

Term	Definition
Advanced Technology Vehicles (ATVs)	A type of alternative vehicle that uses advanced technologies for powertrains, emissions controls, and other vehicle features that allow for improved environmental performance. Electric hybrid vehicles and fuel cell vehicles are examples of ATVs.
Aerobic	With oxygen. During the composting process, certain bacteria need oxygen to break down the mix of organic materials. This is known as aerobic decomposition (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).
Agrifiber Products	Products made from agricultural fiber.
Air Barrier	A material installed around the building's frame to prevent or reduce the infiltration of air into the interior that may be too hot, cold or moist for comfort (Green Home Consulting).
Air Sealing	The steps taken to prevent uncontrolled inward and outward air leakage in the <i>building envelope</i> (Green Home Consulting).
Albedo	See solar reflectance.
Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFVs)	A type of alternative vehicle that uses low polluting fuels such as electricity, propane or compressed natural gas, liquid natural gas, methanol and ethanol.
Anaerobic	Without oxygen. In a landfill, certain bacteria decompose organic materials without oxygen and create methane gas through a process known as anaerobic decomposition (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).
Animal Welfare	A philosophy that animals, particularly those under human ownership or responsibility, deserve proper care and respect, including food, shelter and humane treatment.
Antibiotic Free	Animals that have been raised without the use of antibiotics.
APEX (Accepted Practices Exchange)	APEX is an initiative of the Convention Industry Council that is bringing together all stakeholders in the development and implementation of industry-wide accepted practices to create and enhance efficiencies throughout the meetings, conventions and exhibitions industry (Meeting Strategies Worldwide).
Aquatic Systems	Ecologically designed treatment systems that utilize a diverse community of biological organisms (e.g., bacteria, plants and fish) to treat wastewater to advanced levels.
Aromatic Compounds	Defined by the Green Seal Standard (GS-11) as "hydrocarbon compounds containing one or more 6 carbon benzene rings in the molecular structure."

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Ash (also combustion ash)	Solid residue that remains after the combustion, or burning, of waste (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).
Battery Cages	In industrial agriculture, battery cages (often called laying cages in the United States) are a confinement system used primarily for egg-laying hens. The battery cage has generated controversy among advocates for animal welfare and animal rights.
Bedding	Organic material, such as shredded newspaper, used to retain moisture and allow proper air circulation and drainage to provide a healthy environment for worms in a vermicomposting container (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).
Beef/Pork Non Poultry Products	The USDA has no specific definition for free range beef, pork and other non poultry meat sources. All current USDA definitions of free range refer specifically to poultry. No other such criteria such as the size of the range or the amount of space given to each animal are required before beef, lamb or pork can be called free range. Claims and labeling using free range are therefore unregulated. The USDA relies upon producer testimonials to support the accuracy of these claims.
Bicycle Racks	Include outdoor bicycle racks, bicycle lockers or indoor bicycle storage rooms.
Bioaccumulants	Substances that increase in concentration in the living organisms exposed to them because they are very slowly metabolized or excreted.
Biodegradable	Used to describe products made of materials that can be broken down by the natural action of a living ecosystem. Not all biodegradable products are the same, however. Some take longer to break down than others (Expo).
Biodiesel	A renewable diesel fuel created from natural oils such as soybeans. (Expo) A clean burning, alternative fuel derived from animal fats or vegetable oil that can be used in diesel burning engines. It does not contain petroleum products, but may be blended with petroleum-based diesel (Meeting Strategies Worldwide).
Biodiversity (also biological diversity)	Indicated by the numbers of different species of plants and animals found in a natural environment. Many different species of plants and animals within an ecosystem is indicative of a healthy environment (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).
Biomass	Plant material such as trees, grasses and crops that can

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	be converted to heat energy to produce electricity.
Blackwater	No single definition is accepted nationwide. Wastewater from toilets and urinals is always considered blackwater. Wastewater from kitchen sinks (perhaps differentiated by the use of a garbage disposal), showers, or bathtubs may be considered blackwater by state or local codes. Project teams should comply with blackwater definition as established by the authority having jurisdiction in their areas.
Breathing Zone	The region is an occupied space from 3 inches above the floor to 72 inches above the floor and greater than 2 feet from walls or fixed air conditioning equipment.
Brown Power	Electricity generated from the combustion of fossil fuels, such as coal, oil, and natural gas, which generates significant amounts of greenhouse gases (Exhibitor Magazine).
Building Density	The floor area of the building divided by the total area of the property (square feet per acre).
Building Energy Performance Baseline	The average building performance for the specific type of building. For building types covered by ENERGY STAR, this is a score of 50. For building types not covered by ENERGY STAR, the building energy performance baseline is established with historic building energy use data and/or energy use data from other, similar buildings.
Building Envelope	Building elements (e.g., walls, roofs, floors, windows, etc.) that enclose conditioned (heated and cooled) spaces and through which energy may be transferred to and from the outdoors (Green Home Consulting).
Building Footprint	The area of the site that is occupied by the building structure, not including parking lots, landscapes and other non-building facilities.
Building Related Illness	Diagnosable illnesses that can be directly attributed to airborne building contaminants.
Bycatch	Unwanted fish and animals caught accidentally in fishing gear and discarded overboard, usually dead or dying.
Byproduct	Excess material or waste produced in addition to the primary product. Sludge is a byproduct from the manufacture of paper, for example. Many manufacturers look for innovative ways to reuse or recycle the byproducts created during the production process to reduce waste (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).
Cage Free	Birds not confined in battery cages. Generally this means that the birds live on the floor of a large barn.

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	They may have access to the outdoors, but not necessarily.
CO2 Emissions	The amount of carbon dioxide emitted due to the facility's energy consumption (Energystar).
CO2 Emissions Reduction	The CO2 reduction is a measure of how much better your facility performs compared to an average building (target rating of 50). It is calculated by comparing the design or target CO2 emissions against the CO2 emissions for that facility with a rating of 50 (Energystar).
Carbon Advantage	You can create a carbon advantage for your company in two ways: First, you can use efficiency and resource reduction to provide a fundamental cost advantage in your operations and products. Second, you can use innovation in green products and services to offer customers a competitive advantage, thus differentiating your offerings” (Sustainable Business Design/Business Week).
Carbon Dioxide (CO2)	A heavy, colorless gas that does not support combustion. Made of one carbon atom and two oxygen atoms, it is formed especially in animal respiration and in the decay of combustion of animal and vegetable matter. It is absorbed by plants in photosynthesis, and is an atmospheric greenhouse gas (Meeting Strategies Worldwide).
Carbon Dioxide (CO2) Monitoring	An indicator of ventilation effectiveness inside buildings, CO2 concentrations greater than 530 ppm above outdoor CO2 conditions are generally considered an indicator of inadequate ventilation. Absolute concentrations of CO2 greater than 800 to 1000 ppm are generally considered an indicator of poor breathing air quality.
Carbon Footprint	A measurement of the impact a given activity has on the environment based on the amount of greenhouse gases that are produced. It's measured in terms of the units of carbon dioxide (CO2) (Expo).
Carbon Offset	A tool used to limit the impact a given activity has on the environment. It has both supporters and critics. Essentially, the carbon footprint is “offset” by purchasing some form of clean energy somewhere else in the system, such as wind or solar power (Expo).
Carbon Neutral	Refers to achieving zero carbon release. This can be accomplished by using alternative fuels to completely eliminate any carbon release or through a system of balancing or off-setting the carbon release by paying

