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TECHNICAL ENGLISH GLOSSARY FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY

technical term	definition
A	See Ampere.
AAU	See Assigned Amount Unit.
absorbent	a material that extracts one or more substances from a fluid medium on contact, and which changes physically and/or chemically in the process
absorber	the component of a solar thermal collector that absorbs solar radiation and converts it to heat, or, as in a solar photovoltaic device, the material that readily absorbs photons to generate charge carriers
absorption	the passing of a substance or force into the body of another substance
absorption chiller	a type of air cooling device that uses absorption cooling to cool interior spaces
absorption coefficient	the degree to which a substance will absorb solar energy
AC	See alternating current.
accumulator	a component of a heat pump that stores liquid and keeps it from flooding the compressor
acid rain	precipitation that has become acidic (low pH) due to the emission of sulfur oxides from fossil fuel burning power plants
active cooling	the use of mechanical heat pipes or pumps to carry heat by circulating heat transfer fluids
active power	The power in Watts used by a device to produce useful work. Also called input power.
active solar heater	a solar water or space-heating system that uses pumps or fans to circulate the fluid from the solar collectors to a storage tank subsystem
active solar thermal system	a system that traps solar energy with collectors and uses an electromechanical subsystem to move that energy to its point of intended use for water heating, space heating, pool heating, industrial process heat, electrical generation and space cooling
adjustable speed drive	an electronic device that controls the rotational speed of motor-driven equipment such as fans, compressors and pumps by adjusting the frequency of the voltage applied to the motor
adobe	A traditional material used for building houses. It is made from clay, straw and water, formed into blocks and dried in the sun.
aerated lagoon	in wastewater treatment or livestock facilities, a shallow pond used to store wastewater where sunlight and biological activity decompose the waste
aerobic bacteria	Microorganisms that require oxygen to live. They contribute to the decomposition of organic material in composting systems.
air collector	a type of solar collector in which air is heated in solar heating systems
air conditioner	a device for controlling the temperature and humidity of the air in an interior space
air diffuser	an air distribution outlet which mixes room air with conditioned air
air pollution	the emission of contaminants into the air in concentrations that prevent the normal dispersive ability of the air, and that interfere with biological processes
air pollution	the presence of contaminants or pollutant substances in the air that interfere with human health or welfare, or produce other harmful environmental effects
air register	the part of a combustion device that controls the amount of air entering the combustion chamber
air retarder / air barrier	a material or structural element that prevents air flow through a building's walls, while allowing water to easily diffuse
air-source heat pump	A heat pump that transfers heat from outdoor air to indoor air during the heating season, and works in reverse during the cooling season. The system is also called an air-to-air system.
air-to-water heat pump	a heat pump that transfers heat in outdoor air to water for space or water heating
airfoil	an airfoil (in American English) or aerofoil (in British English) is the cross-section profile of the leeward side of a wind generator blade
albedo	The ratio of light reflected by a surface to the light falling on it. Also called reflection coefficient.
algae	primitive plants, usually aquatic, capable of synthesizing their own food by photosynthesis
algal biofuel / algae fuel	an alternative to liquid fossil fuels that uses algae as its source of energy-rich oils
alternating current (AC)	an electric current in which the flow of electric charge periodically changes direction between positive and negative sides
alternative fuels	Fuels other than conventional fuels (fossil fuels, coal, natural gas, nuclear materials). Examples include biodiesel, methanol, ethanol, hydrogen, vegetable oil and other biomass sources.
alternator	A device that produces alternating current (AC) electricity from the rotation of a shaft. It is used in wind and water turbines to generate electricity.
altitude angle	The angle of the sun above the horizon, measured in degrees. In winter, the sun is at a low solar altitude, while in the summer, the solar altitude is high.
ammeter	an instrument that measures the electric current in a circuit in amperes (A)
amorphous semiconductor	a non-crystalline semiconductor material with no long-range order

amorphous silicon	an alloy of silica and hydrogen that can be deposited in thin-film layers to produce thin-film photovoltaic cells on glass, metal, or plastic bases
amp	See Ampere.
amp-hour / ampere-hour	a measure of the flow of current (in amperes) over one hour
ampacity	The highest safe amount of electrical current through conductors, overcurrent devices, or other electrical equipment. Ampacity is determined by the cross-sectional area and the material of the conductor.
Ampere (Amp or A)	A unit of measure for an electrical current: the amount of current that flows in a circuit at an electromotive force of one Volt and at a resistance of one Ohm. Abbreviations: A or amp.
ampere-hour meter	an instrument that monitors electron flow over time
amplitude	the maximum and minimum voltage attained by an alternating or pulsed current in each complete cycle or pulse of that current
anaerobic digestion	A process that produces methane. Natural bacteria are used to decompose organic matter in the absence of oxygen in closed reactors. Gas suitable for power production is produced, and possibly troublesome wastes (such as those at sewage treatment plants or feedlots) are turned to usable compost.
anaerobic lagoon	a waste treatment basin in the ground filled with liquid animal waste that undergoes anaerobic respiration
anemometer	a device that measure the speed of the wind
angle of attack	the angle of relative air flow to the blade chord of a wind turbine
angle of incidence	the angle between the sun's rays and a line perpendicular to the active surface of a solar module or collector, in degrees
angle of inclination	the angle that a solar collector or PV module is positioned above horizontal
annual fuel utilization efficiency (AFUE)	the measure of annual efficiency of a residential heating boiler
annual load fraction	the fraction of annual energy demand supplied by a solar system
annual solar savings	the energy saved by a solar building attributable to its solar feature relative to the energy requirements of a non-solar building
anode	The electrode within a battery cell that undergoes the chemical process of oxidation. Electrically, the anode is the positive terminal of the cell. In a water heater, the anode is an aluminum or magnesium sacrificial rod that is installed within steel tanks to prevent corrosion.
anti-reflection coating	a thin layer applied to a photovoltaic cell surface that reduces light reflection and increases light transmission
antifreeze solution	a fluid, such as methanol, added to vehicle engine coolant, or used in solar heating system heat transfer fluids, to protect the system from freezing
aperture	the area of a solar collector through which solar radiation is admitted and directed to the absorber
apparent day	a solar day, or apparent solar time, which is the interval between two successive returns of the Sun to the local meridian
apparent power	The voltage-ampere requirement of a device designed to convert electric energy to a non-electrical form. It is expressed in kilovolt-amperes (VA).
array	a number of photovoltaic modules electrically connected to produce a single electrical output
ash	the non-combustible residue of a combusted substance
ASHP	See air-source heat pump
Assigned Amount Unit (AAU)	Under the Kyoto Protocol, member countries have AAUs, i.e. emission permits or carbon credits, which, if unused, can be traded with other member countries. One AAU is one metric ton of CO ₂ e. See also metric ton and CO ₂ e.
asynchronous generator	an electric generator that produces alternating current that matches an existing power source
atmospheric pressure	the pressure of the air at sea level
attic vent	a passive or mechanical device to ventilate an attic space, primarily to reduce heat buildup and moisture condensation
automatic / remote meter reading system	a system that records the consumption of electricity, water, gas, etc. and sends the data to a central data accumulation device
automatic damper	a device that cuts off the flow of hot or cold air to or from a room as controlled by a thermostat
availability factor	a percentage that represents the number of hours that a generating unit is available to produce power in a given period, compared to the number of hours in the period
available heat	the amount of heat energy that may be converted into useful energy from a fuel
average velocity	the mean wind speed over a specified period of time
avoided cost	the incremental cost to an electric power producer to generate or purchase a unit of electricity of capacity or both
axial flow turbine	a turbine in which the flow of a steam or gas is essentially parallel to the rotor axis
axis	in geometry, an axis is a straight line around which an object may rotate
azimuth	The angle between true south and a point on the horizon. It is measured in degrees east or west of true south.
