactors are the trickling filter and the rotating biological contactor.

#### **Autotrophic**

Organisms which utilize inorganic carbon for synthesis of protoplasm. Ecologists narrow the definition further by requiring that autotrophs obtain their energy from the sun. In microbiologist parlance, this would be a photoautotroph.

## **Autotrophic** producers

Organisms which produce protoplasm using inorganic carbon and energy from the sun.

### **Autotrophs**

A group of organisms capable of obtaining carbon for synthesis from inorganic carbon sources such as carbon dioxide and its dissolved species (the carbonates). This group includes plants and algae.



#### **Bacteria**

One celled microorganisms which do not have a nuclear membrane.

#### **Baghouse filter**

A fabric filter device used to remove particulate air pollutants.

# Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD)

The amount of oxygen consumed by bacteria and other microorganisms while they decompose organic matter under aerobic (oxygen is present) conditions at a specified temperature.

#### **Biofilm**

A film of microorganisms attached to a surface, such as that on a trickling filter, rotating biological contactor, or rocks in natural streams.

## Biogeochemical cycle

The cycle of elements through the biotic and abiotic environment.



#### Biosynthesis Catabolism

The production of new cellular materials from other organic or inorganic chemicals.



# Carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD)

The amount of oxygen required to oxidize any carbon containing matter present in a water.

#### Carbonyl

A functional group with an oxygen atom double bonded to a carbon atom.

#### Catabolism

The production of energy by the degradation of organic compounds.

#### Cell

A unit of varying dimensions in a landfill which is isolated from the environment by 6 to 12 inches of soil cover. A cell is one day's waste or less. A cell is covered with soil atthe end of each day.

#### **CFCs**

Chlorofluorocarbons, chemicals which result in a depletion of the ozone layer in the upper atmosphere.

# Chemical fixation (or stabilization/ solidification)

A term for several different methods of chemically immobilizing hazardous materials into a cement, plastic, or other matrix.

### Chemical oxygen demand (COD)

The amount of oxygen required to oxidize any organic matter in the water using harsh chemical conditions.

#### Chemoautotrophic

Organisms which utilize inorganic carbon (carbon dioxide or carbonates) for synthesis and inorganic chemicals for energy.

#### Chemotroph

Organisms which obtain energy from the metabolism of chemicals, either organic or inorganic.

#### Chlorofluorocarbons

Synthetic organic compounds used for refrigerants, aerosol propellants (prohibited in the U.S.), and blowing agents in plastic foams. CFCs migrate to the upper atmosphere destroying ozone and increasing global warming. Typical atmospheric residence times are 50 to 200 years.



# Clarifier (sedimentation basin)

A tank in which quiescent settling occurs, allowing solid particles suspended in the water to agglomerate and settle to the bottom of the tank. The solids resulting from the settling being removed as a sludge.

#### Climatology

The study of the climate, how the earth's atmosphere performs over long periods of time.

#### Closure

The act of preparing a landfill for long term inactivity, including placement of a cover over the landfill to prevent infiltration of surface water.

#### Coagulation

The process of combining small particles into larger aggregates (flocs) and adsorbing dissolved organic matter onto these aggregates, allowing impurities to be removed in subsequent solid/liquid separation processes.

#### Colloids

Small particles which have a negligible settling velocity. These particles have a very small mass so gravitational force is low compared to surface frictional forces. Typical colloidal sizes range from 10-3 mm to 1 mm.

### Complexation

The process by which metal ions or other molecules form a complex by binding with ligands, often leading to the stabilization or immobilization of the ions.

#### Component

A part of a mixture or solution.

#### Composting

The controlled aerobic degradation of organic wastes into a material which can be used for landscaping, landfill cover, or soil conditioning.

#### Compound

A substance composed of two or more elements.

# Compression settling

Settling which occurs in the lower reaches of clarifiers where particle concentrations are highest. Particles can settle only by compressing the mass of particles below.

#### Consumers

Organisms that obtain energy and nutrients by consuming other organisms or organic matter, rather than producing it themselves.

#### Conversion

The process by which one substance is transformed into another, often through biological, chemical, or physical means.



#### **Corrosive waste**

Acidic or alkaline (basic) wastes that can readily corrode or dissolve materials they come into contact with.

#### **Covalent bond**

A bond in which electrons are shared approximately equally by two atoms.

#### Cybernetic

Systems which change in response to feedback.



#### **Decomposers**

Organisms which utilize energy from wastes or dead organisms. Decomposers complete the cycle by returning nutrients to the soil or water and carbon dioxide to the air or water.