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	others to make up the difference, by planting trees, for example. (Expo) Products or services that reduce and offset the greenhouse gases generated at each stage of their life-cycle on a cradle-to-cradle basis: the sourcing of their materials, the manufacturing or production, their distribution, use, and ultimate end-of-life disposition (Meeting Strategies Worldwide).
Carpool	An arrangement in which two or more people share a vehicle together for transportation.
Certified Humane Raised and Handled	<i>The Certified Humane Raised and Handled®</i> program is a certification and labeling program that is the only animal welfare label requiring the humane treatment of farm animals from birth through slaughter. The goal of the program is to improve the lives of farm animals by driving consumer demand for kinder and more responsible farm animal practices. When you see the Certified Humane Raised and Handled® label on a product you can be assured that the food products have come from facilities that meet precise, objective standards for farm animal treatment.
Chain-of-Custody	A tracking procedure for documenting the status of a product from the point of harvest or extraction to the ultimate consumer end use.
Chemical Component Restrictions	A set of restrictions set by the Green Seal Standard (GS-11) requiring that the manufacturer demonstrate that the chemical compounds included on the Chemical Component Restrictions list are not used as ingredients in the manufacture of the product.
Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)	Hydrocarbons that cause depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer and are used as refrigerants in buildings.
Climate Change	Refers to any significant change in measures of climate (such as temperature, precipitation, or wind) lasting for an extended period (decades or longer) (International Protection Agency).
Closing the Loop	Purchasing products made with recycled content. Purchasing recycled products promotes continued manufacture of these products, thus completing the recycling loop (International Protection Agency).
Combustion/Incineration	A rapid chemical process that produces heat, gas, ash, and usually light through burning. This process is one option for the disposal of municipal solid waste. It can also be used as a treatment or disposal option for hazardous waste. See combustor, waste-to-energy
Combustor/Incinerator	A facility for the controlled burning of waste. Burning municipal solid waste can reduce its volume and

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	weight. Some facilities capture energy from the steam or heat that is produced during the burning process. Burning hazardous waste can be considered a form of treatment and can reduce the hazardous components (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).
Compact Fluorescent Lamp (CFL)	Compact fluorescent lamps combine the energy efficiency of fluorescent lighting with the convenience and popularity of incandescent lamps. CFL's can replace incandescent's that are roughly three-to-four times their wattage, saving up to 75 percent of the initial lighting energy. Although CFL's cost 3-10 times more than comparable incandescent bulbs, they last 6-15 times as long (6,000-15,000 hours) (Go Green Virginia).
Composite Panels	Panels made from several materials. Plywood and OSB (oriented strand board) are two examples of composite panels.
Composting	The practice of mixing organic waste that can biodegrade quickly to create a soil-like substance called compost that can be used for soil enrichment (Expo). A crumbly, earthy, sweet-smelling mixture of decomposing organic matter (e.g., leaves, food scraps) created in a controlled, thermophilic environment that is often used to improve the texture, water-retaining capacity, and aeration of soil (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).
Composting Toilet Systems	Dry plumbing fixtures that contain and treat human waste via microbiological processes.
Concentrate	A product that must be diluted by at least eight parts by volume water (1:8 dilution ratio) prior to its intended use.
Conditioned Space	The portion of the building that is heated and/or cooled for the comfort of building occupants.
Confined Animal Feeding Operation (Factory Farm)	Factory farming is the practice of raising farm animals in confinement at high stocking density, where a farm operates as a factory — a practice typical in industrial farming by agribusinesses. Confinement at high stocking density is one part of a systematic effort to produce the highest output at the lowest cost by relying on economies of scale, modern machinery, biotechnology, and global trade. Confinement at high stocking density requires antibiotics and pesticides to mitigate the spread of disease and pestilence exacerbated by these crowded living conditions. There are differences in the way factory farming techniques are practiced around the world. There is a continuing

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	debate over the benefits and risks of factory farming. The issues include: the efficiency of food production, animal welfare, whether it is essential for feeding the growing global human population, the environmental impact and the health risks.
Conservation	The protection or wise use of natural resources that ensures their continuing availability to future generations; the intelligent use of natural resources for long-term benefits (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).
Constructed Wetlands	Wastewater treatment systems designed to simulate natural wetland functions for water purification by removing contaminants from wastewaters.
Construction, Demolition and Land Clearing (CDL) Debris	Includes waste and recyclables generated from construction, land clearing (e.g., vegetation, but not soil), renovation, and demolition or deconstructing of pre-existing structures.
Construction IAQ Management Plan	A document specific to a building project that outlines measures to minimize contamination in the building during construction, and procedures to flush the building or contaminants prior to occupancy.
Consumption	The amount of any product or resource (e.g., material or energy) used in a given time by a given number of consumers (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).
Contamination	Foreign material that makes a recyclable or compostable material impure, such as food scraps on paper products or trash mixed with recyclables in a recycling bin (International Protection Agency).
Controlled Atmosphere Stunning	A fairly new process in the US where birds are given gas which renders them unconscious prior to processing in a slaughterhouse. More prevalent in Europe.
Conventional Irrigation	The most common irrigation system used in the region where the building is located. A common conventional irrigation system that uses pressure to deliver water and distributes it through sprinkler heads above the ground.
Corporate Responsibility	Our obligation to consider the interest of customers, employees, shareholders, communities and the environment as an aspect of meeting planning, execution and evaluation so that sustainability can be achieved (Meeting Strategies Worldwide).
Corrosive	A substance capable of dissolving or breaking down other substances (especially metals) or causing skin burns. A corrosive has a pH level below 2 or above 12.5 (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).
“Cradle-to-Grave”	From generation to disposal; a term used in reference to solid or hazardous waste (U.S. Environmental

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	Protection Agency).
Cross-Contamination	The spreading of bacteria among people, food, surfaces, and/or equipment. Proper cleaning processes can prevent this (OneSource).
Curfew Hours	Locally determined times when greater lighting restrictions are imposed.
Daylight Factor (DF)	The ratio of exterior illumination to interior illumination and is expressed as a percentage. The variable used to determine the daylight factor includes the floor area, window area, window geometry, visible transmittance (Tvis) and window height.
Daylight Glazing	Vertical window area that is located 7'6" above the floor of the room. Glazing at this height is the most effective at distributing daylight deep into the interior space.
Daylighting	The controlled admission of natural light into a space through glazing with the intent of reducing or eliminating electric lighting. By utilizing solar light, daylighting creates a stimulating and productive environment for building occupants.
Decompose	To break down into basic components, given the right conditions of light, air, and moisture; refers to materials such as food and other plant and animal matter (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).
Design	Column that displays estimated energy use, costs, rating and % "better than average" for a building design (EnergyStar).
Design Light Output	The light output of light bulbs at 40 percent of their useful life.
Detention Ponds	Ponds that capture stormwater runoff and allow pollutants to drop out before release to a stormwater or water body. A variety of detention pond designs are available, with some utilizing only gravity while others use mechanical equipment such as pipes and pumps to facilitate transport. Some ponds are dry except during storm events and other ponds permanently store water volumes.
Dioxins	A toxic chemical byproduct created by many industrial processes, especially prevalent in waste from pulp and paper mills. This toxic waste is believed to cause cancer and birth defects (Exhibitor Magazine).
Disposable/Disposal	Products or materials that can be or are usually thrown away after one use or a limited amount of time. For example, used paper plates are disposable. Refers to the process of throwing away unwanted materials. These materials are placed in a landfill or

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	combusted rather than recycled, reused, or composted (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).
<i>Disposed Tons</i>	The weight, in tons, of all waste created which is disposed at <u>permitted landfills</u> , at <u>transformation facilities</u> , or is exported from the State.
<i>Diverted Tons</i>	The weight, in tons, of all materials that through any combination of waste prevention (source reduction), recycling, reuse and composting activities that would have otherwise been disposed at permitted landfills and transformation facilities.
<i>Dredging</i>	A net that is attached to a frame and dragged along the ocean floor to collect fish. Generally this method of fishing is very destructive to the habitat in which it is used.
<i>Drip Irrigation</i>	A high-efficiency irrigation method in which water is delivered at low pressure through buried mains and sub-mains. From the sub-mains, water is distributed to the soil from a network of perforated tubes or emitters. Drip irrigation is a type of micro-irrigation.
<i>Ecological/Environmental Footprint</i>	The measure of area needed to supply national populations with the resources and area needed to absorb their wastes (Meeting Strategies Worldwide).
<i>Ecology</i>	A community of living organisms interacting with themselves and with their environment (Meeting Strategies Worldwide).
<i>Ecological Restoration</i>	The process of assisting in the recovery and management of ecological integrity, which includes a critical range of variability in biodiversity, ecological processes and structures, regional and historical context, and sustainable cultural practices.
<i>Ecologically Appropriate Site Features</i>	Natural site elements that maintain or restore the ecological integrity of the site, and may include native/adapted vegetation, water bodies, exposed rock, un-vegetated ground, or other features that are part of the historic natural landscape within the region and provide habitat value.
<i>Ecosystem</i>	A community of living organisms interacting with themselves and with their environment (Meeting Strategies Worldwide).
<i>Ecotourism</i>	Tourism that respects the culture, natural history and environment of destinations and seeks to minimize the negative impact of travel on the environment (Meeting Strategies Worldwide).
<i>Efficacy</i>	The amount of energy service or useful energy delivered per unit of energy input. Often used in reference to lighting systems, where the visible light

