

NATIONAL FOOTPRINT ACCOUNTS: The central data-set that calculates the footprints and bio-capacities of the world, encompassing roughly 150 nations from 1961 to the present. The data-set generally has a three year lag due to information availability. The ongoing development, maintenance and upgrades of the National Footprint Accounts are coordinated by Global Footprint Network and its more than 70 worldwide partners.

NATIONAL GREEN BUILDING STANDARD- A rating and certification system that aims to encourage increased environmental and health performance in residences and residential portions of buildings. Its criteria apply to the design and construction of homes and subdivisions. The National Green Building Standard™ is approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

NSF/ANSI 140 – Sustainability Assessment for Carpet is the industry-leading standard for sustainability evaluation and certification of carpet products across their entire life cycle. This standard provides a market-based definition and path to more sustainable carpet through performance requirements for the individual product and the manufacturing organization.

NATURAL FOODS: The term applied to foods that are minimally processed or do not contain any food additives, or do not contain particular additives such as hormones, antibiotics, sweeteners, food colours, or flavourings that were not originally in the food.

NATURAL PRODUCTS: These are chemical compounds found in nature that usually has a pharmacological or biological activity.

NATURAL REFRIGERANT: Natural refrigerants are naturally occurring, non-synthetic substances that can be used as cooling agents in refrigerators and air conditioners. These substances include hydrocarbons (propane, butane, and cyclopentane), CO₂, ammonia, water and air. These substances generally have much lower potential for atmospheric damage than manufactured chemical refrigerants.

NEWSPRINT: Low-grade paper made of ground wood. When disposed-off, it can be fed to cattle as roughage. It is also biodegradable and can be manufactured from recycled fiber.

"New" RENEWABLES –Any renewable energy source built (or repowered) after January 1, 1997. The voluntary green power market came into existence in the late 1990's. January 1, 1997 is considered a definitive point in time when green power facilities could be adequately identified as having been developed to serve the green power marketplace. Green power facilities placed into service after January 1, 1997 are said to produce "new" renewable energy. The "new" criterion addresses the additional requirement for the voluntary market.

NON-RENEWABLE ENERGY: Non-renewable energy comes from sources that will run out or will not be replenished for thousands or even millions of years. Most sources of non-renewable energy are fossil fuels.

NON RENEWABLE RESOURCES: Resources that are in limited supply, such as oil, coal, and natural gas. Energy sources that are used and consumed faster than they are produced by nature.

“Non-Toxic” CLAIM: It implies that a product, substance or chemical will not cause harm to health or the environment either immediately or over the long-term. However, there are no specific standards for the "non-toxic" claim.

NONWATER TOILET SYSTEMS: Dry plumbing fixtures and fittings that contain and treat human waste via microbiological processes.



OCEAN WAVE ENERGY: A form of renewable energy that will create clean electricity harnessed from tide and wave movement.

OFFICE PAPER: High grade papers such as copier paper, computer printout, and stationary almost entirely made of uncoated chemical pulp, although some ground wood is used. Such waste is also generated in homes, schools, and elsewhere.

ORGANIC: Produce grown naturally without the use of synthetic chemicals or materials.

ORGANIC FARMING: Organic farming is a method of crop and livestock production that involves much more than choosing not to use pesticides, fertilizers, genetically modified organisms, antibiotics and growth hormones.

ORGANIC FOOD: Plants and animals that are grown or reared without the use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides or hormones.

ORGANIC MATTER: Organic matter is matter composed of organic compounds that has come from the remains of dead organisms such as plants and animals and their waste products in the environment.

ORGANIC MULCH: Natural materials such as fallen twigs, bark, flowers, leaves or applied plant materials such as grass clippings, hay and straw that go on top of soil surfaces and in the process help protect soil quality.

OZONE LAYER: A deep layer in the stratosphere, encircling the earth that has large amounts of ozone in it. It protects earth from the harmful ultraviolet radiation coming from the sun.

P

PACKAGING: Material that is used to protect or contain a product during transportation, storage, marketing or use.

PAPER BATTERY: It is a flexible, ultra-thin energy storage and production device formed by combining carbon nano-tubes with a conventional sheet of cellulose-based paper. Non-toxic, flexible paper batteries have the potential to power the next generation of electronics, medical devices and hybrid vehicles, allowing for radical new designs and medical technologies. These are also biodegradable, a need only partially addressed by current e-cycling and other electronics disposal methods increasingly advocated for by the green computing movement.

PARTIAL ZERO EMISSION VEHICLES (PZEVs): Cars that run on conventional gasoline fuel but produce significantly lower carbon emissions when used. These gas-powered cars use a certain type of engine and run on low-sulfur gasoline.

PAY BY WEIGHT: A system in which the amount you pay for bin collections depends on the amount of waste you throw away. The more waste you reduce, reuse, recycle or compost, the less you pay for waste disposal.

PERMITS: In the context of waste, certificates or other documents granted by local authorities to private companies to collect and manage waste or to operate waste management facilities such as recycling centre's.

PESTICIDES: A general term for any chemicals that are used to kill weeds, fungi, insects or other pests.

PHOTOVOLTAIC PANELS: Solar panels that convert sunlight into electricity. Power is produced when sunlight strikes the semiconductor material and creates an electrical current.

PLASTIC: Man-made durable and flexible synthetic-based product. It is composed mainly of petroleum.

PLASTIC BAG LEVY: An environmental tax that customers must pay when they accept a plastic or laminated bag from a retailer. There is no tax on small bags, such as those for fresh meat or loose fruit and vegetables. Money raised from the tax is put into a special fund that is used to protect the environment.

PLASTIC BAGS: It is not very good for the environment.

PLASTIC RECYCLING: There are seven different categories of plastics that can be recycled.

POST-CONSUMER MATERIAL: Material generated by households or by commercial, industrial and institutional facilities in their role as end-users of the goods or service which can no longer be used for its intended purpose. This includes returns of material from the distribution chain.

POST-CONSUMER – Term used to describe material that is being reused / recycled after it has been in the consumer's hand (i.e. soda bottles, yogurt containers). Material or product used by the consumer for its original purpose and then discarded.

POST-INDUSTRIAL: Term used to describe scrap or excess material that a manufacturer reuses or recycles throughout the manufacturing process.

POWER MANAGEMENT: A feature included in many electrical appliances, like copiers, computers, monitors and printers, that turns off the power or switches the system to a standby mode when inactive.

POWER USAGE EFFECTIVENESS (PUE): PUE is a metric used to determine the energy efficiency of a data center. PUE is determined by dividing the amount of power entering a data center by the power used to run the computer infrastructure within it.

PRE-CONSUMER MATERIAL: Material diverted from the waste stream during a manufacturing process. Excluded is reutilization of materials such as rework, regrind or scrap generated in a process and capable of being reclaimed within the same process that generated it.

PRECYCLE: A source reduction option wherein evaluation and selection of items for use is dependent upon the method of manufacture, product content and recyclability of product. While recycling does help the environment, the concept of precycling makes both consumers and producers assess their purchases in terms of avoiding more waste going into landfills--and the recycling bin as well.

PRECYCLING: Reducing waste before it is even produced by changing one's shopping and consumption habits.

PRODUCT: Any goods or service.

QUALIFIED ENVIRONMENTAL CLAIM: An environmental claim which is accompanied by an explanatory statement that describes the limits of the claim.

QUALITY ASSURANCE (QA)/ QUALITY CONTROL (QC): A system of procedures, checks, audits, and corrective actions to ensure that environmental sampling and testing are of the highest achievable quality.

Source:

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