#### Denitrification

The anoxic biological conversion of nitrate to nitrogen gas. It occurs naturally in surface waters low in oxygen, and it can be engineered in wastewater treatment systems.

#### Deoxygenation

The consumption of oxygen by the different aquatic organisms as they oxidized materials in the aquatic environment.

#### **Discrete settling**

Settling in which individual particles settle independently, neither agglomerating or interfering with the settling of the other particles present. This occurs in waters with a low concentration of particles.

#### Disease

Any impairment of the normal function of an organism.

#### Disinfection

The destruction or inactivation of pathogenic microorganisms.

#### **Dispersion**

A stable mixture of particles suspended in a fluid medium.

# Dissolved oxygen (DO)

The amount of molecular oxygen dissolved in water.

#### **Dump**

An area where waste materials are disposed of illegally and without regulation, lacking proper environmental safeguards.





#### **Ecology**

The study of living organisms and their environment or habitat.

#### **Ecosystem**

A geographic area where plants, animals and other organisms, as well as weather and landscape, work together to form a bubble of life.

#### **Effluent**

The fluid exiting a system, process, tank, etc. An effluent from one process can be an influent to another process.

### Effluent based standards

Standards which set concentration or mass per time limits on the effluent being discharged to a receiving water.

#### **Electronegativity**

The potential of an atom to attract electrons when the atom is bonded in a compound. The scale is 0 to 4 with 0 being the most electropositive (low attraction) and 4 being the most electronegative (high attraction).

# **Electrostatic** precipitator

A device which uses an electric field to trap particulate pollutants.

## **Elementary** reaction

A single step reaction with a single transition state and no intermediates.

#### **Epilimnion**

The top layer of a lake.

#### **Equivalent**

The mass of the compound which will produce one mole of available reacting substance. Thus, for an acid, this would be the mass of acid which will produce one mole of H+, for a base, one mole of OH.

#### **Ethers**

A class of organic compounds that contain an oxygen between two alkyl groups. They have the formula R-O-R', with R's being the alkyl groups.

# **Eukaryotic** organisms

Organisms which possess a nuclear membrane. This includes all known organisms except viruses and bacteria.

#### **Evaporation**

The conversion of liquid water to water vapor.

### **Evapotranspiration**

The sum of evaporation and transpiration. Since it is difficult to measure the two terms independently, they are often grouped as one value.





#### **Facultative**

Applied to organisms that are able to adopt an alternative mode of living. For example, a facultative anaerobe is an aerobic organism that can also grow under anaerobic conditions.

#### **Fermentation**

Energy production without the benefit of oxygen as a terminal electron acceptor, i.e. oxidation in which the net effect is one organic compound oxidizing another.

#### Fixed solids (FS)

The solids that do not volatilize at 550°C.

## Fixed suspended solids (FSS)

The matter remaining from the suspended solids analysis which will not burn at 550°C. It represents the non-filterable inorganic residue in a sample.

#### **Flashpoint**

The lowest temperature at which sufficient vapor is produced to cause combustion if an ignition source is present.

#### Flocculant settling

Settling in which particle concentrations are sufficiently high that particle agglomeration occurs. This results in a reduction in the number of particles and an increase in average particle mass. As agglomeration occurs higher settling velocities result.

#### **Fluidization**

The suspension of particles by sufficient upward velocity of the fluid. During fluidization the gravity force is overcome by a combination of buoyancy and fluid friction.

#### Flux

The movement of a mass past a surface, plane, or boundary. The units are mass per unit area per unit time or [Kg/m2-hour].



#### **Gas stripping**

Gas transfer of an undesirable gas from a water stream to the atmosphere.

#### **Global warming**

The long-term warming of the plant due to increases in greenhouse gases which trap reflected light preventing it from exiting to space.



#### **Greenhouse** gases

Gases which trap solar radiation. Of the solar energy entering the earth's atmosphere a portion is reflected back and a portion penetrates onto the earth's surface. The portion reflected back from the earth's surface is at a different wavelength that when it entered. Carbon dioxide and other gases, which pass solar radiation, absorb this reflected radiation, increasing the earth's temperature. This is much like a greenhouse, hence the name.

#### Groundwater

Water which is contained in geologic strata. Also properly written as two words, ground water.



#### **HAPs**

Hazardous air pollutants.

#### **Hardness**

The sum of the divalent cation concentrations expressed as meq/L or mg calcium carbonate per liter [mg CaCO3/L]. It is important because hard waters require increased amounts of soap for bathing or washing clothes and because of scale formation on piping, cooking vessels, water heaters, boilers, heat exchangers, etc.