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	output of a luminary is relative to power input; expressed in lumens per Watt; the higher the efficacy value, the higher the energy efficiency (Go Green Virginia).
<i>Effluent</i>	Waste material discharged into the environment Refers to the treated liquid emitted from a manufacturing facility or municipal wastewater treatment plant (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).
<i>Elemental Mercury</i>	Pure mercury rather than a mercury containing compound, the vapor of which is commonly used in fluorescent and other light bulb types.
<i>Emissions Offsets</i>	Emissions reductions from one set of actions that are used to offset emission caused by another set of actions.
<i>Emissivity</i>	The ratio of the radiation emitted by a surface to the radiation emitted by a blackbody at the same temperature.
<i>Energy Performance Contracts</i>	Energy performance contracts are generally financing or operating leases provided by an Energy Service Company (ESCO) or equipment manufacturer for energy-saving installations. What distinguishes these contracts is that they provide a guarantee on energy savings from the installed retrofit measures, and they usually also offer a range of associated design, installation and maintenance services (Go Green Virginia).
<i>Energy Performance Rating (Target Rating)</i>	The benchmark rating for a facility on a scale of 1-100 relative to similar buildings nationwide using EPA's national energy performance rating system (EnergyStar).
<i>Energy Reduction %</i>	The energy reduction is a measure of how much better your facility performs as compared to an average building (target rating of 50). It is calculated by comparing the design or target energy consumption against the consumption for that facility with a rating of 50 (EnergyStar).
<i>Energy Star Equipment</i>	A voluntary labeling program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy that identifies energy efficient products. Qualified products exceed minimum federal standards for energy consumption by a certain amount, or where no federal standards exist, have certain energy saving features. Such products may display the Energy Star label (Meeting Strategies Worldwide).
<i>Energy/Water Conservation</i>	Practices and strategies that are designed to minimize the amount of energy and water used (Meeting

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<i>Environmental Attributes of Green Power</i>	Strategies Worldwide). Emission reduction benefits that result from green power being used instead of conventional power sources.
<i>Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS) or Second Hand Smoke</i>	Airborne particles emitted from the burning end of cigarettes, pipes and cigars, and exhaled by smokers. These particles contain roughly 4,000 different compounds, up to 50 of which are known carcinogens.
<i>Environmentally Preferable Products</i>	Those products that have a reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared to other products that serves the same purpose. For example, products that contain recycled content, require less energy or create less waste during production and manufacture, use less packaging, or are reusable or recyclable are preferable (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).
<i>Environmentally Responsible Transportation</i>	Transportation options that minimize environmental impact such as mass public transportation (light rail, subway, electric/hybrid/biodiesel buses) and electric/hybrid vehicles (Meeting Strategies Worldwide).
<i>Erosion</i>	A combination of processes by which materials of the earth's surface are loosened, dissolved, or worn away, and transported from one place to another by natural agents.
<i>Eutrophication</i>	The process by which lakes and ponds age. Water, through natural or human sources, becomes rich in nutrients and promotes the proliferation of plant life (especially algae) that reduces the dissolved oxygen content of the water and often causes the extinction of other organisms within the water body.
<i>E-Waste</i>	Waste materials generated from using or discarding electronic devices, such as computers, televisions, and mobile phones. E-waste tends to be highly toxic to humans, plants, and animals, and has been known to contaminate water, air, and dirt (Meeting Strategies Worldwide). It causes concern because many of the components used in these products are toxic and are not biodegradable (Expo).
<i>Existing Building Commissioning</i>	Developing a building operation plan that identifies current building operating requirements and needs, conducting tests to proactively determine if the building and fundamental systems are operating in accordance with the building operation plan, and making any repairs needed so that the building and fundamental systems are operating according to the plan.

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<i>Facility Walk-Through</i>	A method to assess a facility's waste generation and handling practices through interviewing, observation, and estimation (International Protection Agency).
<i>Fair Trade</i>	An organized movement that advocates for producers in developing countries to receive fair prices for their goods. The movement also advocates promoting eco-friendly production standards (Expo). Typically small farmers who are paid a fair market price that enables them to improve their standard of living (Meeting Strategies Worldwide).
<i>Factory Farming</i>	Large scale industrialized agriculture.
<i>Filtration Basins</i>	Basins that remove sediment and pollutants from stormwater runoff using a filter media such as sand or gravel. A sediment trap is usually included to remove sediment from stormwater before filtering to avoid clogging.
<i>Fixture Sensors</i>	Motion sensors that automatically turn on/off lavatories, sinks, water closets and urinals.
<i>Footcandle (FC)</i>	A unit of light intensity that is equal to the quantity of light falling on a one square foot area from a one candela light source at a distance of one foot.
<i>Formaldehyde</i>	A chemical used to manufacture adhesives, plastics, fabric treatments, etc., which is emitted from those materials as a gas, and may be a carcinogen to humans (Exhibitor Magazine).
<i>Fossil Fuels</i>	Hydrocarbons found in the top layer of the earth's crust that are believed to have been formed from the fossilized remains of plants and animals subjected to high levels of heat and pressure over millions of years. Some fossil fuels include methane, liquid petroleum and coal. Fossil fuels are considered nonrenewable because they take millions of years to create (Expo).
<i>Free Range</i>	The method of farming husbandry where the animals are permitted to roam freely instead of being contained in any manner. Free range may apply to meat, eggs and dairy.
<i>Free Range Chicken</i>	The USDA requires that chickens raised for their meat have access to the outdoors in order to receive the free range designation.
<i>Free Range Egg</i>	Free range chicken eggs have no legal definition in the United States. Likewise, free range egg producers have no common standard on what this terminology means. Many egg farmers sell their eggs "free range" merely because their cages are 2 or 3 inches above the average size, or there is a window or access door in the barn that may or may not be used.

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<i>Friable</i>	The term used in the asbestos industry to describe asbestos that can be reduced to dust by hand pressure.
<i>Full Disclosure</i>	For products that are not formulated with listed suspect carcinogens, full disclosure is defined as (i) disclosure of all ingredients (both hazardous and non-hazardous) that make up 1 percent or more of the undiluted product (ii) use of concentration ranges for each of the disclosed ingredients. “Full Disclosure” for products that are formulated with listed suspect carcinogens is defined as (i) disclosure of listed suspect carcinogens that make up 0.1 percent or more of the undiluted product, (ii) disclosure of all remaining ingredients (both hazardous and non-hazardous) that make up 1.0 percent or more of the undiluted product (iii) use of concentration ranges for each of the disclosed ingredients. Suspect carcinogens are those that are listed on authoritative lists available for MSDS preparations: IARC, NTP, and California Proposition 65 lists. Concentration range definitions are available from OSHA or Canada WHMI Standards.
<i>Full-Time Equivalent Building Occupants</i>	The total number of hours all building occupants spend in the building during the peak 8-hour occupancy period divided by 8 hours. For buildings used for multiple shifts each day, the shift with the greatest number of FTE building occupants sets the overall FTE building occupants for the building.
<i>Gestation Stalls</i>	Gestation stalls are specifically designed to confine pregnant sows on hog farms. Several states have already passed legislation to restrict the use of this method on raising pigs as the practice is considered, by some, as inhumane.
<i>Gillnetting</i>	Gillnetting is a common commercial fishing technique. It is an effective method which is closely monitored by fisheries management and enforcement agencies to prevent against over fishing and unnecessary bycatch.
<i>Glare</i>	Any excessively bright source of light within the visual field that creates discomfort or loss in visibility.
<i>Global Climate Change</i>	Natural or human induced change in the average global temperature of the atmosphere near the Earth’s surface. This condition poses serious dangers around the world, potentially prompting such disasters as flooding, drought, and disease (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).
<i>Global Warming</i>	A gradual, long-term increase in the near surface temperature of the Earth. The terms are most often used to refer to the warming predicted to occur as a