backup energy system	a reserve appliance, for example a stand-by generator for a home or commercial building
bagasse	Plant residue (as of sugarcane) left after the juice has been extracted. It is a fibrous material suitable for producing energy through burning.
balance of systems (BOS)	parts of a photovoltaic system other than the photovoltaic array or other generating equipment
balancing	Adjusting the weight and weight distribution of wind turbine blades through two axes in order to make them balanced. Unbalanced blades create damaging vibration.
base load	the minimum load of a power plant
base load capacity	the power output of a power plant that can be continuously produced
base load demand	the minimum demand experienced by a power plant

base load power plant	a power plant that is normally operated to generate a base load, and that usually operates at a constant load
batch solar hot water heater	A batch heater consists of one or more storage tanks placed in an insulated box that has a glazed side facing the sun. It is mounted on the ground or on the roof. Also known as bread box system or integral collector storage system
battery capacity	The total maximum charge that can be withdrawn from a battery under specific conditions including discharge rate, temperature, state of charge, age and cutoff voltage. It is expressed in ampere-hours. See also ampere-hour.
battery cell	the simplest operating unit in a storage battery, consisting of one or more positive electrodes or plates, electrolyte, one or more negative electrodes or plates, separators, a container and posts or other terminals
battery cycle life	the number of cycles that a cell or battery can undergo before failing to meet its specified capacity or efficiency performance criteria
battery life	the period during which a cell or battery is capable of operating above a specified capacity or efficiency performance level
beam radiation	solar radiation that is not scattered by dust or water droplets
best practice	examples of the most successful and transferable projects (or initiatives), selected from the good practice examples to disseminate innovation and lessons learned from implementation
Betz limit	According to Betz's law, no wind turbine can convert more than 59.3% of the kinetic energy of the wind into mechanical energy turning a rotor. This is known as the Betz limit.
bimetal	two metals of different coefficients of expansion welded together so that the piece will bend in one direction when heated, and in the other direction when cooled, and can be used to open or close electrical circuits, as in thermostats
binary cycle	The combination of two power plant turbine cycles using two different working fluids for power production. The waste heat from the first turbine cycle provides the heat energy for the operation of the second turbine, thus providing higher overall system efficiency.
bioconversion	the conversion of one form of energy into another by the action of plants or microorganisms, such as the conversion of biomass to ethanol, methanol or methane
biodegradable	able to decay naturally and in a way that is not harmful to the environment
biodegradable municipal waste (BMW)	waste that can be degraded in a way that is not harmful to the environment
biodiesel	An alternative fuel produced from used cooking oil, plant oils or animal fats. When combined with petroleum diesel, the biodiesel blend can be used in most diesel engines. It is biodegradable and non-toxic.
biodiversity	The variety of life in the world or in a particular habitat or ecosystem. See also habitat and ecosystem.
bioenergy	Renewable energy produced from organic matter. It may be used directly as a fuel or processed into liquids and gases.
biofuel	biomass converted directly to energy by burning, or converted to liquid or gaseous fuels
biofuels feedstock	Any material that is used to make biofuels. Examples include corn, sugarcane, soybeans and palm. See also biofuel.
biogas	Gas containing methane and carbon dioxide. It results from the action of microorganisms on organic materials such as landfills. Also called biomass gas.
biogasification	the process of decomposing biomass with anaerobic bacteria to produce biogas
biomass	Any organic matter available on a renewable basis, such as wood, agricultural crops or wastes, and municipal wastes, when used as a source of fuel or energy. Biomass can be burned directly or converted to biofuels. See also municipal waste and biofuel.
biomass gasification	The conversion of biomass into a gas, by biogasification or thermal gasification. See also biogasification and thermal gasification.
biomass waste	Organic non-fossil material of biological origin that is a byproduct or a discarded product. It includes municipal solid waste from biogenic sources, landfill gas, sludge water, agricultural crop byproducts, straw, etc. However, it excludes wood and wood-derived fuels, biodiesel, fuel ethanol and biofuels feedstock.
biomethanization	See biogasification.
biophotolysis	the action of light on a biological system that results in the dissociation of a substrate, usually water, to produce hydrogen
biopower	the power (heat or electricity) produced from biomass resources
black liquor	Alkaline spent liquor, which is a byproduct of the paper production process. It is removed from the digesters in the process of chemically pulping wood. See also digester.
blackbody	an ideal substance that absorbs all radiation falling on it, and reflecting nothing
blade	See wind generator blade.
BMW	See biodegradable municipal waste.
boiler	a tank where heat produced from the combustion of fuels such as natural gas, fuel oil, or coal is used to generate hot water or steam for applications ranging from building space heating to electric power production or industrial process heat
boiler feedwater	the water that is forced into a boiler to take the place of that which is evaporated in the generation of steam
boiler pressure	the pressure of the steam or water in a boiler, usually expressed in bars
bone dry / oven dry	having zero moisture content (e.g. solid biomass fuel, such as wood)
boron	the chemical element commonly used as the dopant in solar photovoltaic device or cell material
brake / braking system	a device used to stop a wind turbine, which can be either mechanical or electric
bread box system	See batch solar hot water heater and integral collector storage system
brownfield	a former industrial or commercial site where future use is affected by real or perceived environmental contamination
brushes	devices usually made of carbon-graphite for transferring power to or from a rotating object of an electric motor, alternator or generator
building energy ratio	the space-conditioning load of a building

building envelope	The structural elements (walls, roof, floor, foundation) of a building that encloses conditioned space. Also known as building shell.
building heat-loss factor	a measure of the heating requirements of a building expressed in kWh per degree day
building orientation	the relationship of a building to true south, as specified by the direction of its longest axis
building overall heat loss rate	the overall rate of heat loss from a building by means of transmission plus infiltration, expressed in kW, per degree temperature difference between the inside and outside
burner capacity	The maximum heat output released by a burner with a stable flame and satisfactory combustion. It is expressed in kW.
burning point	the temperature at which a material ignites
bus	See electrical bus.
busbar	The power conduit of an electric power plant. It is also the starting point of the electric transmission system.
cage	the part of an electric motor composed of solid bars (usually aluminum or copper) arranged in a circle and connected to continuous rings at each end
capability	the maximum load that a generating unit, power plant or other electrical apparatus can carry under specified conditions for a given period of time, without exceeding its approved limits of temperature and stress
capacitance	a measure of the electrical charge of a capacitor consisting of two plates separated by an insulating material
capacitor	an electrical device that adjusts the leading current of an applied alternating current to balance the lag of the circuit to provide a high power factor
capacity	the maximum load a generating unit, generating station, or other electrical apparatus is rated to carry
capacity factor	the ratio of the electrical energy produced by a generating unit relative to the electrical energy that could have been produced at continuous full power operation during the same period of time
capacity value	The percentage of conventional generation that can be displaced by wind generation. Sometimes also called capacity credit.
carbon footprint	the total emissions of greenhouse gases in carbon equivalents from whichever source is being measured
carbon neutral	through carbon offsetting, organisations or individuals that counterbalance the emissions they produce make themselves carbon neutral
carbon offsetting	The process of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by purchasing credits from others through carbon trading schemes. See also EU ETS.
carbon sink	a place that is able to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, such as forests, croplands and grazing lands
carbon stocks	the amount of carbon stored in biological and physical systems including trees, agricultural crops, wood and paper products and other terrestrial biosphere sinks, soils, oceans, and sedimentary and geological sinks
carcinogen	any substance capable of causing cancer
cast silicon	Used in photovoltaic cells. It is crystalline silicon obtained by pouring pure molten silicon into a vertical mould and sawed into wafers for further fabrication into photovoltaic cells.
cathode	The electrode within a battery cell that undergoes the chemical process of reduction. Electrically, the cathode is the negative terminal of the cell.
