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Climate change dictionary

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO CLIMATE TERMS



جمعية العون الصحي الاردنية - الدولية
Jordan Health Aid Society - International

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Dedication

To every student, educator, and activist striving to make our planet a better place. May this guide support your journey in understanding and acting on climate change.

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my deep gratitude to the climate educators, environmental organizations, and mentors whose knowledge and support inspired the creation of this dictionary. Special thanks to all those working tirelessly to raise awareness and drive change in the face of the climate crisis.

Author's Introduction

Climate change is one of the most urgent and complex challenges of our time. While the science behind it can be overwhelming, the key to action often begins with understanding.

This dictionary was created to serve as a clear and accessible resource for students, NGO workers, and community leaders seeking to learn the language of climate change. It aims to break down jargon and technical terms into simple, digestible concepts that can be used in education, advocacy, and daily conversations.



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Whether you're new to the topic or looking to strengthen your climate vocabulary, I hope this guide supports your efforts to be informed and empowered in the climate movement.

How to Use This Book

This dictionary is organized by key terms related to climate science, policy, and solutions. Each entry provides a clear definition and context for the term, often with real-world examples.

Use this book as:

- A learning tool in climate education and awareness sessions
- A reference guide for NGO projects or youth campaigns
- A resource for preparing climate-related presentations or reports

The material is simplified for accessibility but grounded in reliable international sources like the UN, IPCC, and environmental experts.



Climate Change Dictionary

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2 Introduction

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges facing our planet today. It affects every aspect of our lives — our health, economy, food systems, water resources, and security. Understanding climate change is the first step toward creating positive solutions for our communities and future generations.

Climate change discussions are filled with technical terms that can confuse anyone new to the topic. This dictionary provides clear, plain-language definitions of key climate concepts to help non-experts understand the issues. Studies have shown that many people find common climate terms complex or misleading publicexchange.usc.edu, so simple explanations are needed. Our definitions draw on authoritative sources like the UN and NASA, and use everyday examples and analogies. For example, the UNDP’s *Climate Dictionary* itself aims to clarify these concepts for the general public climatepromise.undp.org. By learning terms such as “carbon footprint,” “adaptation,” and “greenhouse gases,” readers can engage more confidently with climate news and policies.

3 Terminology Selection Methodology

This climate change dictionary was developed to simplify key climate-related concepts and make them accessible to a broad audience, particularly youth, communities, and civil society actors. At the same time, it maintains scientific accuracy and reflects both global discourse and local relevance.

The terms included in this dictionary were selected based on the following criteria:

- Global Relevance

Priority was given to terms widely recognized in international frameworks such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports, and the Paris Agreement.

- Frequency in Climate Discourse

The selected terms are commonly used in global and national climate reports, media coverage, training materials, and policy discussions.

- Local and Regional Relevance

Terms were chosen based on their applicability to the Jordanian and regional context—for example, concepts related to water scarcity, desertification, sustainable agriculture, and renewable energy.



- Clarity and Simplicity

Technical terms that could be clearly explained in simple, non-academic language were prioritized. Highly specialized jargon with limited public use was avoided unless critical to understanding broader climate topics.

- Topical Diversity

The dictionary covers a wide range of topics such as energy, water, agriculture, climate justice, youth engagement, finance, green jobs, circular economy, and more.

- Availability of Credible Definitions

Definitions were based on reliable sources, including:

- IPCC Glossary and Reports
- UN CC: e-Learn courses
- UN Climate Change Glossary
- Official documents from Jordan's Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Energy
- Climate-related projects and initiatives in Jordan and the MENA region

4 Weather vs. Climate

- **Weather:** The short-term conditions of the atmosphere (like temperature, rain, wind) at a specific time and place [scijinks.gov](https://www.scijinks.gov). Weather can change from day to day (sunny today, rainy tomorrow). For instance, a single thunderstorm or a hot day is a weather event [scijinks.gov](https://www.scijinks.gov).
- **Climate:** The long-term average of weather patterns in a region, typically measured over 30 years or more [scijinks.gov/climatepromise.undp.org](https://www.scijinks.gov/climatepromise.undp.org). Climate tells you what weather is generally like in a place (e.g. "warm and wet" or "cold and dry"). One analogy is that weather is like your mood on a particular day, whereas climate is like your personality over a lifetime. In science terms, the World Meteorological Organization defines climate as the average of weather over decades [climatepromise.undp.org](https://www.climatepromise.undp.org).