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	result of increased emissions of greenhouse gases (Meeting Strategies Worldwide).
Grasscycling	Leaving grass clippings on the lawn to decompose and return nutrients back to the soil rather than bagging and disposing them (International Protection Agency).
Grass Fed	Animals that have been raised entirely on grass and are fed little to no grain, corn or soy.
Grassed Swales	Trenches or ditches covered with vegetation to encourage subsurface infiltration, similar to infiltration basins and trenches. They utilize vegetation to filter sediment and pollutants from stormwater.
Graywater	Defined by the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) in its Appendix G, titled “Gray Water Systems for Single-Family Dwellings” as “untreated household waste water which has not come into contact with toilet waste. Gray water includes used water from bathtubs, showers, bathroom wash basins, and water from clothes-washer and laundry tubs. It shall not include waste water from kitchen sinks or dishwashers. “The International Plumbing Code (IPC) defines graywater in its Appendix C, titled “Gray Water Recycling Systems” as “waste water discharged from lavatories, bathtubs, showers, clothes washers, and laundry sinks.” Some states and local authorities allow kitchen sink wastewater to be included in graywater. Other differences with the UPC and IPC definitions can probably be found in state and local codes.
Green	A common express meaning environmentally responsible (Meeting Strategies).
Green Cleaning	The use of cleaning products and practices that have reduced environmental impacts in comparison with conventional products and practices.
Green Collar Job	A job connected to eco-friendly products and services (Meeting Strategies Worldwide).
Green Label	<p>The Carpet and Rug Institute's certification program for vacuum cleaners.</p> <p>To qualify for the Green Label, vacuums must go through a stringent testing process that measures three key performance factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Soil Removal</i> - The vacuum must remove a set quantity of soil from carpet in four passes. ▪ <i>Dust Containment</i> - The vacuum must not release more than 100 micrograms of dust particles per cubic meter of air. This protocol evaluates the

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	<p>total amount of dust particles released by the brush rolls, through the filtration bag and via any air leaks from the system, and is more stringent than the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Carpet Appearance Retention</i> - The vacuum should not affect the appearance of the carpet more than a one-step change based on one year of normal vacuum use. <p>High performance vacuum cleaners have a significant impact on improved indoor air quality (IAQ). At the same time, vacuums that effectively remove and contain soil while keeping the carpet looking good will help carpets last longer. Ultimately, better performing vacuums provide a greater return on investment and ensure a healthier indoor environment (OneSource).</p>
Greenfield	Undeveloped land or land that has not been impacted by human activity.
Greenflation	"In the wake of so much publicity, we (are) now undergoing a wave of "greenflation," where the term "green" is used to justify almost everything and anything, as long as it can make the claim of lowering carbon" (Sustainable Business Design).
Green Meeting	An event that incorporates eco-friendly practices in order to reduce its impact on the environment (Expo).
Greenmuting	Not talking about environmental efforts (Sustainable Business Design).
Green Power Marketers	Due to increased customer awareness of the environmental implications associated with power generation, a growing number of utilities and other types of energy service providers have begun offering green power products. The term "green power marketers" usually refers to energy providers operating in states that permit retail competition in the electricity markets. In states that do not allow this retail competition, many utilities have begun offering green power options under what are typically referred to as green pricing programs (Green-e).
Green Power Product/Option	Green power electricity products are supplied from renewable energy resources and include both green pricing and green marketing. These products are delivered through the utility grid, a utility, or a competitive electricity supplier. Green power products always contain a higher percentage of renewable-based electricity than standard electrical service. Green power sold by regulated utilities is called green pricing, and

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Green Power Purchasing

when sold in competitive electric markets green power is called green marketing or retail green (Green-e). Green power can be purchased nationwide from several sources. Green power marketers offer green power products to consumers in deregulated markets—such as New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New England. In states that do not allow retail competition in the electricity markets, many utilities offer renewable energy products through green pricing programs. In addition, all customers nationwide have the opportunity to buy renewable energy and stimulate the development of renewable generation sources through renewable energy certificates. Finally, customers can choose to install on-site renewable generation, such as solar panels (Green-e).

Green Pricing

Green pricing refers to an optional utility service that enables customers of traditional utilities to support a greater level of utility investment in renewable energy by paying a premium on their electric bill to cover any above-market costs of acquiring renewable energy resources (Green-e).

Green Seal

A widely recognized green product certification. The Green Seal organization is "an independent, non-profit organization that strives to achieve a healthier and cleaner environment by identifying and promoting products and services that cause a less toxic pollution and waste, conserve resources and habitats, and minimize global warming and ozone depletion. Green Seal has no financial interest in the products that it certifies or recommends nor in any manufacturer or company" (OneSource).

Green Seal Certified

Products that have earned green seal certification from Green Seal, a 501c3 nonprofit. To earn the certification, products must meet scientific and transparent standards (Expo).

Greenhouse Effect

Heating of the atmosphere that results from the absorption of solar radiation by certain gases (Meeting Strategies Worldwide).

Greenhouse Gases (GHG)

Present in the Earth's near-surface atmosphere, these gases help maintain the planet's temperature. Without them, the planet would be too cold to inhabit. However, too much of these gases will make the planet too hot to inhabit, like a greenhouse in the middle of summer. These gases come from both natural and industrial sources. Gases that come from industrial sources are also called "greenhouse emissions." One of

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	the primary problematic gases from man-made sources is CO ₂ (Expo). Including water vapor (H ₂ O), carbon dioxide (CO ₂), methane (CH ₄), nitrous oxide (N ₂ O), ozone (O ₃), and fluorinated gases (International Protection Agency).
Greenwashing	Used to describe the practice of overstating green claims or capitalizing on the marketing value of green initiatives without producing real results (Expo). To falsely claim a product is environmentally sound. Also known as faux green. Disinformation disseminated by an organization so as to present an environmentally public image (Meeting Strategies Worldwide).
Group Multi-Occupant Spaces	Conference rooms, classrooms and other indoor spaces used as place of congregation for presentations, training sessions, etc. Individuals using these spaces share the lighting and temperature controls. Group multi-occupant spaces do not include open office plans that contain standard individual workstations.
Halons	Substances that are used in fire suppression systems and fire extinguishers in buildings and deplete the stratospheric ozone layer.
Hauler	A company that collects and removes trash from a facility; many also collect recyclables (International Protection Agency).
Hazardous Waste	Waste that is often produced in large quantities by businesses and industrial facilities that can be defined as toxic , ignitable, corrosive , or reactive . This type of waste is regulated by a law called the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) to minimize risks to human health and the environment (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).
Heat Island Effect	Urban air and surface temperatures that are higher than nearby rural areas. Principle contributing factors include additions of dark, non-reflective surfaces, elimination of trees and vegetation, waste heat from vehicles, factories, and air conditioners and reduced airflow from tall buildings and narrow streets.
Heat recovery ventilator/exchangers	Exhaust fans that warm the incoming air with the heat from the outgoing air, recovering about 50-70% of the energy (Green Home Consulting).
HEPA	High Efficiency Particulate Air filters used in HVAC systems, vacuum cleaners, etc. A HEPA filter removes a minimum of 99.97% of contaminants at 0.3 microns in size. In comparison, a human hair is about 60-75 microns in diameter. Particles less than 35 microns cannot be seen with the naked eye. Pollen is in the 10-

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	100 micron range, with dust in the .5-5 micron range. Particles under 5 microns can penetrate deep into the lungs (OneSource).
High Occupancy Vehicles	Vehicles with more than one occupant.
High-Volume Copiers	Machines used to copy many pages on a continuous basis.
HVAC	Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning. Using efficient systems and keeping them maintained are important to a green program (OneSource).
Hybrid Vehicle	Vehicle that uses a combination of two engine types. Cars are most commonly gasoline-electric hybrids (Meeting Strategies Worldwide).
Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs)	Refrigeration that deplete the stratospheric ozone layer and are used in building equipment.
Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)	Refrigerants that do not deplete the stratospheric ozone layer. However, some HFCs have high global warming potential, and thus are not environmentally benign.
Impervious Cover	A ground cover that does not allow water to pass through it to the soil below such as blacktop, brick, cobble, or bluestone, increasing storm water runoff and resulting in non-point source pollution (Green Home Consulting).
Impervious Surfaces	Surfaces that promote runoff of precipitation volumes instead of infiltration into the subsurface. The imperviousness or degree of runoff potential can be estimated for different surface materials.
Incandescent Lamps	Incandescent lamps operate without a ballast. They light up instantly, providing a warm light and excellent color rendition. You can also dim them. Light is emitted when electricity flows through and heats a tungsten filament. However, incandescent lamps have a low efficacy compared to other lighting options (10-17 lumens per Watt) and a short average operating life (750-2500 hours). Incandescent lamps are the least expensive to buy, but because of their relative inefficiency and short life spans, they usually are more expensive to operate (Go Green Virginia).
Incinerator	A furnace or container for burning waste materials.
Individual Occupant Workspaces	Workspaces in which individuals occupy standard workstations for the purpose of conducting individual tasks. These workstations can be located in private offices or multi-occupant spaces, such as open office areas.
Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)	Indoor Air Quality. An important environmental consideration, because people spend approximately 90 percent of their time indoors. Common factors that