#### Heterotrophic

A group of organisms which obtain carbon for synthesis from other organic matter or proteins.

# Hindered (Zone) settling

Settling in which particle concentrations are sufficient that particles interfere with the settling of other particles. Particles settle together as a body or structure with the water required to traverse the particle interstices.

#### Hydrocarbon

Any organic compound composed entirely of carbon and hydrogen. Two examples are methane gas and octane.

#### **Hypolimnion**

The lower layer of a lake.



#### In situ treatment

Treatment of a waste in place, as opposed to pumping or digging the waste up and then treating it.

#### Infectious disease

A disease caused by pathogenic organisms.



#### Infiltration

The movement of water from the surface of the land through the unsaturated zone and into the groundwater. This occurs during and immediately after precipitation events. It can also occur at the bottom of lakes and rivers.

#### Influent

The fluid entering a system, process, tank, etc. An effluent from one process can be an influent to another process.

#### Ion exchange

An adsorption process in which one ion is exchanged for another ion of like charge. There is an equivalence of exchanged charge.

### Irreversible reaction

A reaction that proceeds to completion, with little or no reverse reaction.

#### **Isomers**

Two or more different compounds with the same chemical formula but different structure and characteristics.



# Jackson Turbidity Unit (JTU)

A quantitative unit of turbidity originally based on the comparison of a liquid (such as water) with a suspension of a specify type of silica, using the turbidity measure in a Jackson Candle Turbidimeter.

#### Jet stream

A long narrow meandering current of high-speed winds near the tropopause blowing from a generally westerly direction and often exceeding a speed of 250 miles per hour.

#### Jetteau

A jet of water.

#### Jetter

A tool used to clean and unblock sewer systems and other drainage.

#### **Jetty**

A structure extending into a sea, lake, or river to influence the current or tide or to protect a harbor.



#### Kerogen

A fossilized organic material present in oil shale and some other sedimentary rocks.

#### **Ketones Organic**

Compounds with two hydrocarbon groups bonded to a carbonyl group.





#### Landfill

A legal and controlled area for the placement of wastes into the ground.

#### Landfilling

The placement of wastes into the land under controlled conditions to minimize their migration or effect on the surrounding environment.

#### Leachate

A liquid generated in landfills. It is the result of water seeping into and through the wastes. As the water contacts the waste materials it dissolves part of the organic and inorganic matter contained in the landfill. If this leachate is allowed to exit the bottom of the landfill, it will carry contaminants to the groundwater and/or adjoining surface water.

#### Leaching

The act of dissolving the soluble portion of a solid mixture by some solvent. An example is the dissolving of inorganic or organic contaminants from refuse in a landfill by infiltrating rainwater.

#### Ligand

The ion or molecule which surrounds or complexes with the central atom or ion.

#### Limnology

The study of freshwater ecosystems.



#### Mass balance

An organized accounting of all inputs and outputs to an arbitrary but defined system. Stated in other terms, the rate of mass accumulation within a system is equal to the rate of mass input less the rate of mass output plus the rate of massgeneration within the system.

# Maximum contaminant level (MCL)

The maximum allowable concentration of a given constituent in potable water.

#### Metabolism

The processes which sustain an organism, including energy production, synthesis of proteins for repair and replication.



#### Metalimnion

The middle layer of a lake.

#### Meteorology

The study of the atmosphere and weather of the lower atmosphere, below 100 km.

Mixed liquor suspended solids (MLSS)

The total suspended solids concentration in the activated sludge tank.

Mixed liquor volatile suspended solids (MLVSS)

The volatile suspended solids concentration in the activated sludge tank.



#### **Nitrification**

The biological oxidation of ammonia and ammonium sequentially to nitrite and then nitrate. It occurs naturally in surface waters and can be engineered in wastewater treatment systems. The purpose of nitrification in wastewater treatment systems is a reduction in the oxygen demand resulting from the ammonia.

### Nitrogen fixation

The conversion of atmospheric (or dissolved) nitrogen gas into nitrate by microorganisms.

# Nitrogenous oxygen demand (NOD)

The amount of oxygen required to oxidize any ammonia present in a water.

# Nonpoint source pollution (NPSP)

Any pollution from a source which cannot be attributed to a particular discharge point, e.g. from agricultural crops, city streets, construction sites, etc.

#### **NPDES**

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. The discharge criteria and permitting system established by the U.S. EPA as a result of the Clean Water Act and its subsequent amendments or the permit required by each discharger as a result of the Clean Water Act.





#### **Organic compound**

Any compound containing carbon except for the carbonates (carbon dioxide, the carbonates and bicarbonates), the cyanides, and cyanates.