Key Points:

- Weather changes daily, climate changes slowly over decades.
- Weather forecasts predict short-term conditions; climate predictions look at long-term patterns.
- Climate influences ecosystems, agriculture, and water availability.



Example from Jordan:

- Amman may experience sudden rainfall in March — that’s a weather event. But the trend of less frequent but heavier rains over the past 30 years reflects a changing climate.

5 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are atmospheric gases that **trap heat** and warm the planet. Major GHGs include carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), and others [science.nasa.gov/climatepromise.undp.org](https://science.nasa.gov/climatepromise/undp.org). According to NASA, these gases act like a blanket around Earth, keeping the surface warmer than it would otherwise be science.nasa.gov. Human activities (burning coal, oil, gas and deforestation) have sharply increased these gases since the Industrial Revolution climatepromise.undp.org, enhancing the natural greenhouse effect. In simple terms, **greenhouse gas emissions** mean releasing those heat-trapping gases. For example, driving a gasoline car emits CO₂, and raising livestock releases methane.

Key Points:

- CO₂ is the most abundant and long-lasting greenhouse gas.
- Transportation, industry, and energy production are the main sources.
- Deforestation also increases GHGs by reducing the number of trees that absorb CO₂.

Example from the Region:

- The Middle East, including Jordan, is witnessing increasing greenhouse gas emissions mainly from energy use, transportation, and waste mismanagement.

6 Global Warming vs. Climate Change

- **Global warming:** Refers specifically to the rise in Earth’s **average surface temperature** due to higher GHG concentrations usgs.gov. It is one aspect of climate change. For instance, we are now seeing each decade warmer than the last because of CO₂ from power plants and cars heating the planet.
- **Climate change:** Refers to the broader long-term **changes in climate patterns** (temperature, rainfall, storms, wind, etc.) on Earth [usgs.gov/climatepromise.undp.org](https://usgs.gov/climatepromise/undp.org). This includes global warming and its side effects. Climate change can mean more heatwaves, heavier rainfalls, rising seas, and other lasting changes. In other words, global warming is



the “heating up,” while climate change is the resulting shift in climate that affects ecosystems and weather events usgs.gov/climate/promise/undp.org.

Key Points:

- Global warming = temperature rise
- Climate change = broader environmental impacts (including global warming)

Example from Jordan:

- The rise in temperatures in Jordan has led to higher evaporation rates in the Dead Sea, contributing to its shrinkage. Climate change also affects water availability, impacting both rural and urban communities.

7 Climate Crisis

The term **climate crisis** emphasizes that climate change is causing serious and urgent problems. It refers to the **serious impacts** of a warming climate – such as extreme heatwaves, more intense hurricanes, rising sea levels, and threats to food/water security and biodiversity – that are already occurring or expected climatepromise.undp.org. In essence, the climate crisis is the urgent situation created by climate change. For example, UNDP notes it includes losses of life and livelihoods from disasters, ecosystem collapse, and social disruption caused by climate-driven changes climatepromise.undp.org.

Key Points:

- The climate crisis is already happening — it’s not a future event.
- Impacts include loss of biodiversity, more frequent disasters, and increasing food and water insecurity.

Example from the Region:

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region is one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change. Rising temperatures, desertification, and water scarcity threaten food security and stability.

8 Carbon Footprint

A **carbon footprint** measures how many greenhouse gases (especially CO₂ and methane) are emitted by a person, organization, product or activity climatepromise.undp.org. In practical terms, it’s an estimate of your total impact on the climate. The bigger the carbon footprint, the more you are contributing to global warming climatepromise.undp.org. For example, taking a long-



distance flight or eating a lot of beef gives you a large footprint, while riding a bike or eating local vegetables gives you a smaller one. The footprint includes both direct emissions (like fuel burned in your car) and indirect emissions (like the energy used to produce your electricity or food) climatepromise.undp.org. By measuring a footprint, we can see where to cut emissions – for instance, using renewables or improving energy efficiency can shrink it.

Key Points:

- Everyone has a carbon footprint.
- Reducing it involves making changes in energy use, travel, and consumption.

Example from Jordan:

- Reducing the use of private cars in Amman, promoting the use of public transport, and supporting sustainable food options are practical ways to lower individual carbon footprints.