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affect IAQ are:

- People (exhalation, body odors, diseases)
- Activities (work such as cleaning, using correction fluid, carbonless paper, pest control products, and personal activities such as wearing fragrances and smoking)
- Technology (photocopiers and laser printers)
- Furnishings (furniture, draperies, floor coverings)
- Finishes (paint, varnish, vinyl wall coverings)
- Building materials (caulking compounds, adhesives, wood laminates)
- Outdoor air quality
- Inadequate or contaminated air handling units
- Inadequate cleaning practices (OneSource)

Infiltration Basins & Trenches

Land forms used to encourage subsurface infiltration of runoff volumes through temporary surface storage. Basins are ponds that can store large volumes of stormwater. They need to drain within 72 hours to maintain aerobic conditions and to be available for the next storm event. Trenches are similar to infiltration basins except that they are shallower and function as a subsurface reservoir for stormwater volumes. Pretreatment to remove sediment and oil may be necessary to avoid clogging of infiltration devices. Infiltration trenches are more common in areas where infiltration basins are not possible.

Infrared Emittance

A parameter between 0 and 1 that indicates the ability of a material to shed infrared radiation. The wavelength of this radiant energy is roughly 5 to 40 micrometers. Most building materials (including glass) are opaque in this part of the spectrum, and have an emittance of roughly 0.9. Materials such as clean, bare metals are the most important exceptions to the 0.9 rule. Thus clean, untarnished galvanized steel has low emittance and aluminum roof coatings have intermediate emittance levels

Integrated Pest management (IPM)

The coordinated use of pest and environmental information and pest control methods to prevent unacceptable levels of pest damage by the most economical means, and with the least possible hazard to people, property and the environment.

Integrated Waste Management

The complementary use of a variety of waste management practices to safely and effectively handle municipal solid waste. These practices include source

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	reduction, recycling, composting, combustion, waste-to-energy, and landfilling (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).
<i>Janitorial Closets</i>	Rooms where janitorial equipment and supplies are stored.
<i>Kilowatt Hour</i>	1,000 watts of electricity used for one hour (Meeting Strategies Worldwide).
<i>Landfills</i>	Waste disposal sites for the deposit of solid waste from human activities.
<i>Landscape Architecture</i>	The analysis, planning, design, management and stewardship of the natural and built environments.
<i>Landscape Area</i>	Equal to the total site area less the building footprint, paved surfaces, water bodies, patios, etc.
<i>The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)</i>	Leadership in Energy and Environment Design is the U.S. Green Building Council's certification program for green buildings. It sets specific standards that a building must adhere to. For new buildings, the LEED certification designates that green construction practices were used. For existing buildings, the LEED EB designation evaluates the building's operational procedures (Expo). Green Building Rating System is a voluntary, consensus-based national rating system for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. LEED addresses all building types and emphasizes state-of-the-art strategies in five areas: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials and resources selection, and indoor environmental quality (USGBC).
<i>Least Toxic Pesticides</i>	These include boric acid and disodium octoborate tetrahydrate; silica gels; diatomaceous earth; nonvolatile insect and rodent baits in tamper-resistant containers or for crack and crevice treatment only; microbe-based insecticides; pesticides made with essential oils (not including synthetic pyrethroids) without toxic synergists; and materials for which the inert ingredients are nontoxic and disclosed. A least toxic pesticide does not include a pesticide that is determined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a probable, likely, or known carcinogen or endocrine disruptor; is a mutagen, reproductive toxin, developmental neurotoxin, or immune system toxin; is classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a toxicity I or II pesticide; is in the

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	organophosphate or carbamate chemical family; or contains inert ingredients categorized as “List 1: Inerts of Toxicological Concern: Least toxic pesticides do not include any application of pesticides using a broadcast spray, dust, tenting, and fogging or baseboard spray application.”
LEED Accredited Professionals (LEED APs)	Have demonstrated a thorough understanding of green building techniques, the LEED Green Building Rating System, and the certification process. The LEED AP program is administered by the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI), which was established with the support of USGBC to allow for objective, balanced management of the credentialing program (USGBC).
Life Cycle Analysis	A system of reviewing the entire history of a product to determine its impact on the environment. Also known as life cycle assessment, cradle-to-grave analysis and ecobalancing, the process includes analyzing the raw materials used, the manufacturing process, the distribution process—including all transportation steps necessary to bring the product to market—and the disposal of the product (Expo).
Light Bulb Life	The useful operating life of light bulbs.
Light Bulbs	Devices that produce illumination, and include glass bulbs or tubes that emit light produced by electricity (as an incandescent bulb or fluorescent bulb).
Light Pollution	Waste Light from building sites that produces glare, compromises astronomical research, and adversely affects the environment. Waste light does not increase nighttime safety, utility, or security and needlessly consumes energy and natural resources.
Local Zoning Requirements	Local government regulations imposed to promote orderly development of private lands and to prevent land use conflicts.
Longline Fishing	Longline fishing is a commercial fishing technique for cod, swordfish, tuna, halibut and other large species fishes that uses hundreds or even thousands of baited hooks hanging from a single line. Longline fishing is controversial because of the high levels of bycatch including seabirds, turtles and other species not intended for commercial fishing.
Low-Emissivity Windows	Glazing that has special coatings to permit most of the sun’s light radiation to enter the building, but prevents heat radiation from passing through (Green Home Consulting).

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Lumen	A unit of luminous flux equal to the light emitted in a unit solid angle by a uniform point source of one candle intensity.
Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)	The MSC is an independent, global, non-profit organization whose role is to recognize, via a certification program, well managed fisheries and to harness consumer preference for seafood products bearing the MSC label of approval.
Market	A recycling business (i.e., a buyer); a municipal recycling facility that accepts recyclable materials for processing and final sale to an end user, either for its own use or for resale; or a nonprofit or charitable organization that accepts donations of unused, unwanted, or reusable materials (International Protection Agency).
Mass Transit	Transportation facilities designed to transport large groups of persons in a single vehicle such as buses or trains.
Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)	A site where recyclables are sorted and prepared into marketable commodities for manufacturing (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).
Merv 13	A filter efficiency rating category based on a test method established by the “American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE 52.2-1999, Method of Testing General Ventilation Air Cleaning Devices for Removal Efficiency by Particle Size), MERV is an acronym for “minimum efficiency reporting value.” The MERV efficiency categories range from 1 to 16 (very low to very high efficiency).
Methylmercury	The term used to describe any of various toxic compounds of mercury containing the complex CH ₃ Hg – that often occur as pollutants and that bioaccumulate in living organisms, especially in higher levels of a food chain.
Micro-Irrigation	Involves irrigation systems with small sprinklers and microjets or drippers designed to apply small volumes of water. The sprinklers and microjets are installed within a few centimeters of the ground, while drippers are laid on or below grade.
Mitigated Stormwater	The volume of precipitation falling on the site that does not become runoff. Runoff is defined as stormwater leaving the site via means of uncontrolled surface streams, rivers, drains, or sewers. Factors affecting stormwater mitigation include site perviousness, stormwater management practices (structural and non-