CDE	carbon-dioxide equivalent
central tower power plant / solar power tower	a type of solar furnace that uses a tower with movable mirrors to receive the focused sunlight
charcoal	a material formed from the incomplete combustion or destructive distillation of organic material in a kiln or retort, and having a high energy density, being nearly pure carbon
charge controller	an electronic device that regulates the electrical charge stored in batteries so that unsafe, overcharge conditions for the batteries are avoided
chemical vapour deposition	a chemical process used to produce high quality, high-performance, solid materials. It is also a method of depositing thin semiconductor films used to make certain types of solar photovoltaic devices
chord	the width of a wind turbine blade at a given point along the length
clean power	Usually defined as power from renewable energy that comes from wind, solar, biomass energy, etc. However, there are various definitions of clean resources.
clean power generator	a company or other organisational unit that produces electricity from sources that are thought to be environmentally cleaner than traditional sources
cleavage of lateral epitaxial films for transfer (CLEFT)	a process for making inexpensive Gallium Arsenide photovoltaic cells
CLEFT	See cleavage of lateral epitaxial films for transfer.
climate change	all forms of significant changes in the earth's climate, including global warming and the frequent occurrence of extreme weather conditions
closed-loop biomass	Any organic matter from a plant which is planted for the exclusive purpose of being used to produce energy. It does not include wood or agricultural wastes.
closed-loop geothermal heat pump system	a system that circulates a solution of water and antifreeze through a series of sealed loops of piping
CMG	compressed methane gas
CNG	compressed natural gas
co-firing	the burning of mixed fuels (usually refers to burning biomass with fossil fuel in a coal-fired power station)
co-generation	the generation of electricity or shaft power by an energy conversion system and the concurrent use of rejected thermal energy from the conversion system as an auxiliary energy source
CO ₂	carbon dioxide
CO ₂ e	equivalent carbon dioxide
coal bed methane / CBM	gas actively extracted from coal seams

coefficient of heat transmission (U-value)	a value that describes the ability of a material to conduct heat
coefficient of performance	the measure of how many units of heat are generated per unit of electricity used
collector	the component of a solar energy heating system that collects solar radiation, and that contains components to absorb solar radiation and transfer the heat to a heat transfer fluid
collector efficiency	the ratio of solar radiation captured and transferred to the collector fluid
collector fluid	the fluid, either liquid or air, used to absorb solar energy and transfer it for direct use, indirect heating of interior air or domestic water, and/or to a heat storage medium
collector tilt	the angle that a solar collector is positioned from horizontal
combined cycle	An electric generating technology in which electricity is produced from otherwise lost waste heat exiting from one or more gas turbines. The exiting heat is routed to a conventional boiler or to a heat recovery steam generator for utilization by a steam turbine in the production of electricity. Such designs increase the efficiency of the electric generating unit.
combined cycle power plant	a power plant that uses two thermodynamic cycles to achieve higher overall system efficiency
combined heat and power (CHP) plant	a power plant that produces both heat and electricity from a single heat source
combustion	rapid chemical combination of a substance with oxygen that involves the production of heat and light
compost	a mixture of organic matter that has decayed or has been digested by organisms, used to improve soil structure and provide nutrients
composting	the process of degrading organic material by microorganisms in aerobic conditions
compound paraboloid collector	a form of solar concentrating collector that does not track the sun
concentrating solar collector	a solar collector that uses reflective surfaces to concentrate sunlight onto a small area, where it is absorbed and converted to heat or, in the case of solar photovoltaic devices, into electricity
condensing furnace	a type of heating appliance that extracts so much of the available heat content from a combusted fuel that the moisture in the combustion gases condenses before it leaves the furnace
Conservation Design Development	a type of development in which developers concentrate homes on a small portion of the developable land, leaving a large part of the site in its natural state
conservation management	Formalized actions that includes realistic and integrated approaches to maintain existing genetic diversity and viable populations of flora and fauna in the wild in order to maintain biological interactions, ecological processes, and function
conservation subdivision	residential or mixed-use development in which a significant portion of the site is set aside as undivided, permanently protected open space, with houses clustered on the remainder of the property
constant-speed wind turbine	a wind turbine that operates at a constant rotor revolutions per minute and is optimized for energy capture at a given rotor diameter at a particular speed in the wind power curve
contamination	introduction of microorganisms, chemicals, toxic substances, wastes or wastewater into the water, air and soil in concentrations that make them unfit for their next intended use
convection	the transfer of heat by means of air currents
convective heat pump	a type of heat pump which is also known as an air-to-air system
cooling pond	a body of water used to cool the water that is circulated in an electric power plant
cooling tower	a structure used to cool power plant water
Corporate Social Responsibility	a business plan to reduce its negative impact on the environment, economy and society
coulomb	a unit for the quantity of electricity transported in 1 second by a current of 1 ampere
cradle-to-cradle	the life of a material or product that is recycled into a new product at the end of its defined life
cradle-to-grave	the life of a material or product up to the point of disposal
crystalline silicon photovoltaic cell	a type of photovoltaic cell made from a single crystal or a polycrystalline slice of silicon
CSR	See Corporate Social Responsibility.
cube law	in wind energy, for any given instant, the power available in the wind is proportional to the cube of the wind velocity
culvert	A network of pipes which carry our drainage system underground
cut-in-speed	the lowest wind speed at which a wind turbine begins producing usable power
cut-out-speed	the highest wind speed at which a wind turbine stops producing power
cycling loss	the loss of heat as the water circulates through a water heater tank and inlet and outlet pipes
cyclone burner	a furnace or combustion chamber in which finely ground fuel is blown in spirals to maximize combustion efficiency
days of autonomy	the number of consecutive days that a stand-alone renewable energy system will meet a defined load without additional energy input
DC	See direct current.
declination	the angular position of the sun at solar noon with respect to the plane of the equator
decomposition	the process of breaking down organic material
deep discharge	discharging a battery to 20% or less of its full charge capacity
deep-well injection	deposition of raw or treated, filtered hazardous waste by pumping it into deep wells, where it is contained in the pores of permeable subsurface rock
degree day	a unit used to determine the heating requirements of buildings, representing a fall of one degree below a specified average outdoor temperature (usually 18°C) for one day
degree hour	the product of 1 hour, and usually the number of degrees the hourly mean temperature is above a base point
dendrite	a slender threadlike spike of pure crystalline material, such as silicon
dependable capacity	the load-carrying ability of an electric power plant during a specific time interval and period when related to the characteristics of the load to be supplied
desiccation	the process of removing moisture

design tip speed ratio	The ratio of the speed of the tip of a wind turbine blade for which the power coefficient is at maximum. See also power coefficient.
diffuse solar radiation	sunlight scattered by atmospheric particles and gases so that it arrives at the earth's surface from all directions and cannot be focused
digester	A device in which organic material is biochemically decomposed by anaerobic bacteria to treat the material and/or to produce biogas. See also anaerobic digestion and biogas.
diode	an electronic device that allows current to flow in one direction only
direct beam radiation	solar radiation that arrives in a straight line from the sun
direct current (DC)	a type of electricity transmission and distribution by which electricity flows in one direction through the conductor
direct firing	Burning bioenergy feedstocks directly to produce heat. The steam drives a turbine, which turns a generator that converts the power into electricity.
direct solar water heater	a system that uses water as the fluid that is circulated through the collector to the storage tank
direct-firing	The burning of bioenergy feedstocks directly to produce steam, which is used to produce electricity. The steam drives a turbine, the turbine turns a generator, and the generator converts the power into electricity.
disposal	final placement or destruction of toxic, radioactive or other wastes
district heating	a heating system in which steam or hot water is piped from a central boiler plant to a group of buildings
donor	An n-type dopant of a solar photovoltaic device that puts an additional electron into an energy level very near the conduction band. See also dopant.