9 Paris Agreement and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

The **Paris Agreement** is the international climate treaty adopted in 2015 (at COP21) to limit global warming. It is a legally binding agreement signed by almost every country, with the goal of keeping warming “*well below 2°C*” (and aiming for 1.5°C) above pre-industrial levels unfccc.int. Under Paris, each country must make an **NDC** – a *nationally determined contribution* – which is a plan for how it will reduce emissions and adapt to climate change. NDCs are essentially climate action pledges that countries submit and update every five years unfccc.int. For example, a country’s NDC might include targets like “reduce CO₂ by 30% by 2030” and measures like planting forests and building renewable energy. Every 5 years, countries are expected to make their NDCs more ambitious, in order to meet the overall Paris goals unfccc.int.

Key Points:

- The Paris Agreement sets a global goal, but each country has the flexibility to determine its own path.
- The agreement also focuses on climate finance to support developing countries.

Example from Jordan:

- Jordan’s NDC includes commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 31% by 2030, focusing on renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable water management.



10 Mitigation

Mitigation means taking action to **reduce or prevent greenhouse gas emissions** and to remove GHGs from the atmosphere. In simple terms, it's about fighting climate change by cutting pollution or enhancing "carbon sinks." As UNDP explains, mitigation covers any strategy – by governments, businesses or individuals – that lowers emissions or strengthens natural removal of CO₂climatepromise.undp.org. Examples include switching from coal power to solar energy, improving energy efficiency, reforestation (which adds carbon sinks), and adopting electric vehicles. All these actions slow down global warming by reducing the amount of heat-trapping gases we release into the air.

Key Mitigation Strategies:

- Transitioning to renewable energy (solar, wind, geothermal)
- Improving energy efficiency in homes, buildings, and transportation
- Reforestation and afforestation
- Reducing waste and promoting circular economies

Example from Jordan:

- Jordan has been investing heavily in solar power projects.

11 Adaptation (and National Adaptation Plans)

Adaptation involves adjusting our societies and ecosystems to handle climate change impacts. It means doing things that **reduce our vulnerability** to effects like floods, droughts or heatwaves climatepromise.undp.org. For instance, building flood defenses, planting drought-resistant crops, or improving water management are adaptation measures. At the national level, many countries create **National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)** – official strategies for how they will implement adaptation across sectors. NAPs set out projects and policies (like upgraded infrastructure or emergency plans) to strengthen resilience against climate threats climatepromise.undp.org. In short, adaptation prepares us for the changes we cannot avoid.

Key Adaptation Strategies:

- Improving water resource management (e.g., rainwater harvesting).
- Developing drought-resistant crops and farming techniques.
- Strengthening infrastructure to withstand extreme weather events.

Example from Jordan:



- Jordan developed its first National Adaptation Plan (NAP) to address the country’s growing vulnerability to climate change. The plan focuses on key sectors like water, agriculture and health, and aims to strengthen national resilience by integrating adaptation into development planning.

12 Decarbonization

Decarbonization is the process of reducing the amount of carbon dioxide (and other GHGs) emitted by our energy and economic systems. It basically means moving away from fossil fuels toward clean energy. IPCC defines decarbonization as achieving “zero fossil carbon existence,” which typically involves transforming electricity, transportation, and industry to emit little or no CO₂ [ipcc.ch](https://www.ipcc.ch). In practice, decarbonization includes actions like powering cities with wind or solar instead of coal, switching cars from gasoline to electricity, and industrial processes that capture or avoid emissions.

Key Points:

- Decarbonization involves transitioning away from fossil fuels toward cleaner, renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and hydropower.
- It is critical for meeting the global climate goals set in the Paris Agreement.

Example from Jordan:

- Jordan’s transition to solar energy and investment in wind energy projects are key components of its decarbonization strategy.

13 Renewable Energy

Renewable energy is energy from natural sources that are constantly replenished by the environment. The IPCC glossary says it includes solar, wind, water (hydro), geothermal and biomass energy – anything that nature “replenishes” as fast (or faster) than we use it [ipcc-data.org](https://www.ipcc-data.org). Examples are sunlight captured by solar panels, wind turning turbines, flowing rivers driving hydro plants, and even plant-based fuels. Because these sources don’t run out and emit little or no GHGs when generating power, they are key to combating climate change and decarbonizing our energy supply.

Key Points:

- Renewable energy is sustainable and produces little or no carbon emissions.