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	structural), and onsite capture and reuse of rainwater.
Monitoring Points	Locations where measurement sensors are installed.
Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch Program	The Seafood Watch program is designed to raise consumer awareness about the importance of buying seafood from sustainable sources.
Municipal Solid Waste	Wastes such as durable goods, disposable goods, containers and packaging, food scraps, yard trimmings, and miscellaneous inorganic wastes from households, some 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 (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).
National Fisheries Institute (NFI)	NFI is a leading advocacy organization for the seafood industry. Its member companies represent every element of the industry from the fishing vessels at sea to the national restaurant chains.
Native/Adapted Vegetation	Plants indigenous to a locality or cultivars of native plants that are adapted to the local climate and are not considered invasive species or noxious weeds, and which require only limited irrigation following establishment, do not require active maintenance such as mowing, and provide habitat value and promote biodiversity through avoidance of monoculture plantings.
Natural Areas	Areas covered with native or adapted vegetation or other ecologically appropriate features.
Natural Resources	Raw materials or energy supplied by nature and its processes (e.g., water, minerals, plants). Trees are a natural resource used to make paper, and sunlight is a natural resource that can be used to heat homes (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).
Natural Ventilation	The process of supplying and removing air by natural means in building spaces by using openings such as windows and doors, wind towers, non-powered ventilators, and infiltration processes.
Net Metering	A method of crediting customers for electricity that they generate on site in excess of their own electricity consumption. Customers with their own generation offset the electricity they would have purchased from their utility. If such customers generate more than they use in a billing period, their electric meter turns backwards to indicate their net excess generation. Depending on individual state or utility rules, the net

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	excess generation may be credited to their account (in many cases at the retail price), and carried over to a future billing period, or ignored (Green-e).
Non-Friable	The term used in the asbestos industry to describe asbestos too hard to be reduced to dust by hand.
Non-Occupied Spaces	All rooms used by maintenance personnel and not open for use by occupants, such as janitorial storage and equipment rooms, and closets.
Non-Regulatory Occupied Spaces	Corridors, hallways, lobbies, break rooms, copy rooms, storage rooms, kitchens, restrooms, stairwells etc.
Nonrenewable Resources	A term indicating the attitude of individuals who oppose siting a disposal facility in their communities (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).
Non-Roof Impervious Surfaces	All surfaces on the site with a perviousness of less than 50 percent, not including the roof of the building. Examples of typically impervious surfaces include parking lots, roads, sidewalks and plazas.
Nontoxic	Does not contain substances that are harmful, poisonous, or destructive (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).
Non-Water Using Urinal	A urinal that uses no water, but instead replaces the water flush with a specially designed trap that contains a layer of buoyant liquid that floats above the urine layer, blocking sewer gas and urine odors from the room.
Occupancy Sensor	A monitoring device, commonly connected to a room's lighting but also occasionally to heating or ventilation, that shuts down these services when the space is unoccupied, thus saving energy (Meeting Strategies Worldwide).
Occupied Zone	The region normally occupied by people within a space. Per ASHRAE 55-2004, it is defined to generally consist of the space between the floor and 1.8 meters above the floor, and more than 1.0 meters from outside walls/windows or fixed heating, ventilating, or air conditioning equipment and 0.3 meters from internal walls.
Off-Gas	The emitting of fumes into the air. Most new paints, carpeting, and many other building materials typically off-gas chemical compounds which are unpleasant to breathe and may be hazardous to occupant health (Green Home Consulting).
Offer vs. Serve Program	In a dining area, employees offer food rather than serve it automatically. By taking only the food that is

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	desired, individuals can help decrease food waste (International Protection Agency).
<i>On-Site Wastewater Treatment</i>	Localized treatment systems to transport, store, treat and dispose of wastewater volumes generated on the project site.
<i>Open Site Area</i>	Total site area less the footprint of the building.
<i>Operation and Maintenance Staff</i>	Include staff or contractors involved in operating, maintaining and cleaning the building and site.
<i>Organic</i>	This word has multiple meanings depending on the context. Organic material is material that came from a once living substance. Organic food, however, is food that was grown without the use of chemicals (Expo).
<i>Organic Cotton</i>	Cotton that is manufactured from organically grown cotton plants. No chemicals are used to grow it, and the final cloth is unbleached and dyed with natural plants (Exhibitor Magazine).
<i>Organic Food</i>	Grown without chemicals that can harm the land, water or human health. Organic certification of food can be through an independent organization or government program (Meeting Strategies Worldwide).
<i>Paints and Coatings</i>	Defined by the referenced Green Seal Standard as “liquid, liquefiable or mastic composition that is converted to a solid protective, decorative, or functional adherent film after application as a thin layer. These coatings are intended for on-site application to interior or exterior surfaces of residential, commercial, institutional or industrial buildings.” “The Green Seal Standard does not include stains, clear finishes, or paints sold in aerosol cans within this category.
<i>Parking Subsidies</i>	The costs of providing occupant parking that are not recovered in parking fees.
<i>Passive Building Design</i>	Building configurations that take advantage of natural, renewable resources (like sunlight, cooling breezes, etc.) and typically do not involve any moving parts or mechanical processes (Green Home Consulting).
<i>PCF (Processed Chlorine Free)</i>	A designation given to eco-friendly paper, meaning that no chlorine or chlorine compounds were used in its manufacturing process. In terms of paper, it also means that all substances that go into making the paper are chlorine free. The mill also must not use virgin forest wood for the creation of the paper and it must produce a final product that has at least 30 percent post-consumer content (Expo).
<i>Performance Rating (1-</i>	A target rating selected by the user using a 1-100 scale

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100)	(expressed as a percentage). A 75 target rating would indicate that the energy design intent for the project is in the top quartile (i.e. top 25%). Target Finder also uses the 1-100 scale to establish a rating for your design's energy performance compared to the US commercial building population of similar buildings (Energystar).
Permeable Surfaces	Surfaces used as a substitute for impermeable surfaces to allow runoff to infiltrate into the subsurface. These surfaces are typically maintained with a vacuuming regime to avoid potential clogging and failure problems. Porous pavement is one type of permeable surface.
Personal Environmental Controls (PECs)	Office furniture with heating, ventilation and lighting built into the furniture.
Perviousness	The percent of area covered by a paving system that is open and allows moisture to soak into the earth below the paving system.
Photovoltaic Energy	Electricity from photovoltaic cells that convert the energy in sunlight into electricity.
Picogram	One trillionth of a gram.
Picograms Per Lumen Hour	A measure of the amount of mercury in a light bulb per unit of light delivered over its useful life.
PLA (Polylactides)	Typically corn and other plant-based plastics, PLA is meant to biodegrade, while traditional petrochemical plastic must be recycled. The two types of plastics shouldn't be mixed during recycling efforts (Expo).
Point Source	A discrete conveyance of a pollutant, such as a pipe or man-made ditch. As stated in the NPDES Permit Program Basics; Frequently Asked Questions, a point source is "any discernible, confined and discrete conveyance, such as a pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, discrete fissure, or container."
Pollutants	Include "any type of industrial, municipal, and agricultural waste discharged into water." Those regulated in the NPDES program include conventional pollutants (such as BOD5, total suspended solids, pH, fecal coliform, and oil and grease), toxic pollutants (such as metals and manmade compounds) and non-conventional pollutants (such as ammonia, nitrogen, phosphorus). The definition of "pollutant" as it pertains to the Clean Water Act and NPDES permitting is subject to change based on ongoing litigation and increased understanding about the environmental affects of discharged substances. An agent of the NPDES should be consulted regarding the pollutant

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	status of discharge from specific buildings.
Pollution Prevention	Preventing or reducing pollution where it originates, at the source—including practices that conserve natural resources through increased efficiency in the use of raw materials, energy, water and land. See waste minimization (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).
Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)	Mixtures of synthetic organic chemicals with the same basic chemical structure and similar physical properties ranging from oily liquids to waxy solids. More than 1.5 billion pounds of PCBs were manufactured in the United States prior to cessation of production in 1977. Concern over the toxicity and persistence in the environment of PCBs led Congress in 1976 to enact of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) that included among other things, prohibitions on the manufacture, processing, and distribution in commerce of PCBs. TSCA legislated true “cradle to grave” (i.e. from manufacture to disposal) management of PCBs in the United States. (This definition is from the U.S. EPA PCB Web Site, epa.gov/opptintr/pcb/).
Post-Consumer Content	Percentage of materials recovered by consumers (from the municipal solid waste stream). For example, a newspaper might be made from 30 percent recovered newsprint (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).
Post-Consumer Material	An end product that has completed its life cycle as a consumer item and would otherwise have been disposed of as a solid waste. Post-consumer materials include recyclables collected in commercial and residential recycling programs, such as office paper, cardboard, aluminum cans, plastics and metals (Meeting Strategies Worldwide).
Post-Consumer Waste	Refers to waste generated after it has been used by a consumer. Almost anything thrown away, from food garbage to packaging, falls in this category (Expo).
Post-Industrial Waste	Consists of byproducts of the manufacturing process, such as plastic trimmings in the production of plastic bottles. These waste products are often put back into the manufacturing process and called “recycling.” Many dispute whether this truly constitutes recycling or simply good business practices (Expo).
Potable Water	Water that is suitable for drinking and is supplied from wells or municipal water systems.
Powder Coating	Durable finishing method for metals using a dry powdered plastic that is heat-fused onto the surface. Virtually no solvent is required and little waste is