dopant	a chemical element added in small amounts to an otherwise pure semiconductor material to modify the electrical properties of the material
doping	The addition of dopants to a semiconductor. See also dopant.
downwind wind turbine	a horizontal axis wind turbine in which the rotor is downwind of the tower
draft diverter	a door-like device located at the mouth of a chimney flue for controlling the direction and flow of the draft as well as the amount of oxygen that the fire receives
draft hood	a device built into or installed above a combustion appliance to assure the escape of combustion byproducts, to prevent backdrafting or to neutralize the effects of the stack action of the chimney on the operation of the appliance
drag	resistance caused by friction in the direction opposite to that of movement of components such as wind turbine blades
drainback solar system	a closed-loop solar heating system in which the heat transfer fluid in the collector loop drains into a tank or reservoir whenever the booster pump stops to protect the collector loop from freezing
draindown solar system	an open-loop solar heating system in which the heat transfer fluid from the collector loop and the piping drain into a drain whenever freezing conditions occur
dual fuel vehicle	A vehicle with an engine capable of operating on two different types of fuels. Also called a flex fuel vehicle.
dynamometer	an apparatus for measuring force or power, especially the power developed by a motor
ecosystem	an interconnected and symbiotic grouping of animals, plants, fungi and micro-organisms that sustain life through biological, geological and chemical activity
edge-defined film-fed growth (EFG)	a method for making sheets of polycrystalline silicon for solar photovoltaic devices in which molten silicon is drawn upward by capillary action through a mould
EED	the Energy Efficiency Directive of the European Union
effective capacity	the maximum load that a device is capable of carrying
efficacy	the amount of energy service or useful energy delivered per unit of energy input
EFG	See edge-defined film-fed growth.
electrical bus	An electrical conductor that serves as a common connection for two or more electrical circuits. It may be in the form of rigid bars or stranded conductors or cables.
electricity grid	an electricity transmission and distribution system
electrode	a conductor that is brought in conducting contact with a ground
emission	a substance or pollutant emitted as a result of a process
emission factor	a measure of the average amount of a specified pollutant or material emitted for a specific type of fuel or process
employability	a set of achievements – skills, understandings and personal attributes – that make graduates more likely to gain employment and be successful in their chosen occupations, which benefits themselves, the workforce, the community and the economy
EMS	See Energy Management System.
energy audit	the process of determining the energy consumption of a building or facility
energy crop	crop grown specifically for its fuel value
energy density	the ratio of available energy per kilogram
energy efficiency class	In the European Union, the energy efficiency of cars, light bulbs and household appliances is rated in a set of energy efficiency classes from A to G, A being the most energy efficient. See also EU energy label.
energy equipment payback time	the time required for generating energy spent in manufacturing the energy system
Energy Management System (EMS)	A set of elements of plans establishing energy efficiency objectives and strategies to achieve these objectives. Energy audits are an integral part of energy management systems. See also energy audit.
energy mix	the distribution or proportion of different energy sources within the total energy supply
energy security	the extent to which a nation's or region's energy supplies are robust against potential disruption, including factors such as depletion of natural resources, variability and the political stability of regions where the energy supplies are obtained or trans-shipped

EN RD	is the European Network for Rural Development which aims to regroup national networks, organizations and administrations active in the field of rural development at Community level. The network's main aims are to: collect, analyze and disseminate information on Community rural development measures, collect, disseminate and consolidate at Community level good rural development practice; provide information on developments in the Community's rural areas; organize meetings and seminars at Community level for those actively involved in rural development; set up and run expert networks with a view to facilitating an exchange of expertise and supporting implementation and evaluation of the rural development policy; support the national networks and trans-national cooperation initiatives.
entrained bed gasifier	a gasifier in which the feedstock is suspended by the movement of gas to move it through the gasifier
environment	The land, water and air on or in which people, animals and plants live.
environment	all the natural and living things around us, such as the earth, air, plants and animals
equalization	the process of restoring all cells in a battery to an equal state-of-charge
equinox	the time when the sun crosses the equator, making night and day of equal length all over the earth
ETBE	ethyl tertiary butyl ether
ethanol	ethyl alcohol (C ₂ H ₅ OH)
ethical consumerism	the purchasing of products that do not harm or exploit the environment and the workers who produce a product
EU energy label	In the European Union, cars, light bulbs and household appliances must have an EU energy label clearly displayed when they are offered for sale or rent. The EU energy label shows the energy efficiency class of the product. See also energy efficiency class.
EU ETS	the Emissions Trading Scheme of the European Union
evacuated tube	in a solar thermal collector, an absorber tube, which is contained in an evacuated glass cylinder, through which collector fluids flow
feathering	In wind generators, the process of adjusting the blades so that they catch less wind. This can prevent damage to the machine in high winds.
feedstock	a raw material that can be converted to one or more products
fermentation	the decomposition of organic material to alcohol, methane, etc, by organisms, such as yeast or bacteria, usually in the absence of oxygen
fill factor	the ratio of a photovoltaic cell's actual power to its power if both current and voltage were at their maxima
flat plate collector	a solar thermal collector that converts the sun's radiation into heat on a flat surface without any reflecting surfaces or lens arrangements to concentrate it
flat plate solar photovoltaic module	an arrangement of photovoltaic cells or material mounted on a rigid flat surface with the cells exposed freely to incoming sunlight
float-zone process	In solar photovoltaic cell manufacturing, a method of growing a large-size, high-quality crystal whereby coils heat a polycrystalline ingot placed on top of a single-crystal seed. As the coils are slowly raised, the molten interface beneath the coils becomes a single crystal.
flow condition	in solar thermal collectors, the condition where the heat transfer fluid is flowing through the collector loop under normal operation conditions
flue	the structure into which combustion gases flow and are contained until they are emitted to the atmosphere
fossil fuels	fuels formed in the ground from the remains of dead plants and animals, such as oil, natural gas and coal
freestanding tower	An expensive type of wind generator tower with no guy wires. See also guy wires.
fuel cell	an electrochemical device that converts chemical energy directly into electricity
fuel efficiency	the ratio of heat produced by a fuel for doing work to the available heat in the fuel
fuel oil	any liquid petroleum product burned for the generation of heat or power
fuel rate	the amount of fuel necessary to generate one kilowatt-hour of electricity
fuel wood	wood and wood products that are used by direct combustion
fuel wood	any material that can be burned to make energy
full sun	the amount of power density in sunlight received at the earth's surface at noon on a clear day (about 1,000 Watts/square metre)
fungi	Organisms with cells with distinct nuclei surrounded by nuclear membranes, incapable of photosynthesis. They are able to decompose waste organisms and exist as yeast, mold or mildew.
furling	the process of forcing, either manually or automatically, a wind turbine's blades out of the direction of the wind in order to stop the blades from turning
furnace	a combustion heating appliance in which heat is captured from the burning of a fuel for distribution
gallium arsenide	a compound used to make certain types of solar photovoltaic cells
gas turbine	a type of turbine in which combusted, pressurized gas is directed against a series of blades connected to a shaft, which forces the shaft to turn to produce mechanical energy
gasification	The process in which a solid fuel is converted into a gas. Also known as pyrolytic distillation or pyrolysis.