- It is key to achieving energy security, reducing dependence on fossil fuels, and combating climate change.

Example from Jordan:

Jordan has made significant strides in renewable energy, particularly solar and wind energy projects. The Shams Ma'an Solar Power Plant and Tafila Wind Farm are examples of major renewable energy projects in the country.

14 Circular Economy

A **circular economy** is a system of production and consumption designed to **minimize waste and resource use**. Instead of the traditional “take-make-dispose” model, it emphasizes reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling materials [ipcc.ch](https://www.ipcc.ch). In a circular economy, products are made to last, share, and be easily recycled. For example, manufacturing smartphones so that old components can be reclaimed and reused, or a fashion company designing clothes that can be easily remade into new fabric. By keeping materials in use, a circular economy reduces the energy, pollution and emissions associated with manufacturing new products [ipcc.ch](https://www.ipcc.ch).

Key Points:

- The circular economy reduces waste, conserves resources, and promotes sustainability.
- It is crucial for minimizing the environmental impact of production and consumption.

Example from Jordan:

- In Jordan, the Jordanian Green Building Council is promoting circular economy practices by encouraging sustainable construction materials, waste reduction, and recycling initiatives.

15 Nature-based Solutions

Nature-based solutions are actions that harness natural processes to address climate change. They involve protecting, restoring, and responsibly managing ecosystems so that they help with both mitigation and adaptation climatepromise.undp.org. For example, restoring a mangrove forest along a coast can absorb CO₂ (mitigation), while also buffering storm surges (adaptation). Planting urban trees can cool cities (adaptation) and store carbon (mitigation). These solutions emphasize working with nature – for instance, conserving wetlands to filter water and capture



floodwaters, or reforestation to absorb carbon dioxide climatepromise.undp.org – often providing multiple benefits like biodiversity protection and community jobs.

Key Points:

- NBS can include reforestation, wetland restoration, and sustainable land management.
- These solutions are cost-effective, sustainable, and benefit both the environment and local communities.

Example from Jordan:

- The Jordan Valley has seen several initiatives to restore wetlands and improve soil health, which not only address water scarcity but also enhance local agricultural productivity.

16 Reforestation vs. Afforestation

- **Afforestation:** Establishing a new forest on land that *has not* recently had tree cover unfccc.int. In other words, planting trees where forests didn't exist before (e.g. turning a former grassland or barren field into a forest). Afforestation usually has to meet minimum area criteria (like 1 hectare) by UN rules unfccc.int.
- **Reforestation:** Re-establishing forest on land that *used to* be forested but was converted to another use unfccc.int. For example, if a forest was cleared for farming, reforestation would mean planting trees there again. The land must have been non-forest for at least five years for UN definitions unfccc.int.

Both afforestation and reforestation help absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere, but the difference is whether the land had historical forest cover (reforestation) or not (afforestation)

unfccc.intunfccc.int.

Key Points:

- Both reforestation and afforestation play an important role in combating climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide.
- Reforestation restores ecosystems, while afforestation creates new forests and increases carbon storage.

Example from Jordan:

- Jordan has initiated reforestation projects in regions like Ajloun and Jerash, where forest areas were lost due to land degradation and deforestation.



17 Regenerative Agriculture

Regenerative agriculture is a farming approach that goes beyond sustainability by *improving* the environment. It uses practices that restore soil health, enhance biodiversity, and capture more carbon in the land. For example, techniques like no-till farming (minimizing plowing), planting cover crops, rotating diverse crops, and integrating trees into farmland (agroforestry) are regenerative practices. As The Nature Conservancy explains, regenerative agriculture “seeks to actively restore nature” rather than just avoid harm [nature.org](https://www.nature.org). By building living soil, sequestering carbon underground, and reducing chemical inputs, regenerative farms aim to heal ecosystems and produce food with lower climate impact [nature.org](https://www.nature.org).

Key Points:

- Regenerative agriculture can help reduce the carbon footprint of farming by sequestering carbon in the soil.
- It enhances food security and can make farming systems more resilient to climate impacts.

Example from Jordan:

- Farmers in Jordan have started adopting regenerative practices such as using organic fertilizers and improving soil health to cope with water scarcity and improve crop yields.