#### Organic nitrogen

Nitrogen contained as amines in organic compounds such as amino acids and proteins.

# Oxidative phosphorylation

The synthesis of the energy storage compound adenosine triphosphate (ATP) from adenosine diphosphate (ADP) using a chemical substrate and molecular oxygen.



# Pathogenic organism

An organism capable of causing infection.

#### Phenol

An aromatic benzene ring with a hydroxyl substituted for one hydrogen.

#### Phenyl

A benzene ring named as a constituent group, C6H5-.

#### Phosphorylation

The synthesis of the energy storage compound adenosine triphosphate (ATP) from adenosine diphosphate (ADP).

## Photoautotrophic Organisms

Which utilize inorganic carbon dioxide for protoplasm synthesis and light for an energy source.

# Photochemical pollutants

Chemicals which react photochemically (in the presence of sunlight) to destroy ozone in the stratosphere.

## Photophosphory-lation

The synthesis of the energy storage compound adenosine triphosphate (ATP) from adenosine diphosphate (ADP) using solar energy.

#### **Phototroph**

Organisms which obtain energy from light using photooxidation.

#### **Pollution**

Any man-made condition which adversely affects the quality of the environment.

#### Potable water

Water that has does not contain harmful or objectionable impurities and is aesthetically pleasing to drink.



#### **Precipitation**

The falling to earth of condensed water vapor in the form of rain, snow, sleet or hail.

#### **Primary standards**

Required drinking water quality standards related directly to human health. These standards are required and enforceable by the U.S. EPA.

#### **Primary treatment**

Treatment which includes all operation prior to and including primary treatment, e.g., bar screening, grit removal, comminution, and primary sedimentation.

# Prokaryotic organisms

Organisms which do not have a cellular membrane.

#### Publicly Owned Treatment Works

Any municipally owned wastewater treatment facility.



# Quality assurance / Quality control

A system of procedures, checks, audits, and corrective actions to ensure that environmental sampling and testing are of the highest achievable quality.

#### **Quarry water**

The moisture content of freshly quarried stone especially if porous.

#### **Quicksilver water**

A solution of mercury nitrate used in gilding.

#### Quickwater

The part of a stream that has a strong current; an artificial current or bubbling patch of water just astern of a moving boat.



#### **Reactive waste**

A waste which; 1) reacts violently with water, 2) forms potentially explosive mixtures with water, 3) is normally unstable, 4) contains cyanide or sulfide in sufficient quantity to evolve toxic fumes at high or low pH, 5) is capable of exploding if heated under pressure, or 6) is an explosive compound listed in Department of Transportation (DoT) regulations. One of EPA's four hazardous waste properties.



#### Reaeration

The dissolving of molecular oxygen from the atmosphere into the water.

#### **Receiving water**

A water which receives wastewater (treated or otherwise) discharges.

# Receiving water quality standards

Standards which require a discharger to maintain a certain quality level in the receiving water.

#### Recycling

The recovery and reuse of a product which would otherwise be thrown away.

#### Refuse

All forms of solid waste.

# Refuse derived fuel (RDF)

A fuel derived from the combustible portion of municipal solid waste. The fuel is often processed into small briquettes, similar in size to charcoal and can be used as an alternative energy source.

#### Respiration

Energy production in which oxygen is the terminal electron acceptor, i.e. oxidation to produce energy where oxygen is the oxidizing agent.

#### **Reversible reaction**

A reaction in which the reactant(s) proceed to product(s), but the products react at an appreciable rate to reform reactant(s).

#### Runoff

The water that flows overland to lakes or streams during and shortly after a precipitation event.



#### Saltwater intrusion

The gradual replacement of freshwater by saltwater in coastal areas where excessive pumping of groundwater occurs.

### Secondary standards

Recommended drinking water quality standards which relate to aesthetics and/or health. These standards are recommended, not required.

#### Saltwater intrusion

The gradual replacement of freshwater by saltwater in coastal areas where excessive pumping of groundwater occurs.

# Secondary standards

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### Secondary treatment

In wastewater treatment, the conversion of the suspended, colloidal and dissolved organics remaining after primary treatment into a microbial mass with is then removed in a second sedimentation process. Secondary treatment included both the biological process and the associated sedimentation process.

#### Secured landfill

A landfill which has containment measures such as liners and a leachate collection system so that materials placed in the landfill will not migrate into the surrounding soil, air and water.

#### **Sedimentation**

The gravity settling, and thus removal, of materials more dense than the suspending fluid.

#### **Shock load**

Influent wastewater entering the plant which has an unusually high organic content and/or high flow rate.