gasifier	a device for converting a solid fuel into a gaseous fuel
generator	a device that converts mechanical energy into electrical energy
generating station	see wind power plant
geothermal energy	thermal energy generated and stored in the Earth
geothermal plant	a plant where the prime mover is a steam turbine driven by steam produced from hot water or by natural steam that derives its energy from heat found in rock
gigawatt (GW)	a unit of power equal to 1 billion Watts, 1 million kilowatts, or 1 thousand megawatts
gin pole	a device that is used with wind generator towers with a tilt-up tower
global warming	a term used to describe the Earth's gradual warming due to the greenhouse effect

glycol	an antifreeze and heat transfer fluid circulated through closed loop solar hot water collectors
good practice	examples of successful projects (or initiatives), intended to show the practical achievements of the objectives of rural development programmes
governing	the action limiting the output of a device
governor	a device limiting the output of another device, such as a wind generator
grain alcohol	ethanol (ethyl alcohol)
green economy	an economy that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while aiming at reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities
green growth	a term describing a path of economic growth that uses natural resources in a sustainable manner, also fostering economic growth and development while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide the resources and environmental services
green power	see clean power
green supply chain	the management of purchasing decisions in order to consider sustainable impacts of raw materials acquisition, production, manufacturing, packaging, distribution, reuse, operation, maintenance or disposal
greenhouse effect	the process during which rise in temperature is experienced as certain gases in the atmosphere trap energy from the sun
greenhouse gases	gases in the Earth's atmosphere producing greenhouse effect, including carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, etc.
greenspace	a piece of land intentionally undeveloped for the purpose of preservation or conservation of a community or region's natural or historic character, or for the sake of recreational, ecological, aesthetic or agricultural interests
greenwash	disinformation disseminated by an organisation in order to present an environmentally responsible public image
greenwood	freshly cut wood
greywater	all wastewater generated in households or office buildings from streams without fecal contamination, and it is used for landscape irrigation depending on the source of greywater; also called sullage
grid lines	metallic contacts fused to the surface of a solar cell in order to provide a low resistance path for electrons to flow out to the cell interconnect wires
grid-connected system	an independent power system connected to an electricity transmission and distribution system in a way that the system can draw on the grid's reserve capacity when needed, and feed electricity back into the grid during times of excess production
grid-tie system	a renewable energy system connected to the utility grid, selling excess energy back to the utility
gross generation	the total amount of electric energy produced by the generating units of a generating station, measured at the generator terminals
ground mount	a photovoltaic rack that is designed to be installed on the ground or on other flat surface
ground reflection	solar radiation that is reflected from the ground onto a solar collector
guy wires	steel cables supporting a tower
habitat	an ecological or environmental area that is the natural home of animals, plants or a communities
heat gain	the amount of heat entering to a space from all heat producing sources, such as building occupants, lights, appliances, and from the environment, mainly solar energy
heat loss	the amount of heat flowing from the building interior, through the building envelope to the outer environment, see also building envelope
heat rate	the ratio of fuel energy input as heat per unit of net work output, which is also a measure of a power plant thermal efficiency
heat storage	a device or media absorbing heat for storage for later use
heat storage capacity	the amount of heat that can be absorbed and stored by a material
heat transfer	the exchange of thermal energy between physical systems, depending on the temperature and pressure, also on the flow of heat from one area to another by conduction, convection, and/or radiation
heat transmission coefficient	any coefficient that is used to calculate heat transmission by conduction, convection or radiation through materials or structures
heating capacity	the quantity of heat needed to raise the temperature of a specific mass of substance by one degree, also called specific heat
heating fuel	any gaseous, liquid or solid fuel that is used for indoor space heating
heating fuel unit	standardized weight or volume for heating fuels
heating load	the quantity of heat per unit time that must be supplied to maintain a specific indoor temperature in a building or portion of a building
heating seasonal performance factor (HSPF)	a term specifically used to measure the efficiency of air source heat pumps operating in the heating mode
heliocemical process	the utilization of solar energy through photosynthesis
heliodon	a device that is used to simulate the angle of the sun for assessing shading potentials of building structures or landscape features
heliostat	a device including a turning mirror in order to keep reflecting sunlight toward a predetermined target
heliostat	a device tracking the movement of the sun and used to orient solar concentrating systems
heliothermal	any process using solar radiation to produce useful heat
heliothermic site planning	site planning that explains natural solar heating and cooling processes and their relationship to building shape, orientation and siting
heliothermometer	an instrument for the purpose of measuring the intensity solar radiation
heliotropic	any device or plant turning or growing towards the sunlight, following the sun's apparent movement across the sky
hemispherical bowl technology	a solar energy concentrating technology using a linear receiver that tracks the focal area of a reflector or array of reflectors

Hertz	the frequency with which an alternating current waveform rises and falls while it changes polarity
high-temperature collector	a type of solar thermal collector designed to operate at a minimum temperature of 80 degrees Celsius
homojunction	a semiconductor interface occurring between layers (n-layer and p-layer) of similar semiconductor material in photovoltaic cells
horizontal-axis wind turbine	a type of wind turbine where the axis of the rotor's rotation is parallel to both the wind stream and the ground
HSPF	see heating seasonal performance factor
hub	the centre of a wind generator rotor holding the blades in place and connects to the shaft
hub height	the distance between the turbine platform and the rotor of an installed wind turbine, indicating how high the turbine stands above the ground
humidifier	a device that is used to increase a specified humidity in a conditioned space
humidity	the amount of water vapor in the air, also a measure of the moisture content in the air
hybrid system	a dynamic renewable energy system including two different types of technologies that produce the same type of energy, exhibiting both continuous and discrete dynamic behavior
hydropower	power derived from the energy of falling water or fast running water, which may be restrained for useful purposes
hydropower storage	a hydropower facility storing water in a reservoir during high-inflow periods to supplement water during low-inflow period while allowing the flow to release and making power production more flexible and dependable
ignite	to inflame a gaseous mixture to the temperature at which combustion will occur
ignition point	the minimum temperature at which combustion of a solid or fluid may happen
impoundment	a water reservoir confined by a dam, dike, floodgate or other artificial barrier
impulse turbine	a type of turbine driven by high velocity jets of water or steam from a nozzle directed to vanes or buckets attached to a wheel, and they also change the direction of flow of a high velocity fluid or gas jet
incident solar radiation	the amount of solar radiation energy collected on a given surface during a given time
independent power producer	a company or individual that is not a regulated power provider, producing power for their own use and/or sell it to regulated power providers
indirect solar gain system	a passive solar heating system where the sun warms up a heat storage element, and the heat is distributed to the interior space by convection, conduction and radiation
indirect solar water heater	these types of systems circulate fluids other than water through the collector using a heat exchanger that separates the potable water from the fluid, known as the "heat-transfer fluid" (HTF) that circulates through the collector; also called closed loop systems
industrial process heat	the thermal energy used during an industrial process
infrared radiaton	electromagnetic radiation with longer wavelengths; invisible long wavelength radiation (heat) is capable of producing a thermal or photovoltaic effect
input power	the power used by a device to produce useful work expressed in Watts, also called active power
insolation	the solar radiation reaching the Earth's surface affecting temperature, the more the isolation the higher the temperature is
instantaneous efficiency (of a solar collector)	the amount of energy captured (or converted) by a solar collector (or photovoltaic cell or module) during a 15 minute period
integral collector storage system	a simple passive solar hot water system consisting of one or more storage tanks placed in an insulated box with a glazed side facing the sun; also known as bread box systems or batch heaters
integrated heating system	a type of heating appliance performing more than one function, for example space and water heating and they work with several types of appliances such as boilers, ground source heat pumps or solar thermal systems
integrated resource plan (IRP)	a plan developed by an electric power provider, sometimes as required by a public regulatory commission or agency, defying the short and long term capacity additions (supply side) and demand side management programs that it will meet projected energy demands