18 Rewilding

Rewilding means letting nature take care of itself to restore ecosystems. It often involves protecting large areas of land, reintroducing native species, and reducing human control so that natural processes can shape the landscape [matadornetwork.com](https://www.matadornetwork.com). In practice, this might look like allowing forests to regrow, restoring wetlands, or bringing back predators (like wolves) that were once extinct locally. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) describes rewilding as restoring healthy ecosystems by creating wild, biodiverse spaces that use the plants and animals that would naturally belong there [matadornetwork.com](https://www.matadornetwork.com). Ultimately, rewilding aims to revive self-sustaining ecosystems that provide clean air, water and other benefits for people and wildlife [matadornetwork.com](https://www.matadornetwork.com).

Key Points:

- Rewilding can help restore natural habitats, improve biodiversity, and contribute to carbon sequestration.
- It can also enhance the resilience of ecosystems to climate change.



Example from Jordan:

- Jordan's Dana Biosphere Reserve is a key example of a conservation area where native species have been reintroduced to restore the natural ecosystem.

19 Climate Justice

Climate justice puts fairness and human rights at the center of climate solutions climatepromise.undp.org. It recognizes that those who contributed least to the problem (often poor countries and vulnerable groups) should not suffer the most from climate impacts. For example, wealthy nations and industries have emitted the bulk of historic emissions, so climate justice argues they have a responsibility to help vulnerable countries adapt and recover from damages climatepromise.undp.org. It also means protecting the rights of marginalized communities (indigenous peoples, low-income groups, etc.) in climate decisions. In short, climate justice ensures that climate policies are equitable – balancing global responsibilities and making sure no one is left behind in the transition to a low-carbon world climatepromise.undp.org.

Key Points:

- Climate justice advocates for fairness in the distribution of climate change impacts and solutions.
- It calls for the inclusion of marginalized communities in decision-making processes regarding climate change.

Example from Jordan:

- In Jordan, climate justice could focus on helping rural communities access clean energy and improve resilience to water scarcity.

20 Climate Security

Climate security refers to the risks that climate change poses to peace and stability climatepromise.undp.org. It recognizes that climate impacts can worsen conflicts and social tensions. For instance, droughts or resource shortages may intensify competition over food and water, potentially leading to unrest. UNDP notes that climate change can exacerbate fragile conditions and make conflict more likely climatepromise.undp.org. Therefore, climate security means assessing and managing these risks: integrating climate action with peacebuilding, and ensuring that adaptation and mitigation efforts support stability. In practice, this could involve



using renewable energy to improve energy security or planning water infrastructure to reduce conflict over resources.

Key Points:

- Climate change poses a threat to peace and stability, especially in regions already facing resource conflicts.
- Climate security involves addressing both the environmental and social aspects of climate impacts.

Example from Jordan:

- The ongoing Syrian refugee crisis in Jordan highlighting the importance of climate security in addressing refugee flows.

21 Resilience

Resilience in the climate context is the ability of communities, ecosystems, or systems to cope with and recover from climate impacts. According to UNDP, climate resilience is *“the capacity of a community or environment to anticipate and manage climate impacts, minimize their damage, and recover and transform as needed”*climatepromise.undp.org. In other words, resilient societies prepare for climate shocks (like storms or droughts) and bounce back afterward. Building resilience might include early warning systems for disasters, stronger buildings, diversified incomes for farmers, and social safety nets. A resilient community is one that can withstand climate stress (like floods or heatwaves) and restore its functionality quickly.

Key Points:

- Building resilience is crucial for ensuring that communities can withstand climate shocks, such as floods or droughts.
- Resilience involves strengthening infrastructure, improving health systems, and promoting community preparedness.

Example from Jordan:

- Jordan’s investments in resilient infrastructure (like flood management and water-saving technologies) help communities cope with extreme weather and water scarcity.



22 Greenwashing

Greenwashing is when a company or organization makes false or misleading claims about being eco-friendly. For example, a business might advertise that its product is “100% natural” or “carbon-neutral” without solid evidence, simply to appeal to consumers’ environmental concerns. The Climate Promise explains that greenwashing occurs when firms exaggerate or fabricate positive environmental actions to appear responsible, rather than making real changes climatepromise.undp.org. Often, it’s a marketing tactic: minor “green” claims are highlighted to distract from larger environmental harms. Greenwashing can undermine genuine climate action by fooling consumers and reducing trust in sustainability efforts climatepromise.undp.org.