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	produced (Exhibitor Magazine).
Pre-Consumer Content	Percentage of materials salvaged for reuse from the waste stream of a manufacturing process (rather than from consumers) subsequently used to manufacture a product (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).
Preferred Parking	Parking that is preferentially available to particular users, usually located closer to the building.
Process Water	Water used for industrial processes and building systems such as cooling towers, boilers and chillers.
Productivity	The quantity and quality of employee output per unit time.
Property Area	The total area within the legal property boundaries of a building and includes all areas of the site including constructed areas and non-constructed areas.
Public Transportation	Bus, rail, or other transportation service provided for the general public on a regular, continual basis that is publicly or privately owned.
Rapidly Renewable Materials	Materials that are planted and harvested in less than 10-year cycle.
Records Examination	An examination of records such as purchasing invoices, sales logs, and waste hauling and recycling records to provide insight into an origination's waste generation and removal patterns (International Protection Agency).
Renewable Resources	A resource is renewable if it can be replenished at a rate equal to or faster than it's used by humans or others in the ecosystem (Expo).
Recycled/Recycled Paper	Describes products made from post-consumer waste or used materials that are cleaned and reprocessed into new products bound for manufacturing (Expo). According to U.S. government standards, uncoated paper with at least 30% post-consumer waste and coated paper with at least 10% post-consumer waste can be called "recycled" paper (Meeting Strategies Worldwide).
Recyclable	Describes products, new previously plastics, PLA is meant to biodegrade, while traditional petrochemical plastic must be recycled. The two types of plastics shouldn't be mixed during recycling efforts (Expo).
Recycling	The collection, reprocessing, marketing and use of materials that were diverted or recovered from the solid waste stream. Recycling provides two categories of environmental benefits (1) diversion of waste from landfilling or incineration and (2) reduces the need for virgin materials for the manufacture of new products.
Refrigerants	The working fluids of refrigeration cycles that absorb heat from a reservoir at low temperatures and reject

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	heat at higher temperatures.
Regularly Occupied Spaces	Areas where workers are seated or standing as they work inside a building.
Relative Humidity	The ratio of partial density of water vapor in the air to the saturation density of water vapor at the same temperature.
Renewable Energy	Energy from sources that are renewed on an ongoing basis. This includes energy from the sun, wind and small hydropower. Ways to capture energy from the sun include photovoltaic, thermal solar energy systems, and bioenergy. One issue with bioenergy is the amount of fossil fuel energy used to produce it.
Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs)	A representation of the environmental attributes of green power that are sold separately from the electrons that makes up the electricity. RECs allow the purchase of green power even when the electrons are not purchased.
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)	A set of regulations that control the management of hazardous waste to protect human health and the environment (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).
Resource Management Contracting	Type of waste management contracting that compensates waste and recycling haulers based on performance in achieving waste prevention goals rather than the volume of waste disposed, creating an incentive to reduce waste, rather than increase it (International Protection Agency).
Return Air	Air removed from conditioned spaces that is either re-circulated in the building or exhausted to the outside.
Reuse	Using items again by repairing, donating, or selling them. Reuse is even better than recycling because the item does not have to be reprocessed before it can be used again (International Protection Agency).
Salvaged Materials (off-site)	Building materials recovered from an offsite source that are reused in the existing building seeking LEED for Existing Buildings certification.
Salvaged Materials (on-site)	Building materials recovered from and then reused at the same building site.
Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD)	A form of depression thought to be triggered by a decrease in exposure to sunlight.
Sedimentation	The addition of soil particles to water bodies by natural and human-related activities. Sedimentation often decreases water quality and can accelerate the aging process of lakes, rivers and streams.
Setpoints	Normal range for building systems and indoor environmental quality outside which action is taken.
Sick Building Syndrome	A term used to describe situations where building

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	occupants experience acute discomfort and negative health effects as a result of time spent in the building without any specific cause that can be identified, the symptoms disappear soon after the occupants leave the building.
Site Energy Use Intensity (kBtu/Sq. Ft./yr)	The annual on-site energy intensity estimate for your building design which accounts for all energy consumed at the building location (Energystar).
Smart Growth	<p>"Smart growth" covers a range of development and conservation strategies that help protect our natural environment and make our communities more attractive, economically stronger and more socially diverse. Based on the experience of communities around the nation that have used smart growth approaches to create and maintain great neighborhoods, the Smart Growth Network developed a set of 10 basic principles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mix land uses 2. Take advantage of compact building design 3. Create a range of housing opportunities and choices 4. Create walkable neighborhoods 5. Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place 6. Preserve open space, farmland, natural beauty and critical environmental areas 7. Strengthen and direct development towards existing communities 8. Provide a variety of transportation choices 9. Make development decisions predictable, fair and cost-effective 10. Encourage community and stakeholder collaboration in development decisions (Go Green Virginia)
Soil Waste	Unneeded or unusable soil from construction, demolition or renovation projects.
Solar Reflectance	A measure of the ability of a surface material to reflect sunlight – including the visible, infrared and ultraviolet wavelengths – on a scale of 0 to 1. Solar reflectance is also called albedo. White paint (titanium dioxide) is defined to have a solar reflectance of 1 while black paint has a solar reflectance of 0.
Source Energy Use Intensity (kBtu/Sq. Ft./yr)	The annual source energy intensity estimate for your building design. Source energy is a measure that

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	accounts for the energy consumed on site in addition to the energy consumed during generation and transmission in supplying the energy to your site. EPA's national energy performance rating is calculated using source energy (Energystar).
Source Reduction	Reducing or eliminating waste at the source, before it is generated. Source reduction actually prevents the generation of waste in the first place, so it is the preferred method of waste management and goes a long way toward protecting the environment (International Protection Agency).
Soy or Vegetable-Based Ink	Ink made from soybeans and other vegetable oils instead of petroleum. It's easier to recycle, comes in brighter colors and some believe it's also more economical. However, the ink isn't 100 percent biodegradable because of the other components added to it during the production process. It also cannot be used in many places where traditional inks are used, such as in ball-point pens and personal printers. The ink also takes longer to dry, creating a problem for some presses (Expo).
Space Occupied for Critical Visual Tasks	Rooms used for tasks like reading and computer monitor use.
Square Footage of a Building	The total floor area in square feet of all rooms including corridors, elevators, stairwells, and shaft spaces.
Stormwater Runoff	Water volumes that are created during precipitation events and flow over surfaces into sewer systems or receiving waters. All precipitation waters that leave project site boundaries on the surface are considered to be stormwater runoff volumes.
Submetering	Metering added by the building owner and managers to track the amount of water and energy use and where it is occurring in the facility.
Supply Air	Air delivered to conditioned spaces for use in ventilating, heating, cooling, humidifying and dehumidifying those spaces.
Sustainable	A resource that can be maintained at current levels indefinitely. Sustainability has become a social movement advocating for responsible development both ecologically and socially (Expo).
Sustainable Forestry	The practice of managing forest resources in a manner that meets the long term forest product needs to humans while maintaining the biodiversity of forested landscapes.
Sustainable Purchasing	The preferential purchasing of products that meet