intermittent generators	power plants in which output depends on a factor(s) which cannot be controlled by the power generator as the result of the utilization of intermittent resources such as solar energy or wind
internal combustion electric power plant	the generation of electric power by a heat engine which is able to convert part of the heat generated by combustion of the fuel into mechanical motion in order to operate an electric generator
intrinsic layer	a layer of semiconductor material (as used in a solar photovoltaic device) whose properties are essentially equal to the pure material
inverter	an electronic device converting direct current electricity to alternating current for the purpose of using it directly to operate appliances or to supply power to a electricity grid
irradiance	the radiant flux (direct, diffuse and reflected solar radiation) received by a surface per unit area
isolated solar gain system	a type of passive solar heating system in which heat is collected in one area for further use in another area
I-V curve	a current voltage curve representing the current and voltage output of a solar photovoltaic cell or module, as the capacity of the device is increased from short circuit condition to open circuit condition
Joule	a derived metric unit of energy or work, also the amount of energy produced by a force of one Newton operating through a distance of one meter
Joule's law	firstly the rate of heat production by a steady current in any part of an electrical circuit proportional to the resistance and to the square of the current, and secondly stating that the internal energy of an ideal gas depends only on its temperature
Kaplan turbine	a type of turbine with two blades whose pitch is adjustable and it may have gates to control the angle of the fluid flow into the blades

landfill	a site for disposing waste, where solid waste is buried between layers of soil
landfill gas	a complex mix of different gases generated by decomposition of organic materials at landfill waste disposal sites
landscaping	any activity modifying the visible features and vegetation of an area for aesthetics and energy conservation purposes
Langley	a unit of energy distribution over an area, also a measure of solar radiation
law(s) of thermodynamics	the first law stating that energy can not be created or destroyed; the second law stating that if a free exchange of heat occurs between two materials, the heat always moves from the warmer towards the cooler material
leading edge	in a wind energy conversion system, the foremost part of a turbine blade surface that first contacts the wind
lethe	a measure of air purity equal to one complete air change in an interior space
lift	the force pulling a wind turbine blade, as opposed to dragging it
light trapping	the trapping of light inside a semiconductor material by refracting and reflecting the light at different angles; trapped light will travel further in the material, notably increasing the probability of absorption and thus of producing charge carriers
liquid-based solar heating system	a solar heating system using a liquid as the heat transfer fluid
liquid-to-air heat exchanger	a heat exchanger device transferring heat contained in a liquid heat transfer fluid to air
liquid-to-liquid heat exchanger	a heat exchanger device transferring heat contained in a liquid heat transfer fluid to another liquid
local	the immediate area around the site of business operations and it might vary depending on the density of the location
local community	a group of interacting people living in the neighbouring area potentially affected socially, economically and/or environmentally
local development strategy (LDS)	a spatial planning strategy prepared and implemented by the LAG for a given area keeping in mind to achieve the objectives of one or more of the three thematic rural development axes in order to contribute to local development
local solar time	apparent solar time (sundial time) which is used in a system of astronomical time where the sun crosses the true north-south meridian at 12 noon, and it is different from local time according to longitude, time zone, and equation of time
log law	logarithmic law with reference to a wind energy conversion system, in which wind speeds increase with the logarithmic of the height of the wind turbine above the ground
loose fill insulation	insulation made from rockwool fibers, fiberglass, cellulose fiber, vermiculite or perlite minerals, and they are composed of loose fibers or granules that can be applied by pouring them directly from a bag or with a blower
loss of load probability (LOLP)	an estimated number, also the measure of the probability that a system demand will exceed capacity during a given period of time
low-e coatings and (window) films	a coating applied to the surface of the window glazing in order to reduce heat transfer through the window
low-emissivity windows and (window) films	energy-efficient windows with a coating or film applied to the surface of the glass in order to reduce heat transfer through the window
low-flow solar water heating systems	the flow rate in these systems ranges from 1/8 to 1/5 the rate of solar water heating systems in general, taking advantage of stratification in the storage tank and theoretically allowing the use of smaller diameter piping to and from the collector and a smaller pump
lumen	an empirical measure of the quantity of light based upon the spectral sensitivity of the photosensors in the human eye under high (daytime) light levels
luminance	a photometric measure of the luminous intensity per unit area of light travelling in a given direction, also the subjective sensation of brightness measured in lumens
lux	the SI unit of illuminance equivalent to 1 lumen per square meter, measuring luminous flux per unit area
magnetic ballast	a type of florescent light ballast using a magnetic core to regulate the voltage of a florescent lamp
mass burn facility	a type of municipal solid waste (MSW) incineration facility in which MSW is burned with only minor presorting to remove oversize, hazardous or explosive materials; its major components include refuse receiving and handling, combustion and steam generation, flue gas cleaning, power generation, condenser cooling water, residue ash hauling and landfilling
mean power output	the average power output of a wind energy conversion system at a given mean wind speed
mean wind speed	the arithmetic wind speed over a particular time period and height above the ground
median wind speed	the speed of wind with 50 percent probability of occurring
metric ton	a unit of mass equal to 1000 kilograms
microclimate	a local climate or atmospheric zone of specific place or habitat, and its climate is different from the surrounding area
microgroove	a small groove scraped into the surface of a solar photovoltaic cell that is filled with metal for contacts
mixing valve	a valve operated by a thermostat installed in solar water heating systems to mix cold water with water from the collector loop in order to provide a safe water temperature
module	the smallest self-sufficient, environmentally protected structure containing interconnected photovoltaic cells and providing a single dc electrical output; also called a panel
monoculture	a type of agricultural practice, the planting, cultivation, and harvesting of a single species of crop or plant in a specified area or farming system
multijunction device (MJ device)	a high-efficiency photovoltaic device containing multiple cell junctions made of different semiconductor materials, each of them is optimized for a particular part of the solar spectrum
municipal solid waste (MSW)	a type of waste material consisting of everyday items (not hazardous) discarded by the public (households and businesses) in a community

municipal waste	any organic matter including industrial or commercial waste, sewage, sewage sludge and mixtures of such matter and inorganic refuse from any publicly or privately operated municipal waste collection or similar disposal system (or from any other similar waste flows)
municipal waste to energy project (or plant)	a facility producing fuel or energy from municipal solid waste
nacelle	a cover housing for the gear box, drive train, generator, and other generating components of a wind turbine
natural cooling	space cooling obtained by shading, natural ventilation, conduction control, radiation, and evaporation; also called passive cooling
net energy production (or balance)	the amount of useful energy produced by a system less the amount of energy required to produce the fuel
net generation	gross generation less the electric energy consumed at the generating station for station's use
nominal capacity	the approximate energy producing capacity of a power plant under special conditions
non-renewable fuels	fuels that cannot be easily made or "renewed," such as oil, natural gas, and coal
non-utility generator/power producer	a class of power generator with generating plants for the purpose of supplying electric power required in the conduct of their industrial and commercial operations
ocean energy systems	energy conversion technologies harnessing the energy in tides, waves, and thermal gradients in the oceans
one sun	the maximum value of natural solar insolation
open-circuit voltage (OCV)	the difference of electrical potential between two terminals of a device when disconnected from any circuit, also the maximum possible voltage across a photovoltaic cell
open loop geothermal heat pump system	these types of "direct" systems circulate water drawn from a ground or surface water source; once the heat has been transferred into or out of the water, the water is returned to a well or surface discharge
orientation	in architecture, the alignment of a building along a given axis to face a specific geographical direction
outgassing	the process by which materials expel or release gasses
overhang	a building element providing shade to windows, walls, and doors from direct solar radiation and protects these elements from precipitation
ovonic	a device converting heat or sunlight directly to electricity, having a unique glass composition that changes from an electrically non-conducting state to a semiconducting state
oxygenates	gasoline fuel additives such as ethanol, ETBE, or MTBE that add extra oxygen to gasoline to reduce carbon monoxide pollution produced by vehicles