Key Points:

- Greenwashing can mislead consumers and slow down genuine climate action.
- It’s important to critically assess claims about sustainability and environmental impact.

Example from Jordan:

- A company claiming to use “eco-friendly” products without truly reducing its carbon footprint or waste would be an example of greenwashing.

23 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Climate Change

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provide a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet. Climate change is deeply interconnected with many of these goals. Addressing climate change is not just about the environment, it also impacts poverty, health, food security, and more.

SDG 13: Climate Action

Goal: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

- Focus Areas: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards, integrate climate change measures into national policies and planning, and improve education and awareness.
- Relevance to the training: Understanding this goal empowers participants to recognize the global urgency of climate change and their role in promoting mitigation and adaptation strategies at the local level.



SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

Goal: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.

- Focus Areas: Expand renewable energy sources (solar, wind, hydro), improve energy efficiency, and promote investment in sustainable energy infrastructure.
- Relevance to the training: Clean energy solutions are key to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, thus directly mitigating climate change effects.

SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Goal: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

- Focus Areas: Improve water-use efficiency, protect water-related ecosystems, and support the participation of local communities in water management.
- Relevance to the training: Climate change affects water availability and quality, making it critical to integrate water resource management in climate adaptation plans, especially in water-scarce regions like Jordan.

SDG 2: Zero Hunger

Goal: End hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

- Focus Areas: Build resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production while adapting to climate change and extreme weather.
- Relevance to the training: Changing climate patterns can disrupt food production, so sustainable agriculture is a key part of resilience planning.

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Goal: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

- Focus Areas: Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard cultural and natural heritage, reduce the adverse environmental impact of cities, particularly air quality and waste management.
- Relevance to the training: Urban areas are both vulnerable to climate impacts (such as heatwaves, floods) and key actors in reducing emissions.



SDG 15: Life on Land

Goal: Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.

- Focus Areas: Combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss.
- Relevance to the training: Land degradation is both a cause and effect of climate change. Protecting ecosystems enhances carbon storage and biodiversity resilience.

24 Conclusion

Climate change is not just a scientific topic—it's a lived reality. As we navigate the climate crisis, understanding its terminology empowers us to act more effectively, advocate more confidently, and collaborate more meaningfully. May this dictionary serve as a small but powerful tool in your journey of awareness and action.

25 Call to Action

Now that you've familiarized yourself with the core language of climate change, it's time to put that knowledge into action.

What can you do?

- Share this dictionary with your community, students, or colleagues.
- Start a local conversation on sustainability or climate resilience.
- Explore these free resources:
 - UN CC:Learn e-courses: <https://unccelearn.org>
 - Climate Reality Project: <https://www.climaterealityproject.org>
 - SDG Academy: <https://sdgacademy.org>

Remember: climate literacy is the first step toward climate action.

26 References

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- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) – <https://www.ipcc.ch>
- UN CC:Learn Climate Change 101 – <https://unccelearn.org>
- UNEP Climate Action – <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/climate-action>



- Green Climate Fund – <https://www.greenclimate.fund>
- FAO on Climate-Smart Agriculture – <https://www.fao.org/climate-smart-agriculture>

27 Key Terminology

1-	Global warming	The increase in Earth's average temperature due to the buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.
2-	Climate change	Long-term changes in the climate and weather patterns on Earth, influenced by both natural and human factors.
3-	Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)	Gases such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O) that trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere, contributing to global warming.
4-	Paris agreement	An international treaty aimed at limiting global warming to below 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels, with efforts to keep it below 1.5°C.
5-	Carbon footprint	The total amount of greenhouse gases emitted as a result of human activities, such as transportation, food production, and energy consumption.
6-	Adaptation	Actions taken to cope with or adjust to the impacts of climate change, such as building resilient infrastructure or changing agricultural practices.
7-	Mitigation	Efforts to reduce or prevent the causes of climate change by limiting greenhouse gas emissions or enhancing the removal of these gases from the atmosphere.
8-	Climate finance	Financial resources provided to support climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts, especially in developing countries.



9-	Circular economy	An economic model aimed at reducing waste, reusing products, and recycling materials to create a more sustainable system.
10-	Renewable energy	Energy derived from natural resources that are constantly replenished, such as solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal power, which are essential for reducing carbon emissions.



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*“May this dictionary be
your first step toward
understanding the planet
– and protecting it.”*