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Policy	sustainability standards. Per this MR Credit 4, the sustainable purchasing policy for cleaning products and materials should include all cleaning products, paper products and trashcan liners included in the U.S. EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines.
Sustainable Purchasing Program	Includes the development, adoption and implementation of an organizational policy that outlines the types of materials that will be targeted to meet the sustainability criteria of this credit. Per the credit requirements, this program at a minimum must include office paper, office equipment, furniture, furnishings and building materials for use in the building and on the site.
System Lifetime	The length of time from installation until a system needs to be replaced.
System Operator	A facility management staff person who is responsible for the operation of the building and for receiving and responding to HVAC system out of range performance alarms.
Take-Back Program	A program in which products are returned to the manufacturer at the end of their lives. The manufacturer is responsible for remanufacturing, recycling, or properly disposing of the products once they are returned (International Protection Agency).
Target	Column that displays estimated energy use, costs, rating and % "better than average" for a selected target (Energystar).
Telecommuting	Work that is done through the use of telecommunications and computer technology from a location other than the usual or traditional place of business – for example, home, a satellite office or a telework center.
Tertiary Treatment	The highest form of wastewater treatment that includes the removal of nutrients, organic and solid material, along with biological or chemical polishing (generally to effluent limits of 10mg/L Bod5 and 10 mg/L tss).
Thermal Bridging	An element in a building envelope which is a poor insulator and compromises the insulating value of the envelope, e.g., wood studs without exterior insulation (Green Home Consulting).
Thermal Comfort	A condition of mind experienced by building occupants expressing satisfaction with the thermal environment.
Thermal Emittance	The ratio of the radiant heat flux emitted by a sample to that emitted by a blackbody radiator at the same temperature.
Tipping Fee	Fee assessed for waste disposal in a sanitary landfill,

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	waste-to-energy plant, or composting facility for a given amount of waste, usually in dollars per ton. Fees are established based on disposal facility costs and the amount disposed of at the facility (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).
Top 10%	Column that displays energy use, costs, rating and % "better than average" for a design intended to perform among the top 10% of similar US commercial buildings (Energystar).
Total Annual Energy Cost (\$)	The total annual energy cost. If an energy rate is not entered, the rate is derived from the DOE-EIA State Average Fuel Rate based on the zip code for your design (Energystar).
Total Annual Site Energy (kBtu)	The estimated total annual on-site energy consumption for the building design (Energystar).
Total Annual Source Energy (kBtu)	The estimated total annual energy consumption for on-site energy and energy consumed during generation and transmission (Energystar).
Tracking	Tools used for monitoring and evaluating waste reduction data (International Protection Agency).
Trawling	Trawling is a method of fishing that involves pulling a large fishing net through the water behind one or more boats. The net that is used for trawling is called a trawl. The boats that are used for trawling are called trawlers. Trawlers vary in size; from small open boats with only 30 hp to large factory trawlers with over 10,000 hp. Trawling can be carried out by one trawler or by two trawlers fishing cooperatively (pair trawling). Bottom trawling can leave serious incidental damage to the sea bottom and deep water coral reefs, in its trail; by contrast midwater trawling is relatively benign, however it catches all life within the area of the nets and by catch disposal is evident in this fishing method.
Triple Bottom Line	A business and development philosophy incorporating the three E's: equity, environment, economics. Also referred to as the three P's: people, plant, profit (Meeting Strategies Worldwide).
Turbidity	The state of having sediment stirred up or suspended. Turbidity in lakes or estuaries affects water clarity, light penetration, and their suitability as habitat for aquatic plants and animals.
Underground Parking	A "truck-under" or stacked parking structure that reduces the exposed parking surface area.

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<i>Uniform Building Code</i>	A model building code published by the International Council of Building Officials (ICBO) that provides complete regulations covering all major aspects of building design and construction relating to fire and life safety and structural safety.
<i>Unit-Based Pricing/PAYT (Pay-As-You-Throw)</i>	A system in which residents pay for municipal solid waste management services per unit of waste (by weight or volume) collected rather than through a fixed fee. Residents, for example, might purchase a sticker to place on each bag of waste set out at the curb—the price of the sticker covers the solid waste management service costs for the volume of the bag (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).
<i>Utility Metering</i>	Involves the use of meters provided by utilities to measure consumption.
<i>The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)</i>	Is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization that certifies sustainable businesses, homes, hospitals, schools, and neighborhoods. USGBC is dedicated to expanding green building practices and education, and its LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System™ (USGBC).
<i>Variable Air Volume (VAV)</i>	A type of HVAC system that varies the volume of conditioned air delivered to rooms.
<i>Vegetated Filter Strips</i>	Strips of vegetation to filter sediment and pollutants from storm water. Strips are appropriate for treating low velocity surface street flows in areas where runoff is not concentrated. They are often used as pretreatment for other storm water measures such as infiltration basins and trenches.
<i>Ventilation</i>	The process of supplying and removing air to and from interior spaces by natural or mechanical means.
<i>Visible Transmittance (Tvis)</i>	The ratio of total transmitted lights to total incident lights. In other words, it is the amount of light passing through a glazing surface divided by the amount of light striking the glazing surface. A higher Tvis value indicates that a greater amount of incident light is passing through the glazing.
<i>Vision Glazing</i>	Glazing that provides views of outdoor landscapes to building occupants for vertical windows between 2'6" and 7'6" above the floor. Windows below 2'6" and windows above 7'6" (including daylight glazing, skylights, and roof monitors) do not count as vision glazing for this credit.

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<i>VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds)</i>	Typically industrial cleaners and solvents, these materials have a high enough vapor pressure under normal conditions that they can enter the atmosphere (Expo). Many VOCs are human made chemicals used and produced in the manufacture of paints, pharmaceuticals and refrigerants. VOCs typically are industrial solvents, such as trichloroethylene; fuel oxygenates, such as methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE); or by-products produced by chlorination in water treatment, such as chloroform. VOCs are often components of petroleum fuels, hydraulic fluids, paint thinners and dry cleaning agents. VOCs are common ground water contaminants (Meeting Strategies Worldwide).
<i>Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)</i>	Organic compounds that are volatile at typical room temperatures. The specific organic compounds addressed by the referenced Green Seal Standard are identified in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Reference Test Method 24 (Determination of Volatile Matter Content, Water Content, Density Volume Solids, and Weight Solids of Surface Coatings), Code of Federal Regulations Title 40, Part 60, Appendix A
<i>Volume-Based Pricing (pay as you throw)</i>	Charging businesses for the collection of municipal solid waste based on the amount they throw away. This creates a direct economic incentive to recycle more and to generate less waste (International Protection Agency).
<i>Walk-Off Mats</i>	Mats placed inside or outside building entrances to remove dirt from the feet of people and off equipment entering the building.
<i>Waste Assessment</i>	A tool to help identify and quantify the amount of waste generated. A waste assessment could include examining waste bills, conducting a facility walk-through, and/or performing a waste sort (International Protection Agency).
<i>Waste Disposal</i>	The process of eliminating waste by means of burial in a landfill, combustion in an incinerator, dumping at sea, or eliminating waste in some other way that is not recycled or reused.
<i>Waste Diversion</i>	Includes waste management activities that divert waste from disposal through incineration or land filling. Typically waste diversion methods are reuse and recycling.
<i>Waste Management</i>	Administration of activities that provide for the collection, source separation, storage, transportation,

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	transfer, processing, treatment, and disposal of waste (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).
Waste Minimization	Includes reducing waste before it is even generated and environmentally sound recycling. Often used in relation to hazardous waste (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).
Waste Neutral	Used to describe the goal of creating an event that does not generate any additional waste for landfills. This goal can be achieved in a variety of ways such as recycling, composting or choosing products created in a sustainable manner (Expo).
Waste Prevention	Reducing or eliminating waste at the source before it is generated (International Protection Agency).
Waste Reduction	Using source reduction, recycling, or composting to prevent or reduce waste generation (International Protection Agency).
Waste Reduction Policy	Includes (1) a statement describing the organization's commitment to minimize waste disposal by using source reduction, reuse and recycling (2) assignment of responsibility within the organization for implementation of waste reduction program (3) a list of the general actions that will be implemented in the waste reduction program to reduce waste (4) a description of the tracking and review components in the waste reduction program to monitor waste reduction success and improve waste reduction performance over time.
Waste Sort	Identifying each component of a convention center's waste and calculating its percentage of the facility's total waste generation (International Protection Agency).
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 "recyclable waste stream" (International Protection Agency).
Waste-to-Energy-Facilities	Specially designed waste management facilities where waste is burned to create energy, which is captured for use in generating electricity (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).
Waste Wise	An EPA partnership program through which organizations reduce municipal solid waste and industrial wastes while improving their bottom lines and helping the environment (International Protection Agency).
Weathered Radiative	The solar reflectance and thermal emittance of a

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<i>Properties</i>	roofing product after three years of exposure to the weather.
<i>Wind Energy</i>	Electricity generated by wind machines.
<i>Wood Waste</i>	Unneeded or unusable wood from construction, demolition or renovation projects.
<i>Xeriscaping</i>	A creative landscaping design for conserving water that uses drought-resistant or drought-tolerant plants (Green Home Consulting).