packing factor	the ratio of solar collector array area to actual land area
panel (solar)	a term generally applied to individual solar collectors, and commonly to solar photovoltaic collectors or modules
panel radiator	a mainly flat surface for transmitting radiant energy
panemone	a drag-type wind machine that is able to react to wind from any direction
parabolic dish	a solar energy conversion device with a bowl shaped dish covered with a highly reflective surface that can track the sun and concentrates sunlight on a fixed absorber, thereby achieving high temperatures for process heating or to produce power or electricity
parabolic trough	a solar energy conversion device using a trough covered with a highly reflective surface to focus sunlight onto a linear absorber that contains a working fluid which can be used for medium temperature space or process heat or to operate a steam turbine for power or electricity generation
parallel connection	a way of joining photovoltaic cells or modules by the means of connecting positive and negative leads together; such a configuration increases the current, but not the voltage
passivation	a chemical reaction eliminating the detrimental effect of electrically reactive atoms on a photovoltaic cell's surface
passive solar (building) design	a building design using structural elements of a building to heat and cool a building without the use of mechanical equipment, which requires careful consideration of the local climate and solar energy resource, building orientation, and landscape features
passive solar heater	a solar water or space-heating system in which solar energy is collected, and/or moved by natural convection without using any pumps or fans
passive solar home	a building/house built using passive solar design techniques
payback period	the amount of time over which the energy savings of a project equal the amount of energy expended since project inception; the return to the investment consists of reduced operating cost
peaking hydropower	a hydropower plant operated at maximum allowable capacity for part of the day and is either shut down for the remaining time period or operated at minimal capacity level
peak sun hours	the equivalent number of hours per day when solar irradiance averages 1 kW/m ²
peak watt	a measuring unit used to rate the performance of solar photovoltaic (PV) cells, modules or arrays
peak wind speed	the maximum instantaneous wind speed (or velocity) occurring within a specific period of time or interval
pellets	solid fuels primarily made out of wood sawdust that is compacted under high pressure to form small pellets for the purpose of using them in a pellet stove
pellet stove	a space heating device burning pellets, and therefore being more efficient, clean burning and easier to operate as opposed to conventional cord wood burning appliances
pelton turbine	a type of impulse hydropower turbine suitable for power extraction, where generally the water energy is available at high head and low flow rate
performance ratings	solar collector thermal performance ratings are based on collector efficiencies, usually expressed in BTU per hour for solar collectors under standard test or operating conditions for solar radiation intensity, inlet working fluid temperatures, and ambient temperatures

photobiological hydrogen production	a hydrogen production process using algae, as the pigments in certain types of algae absorb solar energy and an enzyme in the cell acts as a catalyst to split water molecules
photovoltaic (conversion) efficiency	the ratio of the electrical output of a solar cell to the incident energy in the form of sunlight
photovoltaic (PV; solar) array	a group of solar photovoltaic modules connected together
photovoltaic (solar) cell	treated semiconductor material converting solar irradiance into electricity
photovoltaic device	a solid-state electrical device converting light directly into direct current electricity of voltage-current characteristics; solar photovoltaic devices are made out of various semi-conductor materials including silicon, cadmium sulfide, cadmium telluride, and gallium arsenide, and in single crystalline, multi-crystalline, or amorphous forms
photovoltaic (solar) module or panel	a solar photovoltaic product, generally consisting of groups of PV cells electrically connected together to produce a specified power output under standard test conditions, mounted on a substrate, sealed with an encapsulant and covered with a protective glazing
photovoltaic (solar) system	a complex PV power system consisting of the module (or array) and balance-of-system (BOS) components including the array supports, electrical conductors/wiring, fuses, safety disconnects, and grounds, charge controllers, inverters, battery storage, etc.
physical vapor deposition	a method of depositing thin semiconductor (photovoltaic) films, during which method physical processes are used to deposit elemental semiconductor material on a substrate
pitch control	a method of controlling a wind turbine's speed by changing the orientation or pitch of the blades, and therefore adjusting its aerodynamics and efficiency
P-I-N	a semiconductor (photovoltaic) device structure overlaying a basic semiconductor between a p-type semiconductor and an n-type semiconductor
pollution	an activity during which contaminants are introduced into the natural environment (air, water, land) causing adverse change and pollutants are generated
pollution management plan	a detailed methodology on how to handle and reduce the amount of intoxicating substances or noises produced by tourism business
polycrystalline photovoltaic cell	a photovoltaic cell made out of cast-silicon wafers and ribbon-silicon sheets
portfolio standard	a regulation stating the specific percentage of the power generated or purchased by a power provider, guaranteeing a market for electricity generated from renewable energy resources
power coefficient	the ratio showing how efficiently a wind energy conversion device converts wind energy into electricity
power (output) curve	it shows a wind energy conversion device's power output versus wind speed
power generation mix	the proportion of electricity distributed by a power provider and is generated from various sources such as coal, natural gas, petroleum, nuclear, hydropower, wind, or geothermal energy
power (solar) tower	a type of solar furnace that uses a tower to receive the focused sunlight
preheater (solar)	a solar heating system preheating water or air which is later heated again by another heating appliance
process heat	thermal energy used mainly in agricultural and industrial operations where supplying heat is needed
projected area	it is a two-dimensional area measurement of a three-dimensional object, and it is also a solid area covered at any instant by a wind turbine's blades from the perspective of the direction of the windstream
propeller (hydro) turbine	a turbine having a runner with attached blades similar to a propeller that is used to drive a ship, and as water passes over the curved propeller blades, it results in the rotation of the shaft
pumped storage facility	a type of power generating facility pumping water to a storage reservoir during off-peak periods, and then using the stored water (by allowing it to fall through a hydro turbine) to generate power during peak periods
PV	see photovoltaic
pyrolysis	a type of thermolysis and transformation process of a compound or material into one or more substances by heat alone (without oxidation) and it is often called destructive distillation; pyrolysis products generally consist of gases, liquids, and char
rankine cycle	a thermodynamic cycle being an ideal standard for correlating performance of heat-engines, steam power plants, steam turbines, and heat pump systems using a condensable vapor as the working fluid
recirculation systems	a type of solar heating system (apparently not so efficient) circulating warm water from storage through the collectors and exposed piping whenever freezing conditions occur
receiver	the component part of a central receiver solar thermal system where reflected solar energy is absorbed and converted into thermal energy
recycling	the process of converting waste materials into a new (reusable) product
refuse-derived fuel (RDF)	a solid fuel produced by shredding or dehydrating municipal solid waste (MSW) with a waste converter technology
renewable energy	energy derived from resources that are regenerative or for all practical purposes can not be depleted. Types of renewable energy resources include moving water (hydro, tidal and wave power), thermal gradients in ocean water, biomass, geothermal energy, solar energy, and wind energy. Municipal solid waste (MSW) is also considered to be a renewable energy resource
renewable portfolio standard (RPS)	a regulation requiring the increased production of energy from renewable energy sources, such as wind, solar, biomass, and geothermal energy
resource recovery	the process of converting municipal solid waste into energy and/or the recovery process of materials for recycling purposes
responsible consumption	a joint effort to purchase and use goods and services with low environmental footprints and provide a positive economic impact where it is achievable
reverse thermosiphon flow	in this case heat seeks to flow from a warm area (e.g., heated space) to a cooler area, such as a solar air collector at night lacking a reverse flow damper
ribbon (photovoltaic) cells	a type of solar photovoltaic device made in a continuous process of pulling material from a molten bath of photovoltaic material in order to form a thin sheet of material

rock bin	a container filled with rocks to be used as the thermal mass to store solar energy in a solar heating system
roof pond	a solar energy collection device consisting of containers of water located on the top of a roof in order to absorb solar energy during the day so that the heat collected can be used at night or for passive cooling purposes
run-of-river hydropower	a type of hydroelectric facility using the flow of the river with very little transformation, and little or no impoundment of the water
rural development	a process of improving the quality of life and economic well-being of people living in practically isolated or with low population density areas
salt gradient solar ponds	a solar pond with three main layers: the top layer is near ambient and has low salt content, the bottom layer is hot and is very salty and the important gradient zone (acting as a transparent insulator) separates these two zones