#### Site remediation

The process of cleaning up a hazardous waste disposal site that has either been abandoned or that those responsible either refuse to cleanup or are financially unable to cleanup.

### **Siting**

Obtaining government (federal, state, and local) permission to construct an environmental processing, treatment, or disposal facility at a given site.

### Sludge

A mixture of solid waste material and water. Sludges result from the concentration of contaminants in water and wastewater treatment processes. Typical wastewater sludges contain from 0.5 to 10 percent solid matter. Typical water treatment sludges contain 8 to 10 percent solids.

#### **Softening**

The removal of divalent cations by precipitation or ion exchange.

#### **Source reduction**

The elimination or reduction of the waste at the source by modification of the actual process which produces the waste.

#### **Species**

In chemistry, an ion or molecule in solution.

#### **Sterilization**

The destruction or inactivation of all microorganisms.

#### Storage

The short-term retention of water after a precipitation event.

#### **Stratosphere**

The second-lowest layer of the atmosphere of Earth



#### Strong acid

An acid that, for practical purposes, ionizes completely under the conditions of interest. Common strong acids are hydrochloric, nitric, and sulfuric.

# Substrate level phosphorylation

The synthesis of the energy storage compound adenosine triphosphate (ATP) from adenosine diphosphate (ADP) using organic substrates without molecular oxygen.

#### **Surface water**

Water which is contained in lakes, rivers, and oceans.

# Suspended growth reactor

A reactor in which the microorganisms are suspended in the wastewater. Examples of suspended growth reactors are activated sludge reactors and anaerobic digesters.

#### **Synergism**

Is the act of working together. Two chemicals which are synergistic have a greater effect together than the sum of their individual effects. The effect can be either positive or negative.

#### **System**

An arbitrarily defined area or volume surrounded by a boundary and possessing specific inputs, outputs, and reactions.



#### **Thermocline**

The depth at which an inflection point occurs in a lake temperature profile.

#### **Thiols**

Organic compounds which contain the "-SH" functional group. Also called mercaptans.

# Total dissolved solids (TDS)

The amount of dissolved matter in the water.

#### Total solids (TS)

The amount of organic and inorganic matter which is contained in a water.

## Total suspended solids (TSS)

The amount of suspended (filterable) matter in a water.

#### **Toxicity**

A U.S. EPA hazardous waste characteristic defined with a rigorous test procedure, the TCLP (for Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure). In the procedure, a waste is extracted for 24 hours with an acetic acid solution. The acid extract is then analyzed for the presence of any of the contaminants listed in the procedure.



### Trace contaminants

Contamination found in trace (very low) levels.

#### **Transpiration**

The loss of water from plants through leaves and other parts. This loss can be a significant amount of water during very dry periods.

#### **Trickling filter**

An attached growth biological process in which the microbial film is attached to non-moving rock or plastic media.

#### **Trophic level**

A level in the food chain. The first trophic level consists of the primary producers, autotrophs. The second trophic level is vegetarians which consume autotrophic organisms.

#### **Troposphere**

The lower atmosphere, from the earth's surface to approximately 12 km. This portion of the earth's atmosphere contains about 95 percent of the atmospheric gases. The temperature gradually declines through this region.



# Ultimate biochemical oxygen demand

The total amount of oxygen required to oxidize any organic matter present in a water, i.e. after an extended period, such as 20 or 30 days.

#### **Ultimate disposal**

The process of returning residuals back to the environment in a form which will have the minimal or reduced negative environmental impacts.



#### **Virion**

A virus particle. Viral DNA or RNA enclosed in an organic capsule.

#### **Virus**

An infective agent that typically consists of a nucleic acid molecule in a protein coat, is too small to be seen by light microscopy, and is able to multiply only within the living cells of a host.

#### Volatile

A material which will vaporize easily.

#### Volatile solids (VS)

Is the amount of matter which volatilizes (or burns) when a water sample is heated to 550EC.

### Volatile suspended solids (VSS)

Is the non-filterable residue remaining after firing the total suspended solids at 550EC.





### Waste minimization

The elimination or reduction of a waste prior to its generation. This is accomplished by process changes rather than waste treatment methods.

#### Wastewater

Consumed or used water from a municipality or industry that contains dissolved and/or suspended matter.

#### Weak acid

An acid that does not ionize completely under the conditions of interest. Examples include acetic acid, carbonic acid, and hypochlorous acid.

#### Wetland

Semi-aquatic land, that is land that is either inundated or saturated by water for varying periods of time during each year, and that supports aquatic vegetation which is specifically adapted for saturated soil conditions.



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