seasoned wood	air dried wood that is used for fuel
selective absorber	a solar absorber surface with high absorbance at wavelengths, corresponding to that of the solar spectrum and low emittance in the infrared range
selective surface coating	a material with high absorbance and low emittance properties applied to or on solar absorber surfaces
series connection	a way of joining photovoltaic cells by connecting together positive leads to negative leads
sewage	municipal wastewater from domestic or industrial establishments conveyed in sewers or pipes and treated at a wastewater treatment plant
shaft	the part of a turbine spinned by the blades and connected to the generator through a gearbox
single-crystal material	a material that is composed of a single crystal or a few large crystals usually in solar photovoltaic devices
sizing	the process of designing a solar system in order to meet a specified load, given the solar resource and the nominal or rated energy output of the solar energy collection or conversion device
smart window	a general term used to describe a technologically advanced window system containing glazing that can change or switch its optical qualities when a low voltage electrical signal is applied to it, or in response to changes in heat or light
social impact assessment (SIA)	a methodology to review the social effects of infrastructure projects and other development interventions, and also the process of analysing, monitoring, and managing the intended and unintended social consequences, or planned interventions (policies, programs, plans, projected) and any social change processes appealed to those interventions with the primary purpose of maintaining a more sustainable and equitable biophysical and human environment
soil and water management plan	a documented methodology to monitor the quality and chemical components of the soil and water and in the meantime provide provisions for any changes that may lead to positive impacts in the long term
solar air heater	a type of solar thermal system in case of which air is heated in a collector and it is either transferred directly to the interior space or to a storage medium, such as a rock bin
solar array	a group of solar collectors or solar modules that are connected together
solar collector	a device that is collecting heat by absorbing sunlight and it is used to collect, absorb, and transfer solar energy to a working fluid
solar cooling	the use of solar thermal energy or solar electricity by means of concentrating solar collectors and absorption chillers to power a cooling appliance and to drive the cooling process
solar distillation	the use of solar energy to evaporate water and collect its condensate within the same closed system, also the process of distilling (purifying) water using solar energy
solar energy	an important source of renewable energy transmitted from the sun (solar radiation) used in technologies such as solar heating, photovoltaics, solar thermal energy and solar architecture
solar energy collector	see solar collector
solar fraction	the ratio of the amount of input energy contributed by a solar energy system to the total input energy required for a specific application
solar furnace	a structure or device using concentrated solar power and achieving very high temperatures by the use of reflectors to focus and concentrate sunlight onto a small receiver
solar gain	the increase of temperature in a space, object or structure that results from solar radiation, also the amount of energy absorbed due to solar energy striking
solar mass	a standard unit of mass and a term used for materials that are used to absorb and store solar energy
solar module (panel)	a solar photovoltaic device producing a specified power output under defined test conditions, usually composed of groups of solar cells connected in series
solar pond	a large scale solar collector with an integrated arrangement for storing heat water, and they can be used to provide heat for industrial or agricultural processes, building heating and cooling, and to generate electricity
solar panel	see photovoltaic module
solar thermal electric system	solar energy conversion technologies converting solar energy to electricity, by heating a working fluid to power a turbine that drives a generator
solar thermal systems	solar energy systems collecting or absorbing solar energy for useful purposes, such as electricity production
solid fuels	various types of solid material used as fuel to produce energy and provide heating, such as wood, peat, lignite, coal, and manufactured fuels such as pulverized coal, coke, charcoal, briquettes, pellets, etc
solid waste management plan	activities and actions forming a strategy to reduce the quantity of solid waste delivered to landfills, by reducing the sources of waste and reusing or recycling as much as possible, laying down concrete goals and objectives together with performance indicators

solidity	the ratio of rotor blade surface area to the frontal area where the rotor passes through in a wind energy conversion device
specific heat	see heating capacity
stack	a smokestack or flue for the purpose of exhausting the products of combustion from a combustion appliance
stack (heat) loss	sensible and inherent heat found in combustion gases and vapor emitted to the atmosphere
stagnation temperature	the temperature at a stagnation point in a fluid flow, also a condition occurring in a solar collector when the working fluid does not circulate whilst the sun is shining on the collector
stall	a condition related to the unexpected or unwanted stopping of the rotor in a wind turbine
substrate	a material upon which a photovoltaic cell is applied
sustainability	the enduring capacity in ecology and the use of resources in an environmentally friendly, socially fair and economically viable manner by meeting current needs during the preservation process of the environment
sustainability management systems	management systems (sets of interrelated elements) to establish a sustainability policy together with sustainability objectives in order to achieve them
sustainable construction	a relatively new aspect in construction by maximizing the use of renewable energy resources, and minimizing noise pollution, erosion, destruction of vegetation and negative impacts on air, soil, and water
sustainable design	a common term used in architecture and it refers to the philosophy of designing physical objects by ways of reducing energy and water consumption, using environmentally friendly materials and in the meantime maintaining harmony with the surroundings
sustainable landscaping	a variety of practices referring to an attractive environment that is in balance with the local climate and requires minimal resource inputs, whilst they are in response to environmental issues
sustainable tourism	a concept in which tourism is envisaged as the management of all resources in such a way that economic, social and cultural needs can be fulfilled by the maintenance of integrity, essential ecological processes, biological diversity and life support systems
sustainable utilization	feasible use of available natural resources in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term degradation of the environment, therefore it maintains its potential to meet the needs and demands of both present and future generations
system mix	the proportion of electricity distributed by a power provider that is generated from any available resources such as coal, natural gas, petroleum, nuclear, hydropower, wind, or geothermal energy
temperature coefficient (of a solar photovoltaic cell)	a coefficient describing the relative change of a physical property associated with a given change in temperature
therm	a unit of heat energy containing 100,000 British thermal units (BTU)
thermal efficiency	a performance measure of a device using thermal energy, also the efficiency converting a fuel to energy and useful work
thermal energy	the internal energy present in a system and developed through the use of heat energy
thermal energy storage (TES)	collecting excess thermal energy to store for later use
thermal gasification	the complete thermal breakdown of the biomass particles and their conversion into gas, in which hydrogen is produced from high-temperature gasifying and low-temperature pyrolysis of biomass
thermal mass	all materials used for heat storage
thermal storage walls	see trombe wall
thermodynamic cycle	a linked sequence of thermodynamic processes in which a working fluid (water, air, ammonia, etc) successively changes its state (from a liquid to a gas and back to a liquid) for the purpose of producing useful work or energy or transferring energy
thermography	an energy auditing technique in buildings for the purpose of locating areas of low insulation in a building envelope with the help of a thermographic scanner
thermophotovoltaic (TPV) cell	a photovoltaic cell designed to maximize the conversion efficiency at the wavelength of the thermal radiation, and also part of a basic thermophotovoltaic system
thermosiphon	the natural and convective flow of air or water due to differences in temperature
thermosiphon system	a passive solar hot water system relying on warm water rising (natural convection) in order to circulate water through the collectors and to the tank which must be above the collector in this case
tidal power (tidal energy)	the power converting the energy obtained from ocean tides and generating it into electricity
tidal power plant/station	a plant capturing water in a basin at the peak of a tidal flow, then directing the water through a hydroelectric turbine as the tide falls
tip speed ratio (TSR)	the ratio between the rotational speed of the tip of a blade and the actual velocity of the wind, referring to wind energy conversion devices
total internal reflection (TIR)	TIR is the reflection of the total amount of incident light at the boundary between two media by trapping the light by refraction and reflection at critical angles inside a semiconductor device
tracking solar array	a solar energy array following the path of the sun to maximize the solar radiation incident on the PV surface
trailing edge	the part of a wind energy conversion device blade or airfoil being the last part to contact the wind, therefore it is the rear edge
trickle solar collector	a type of solar thermal collector in which a heat transfer fluid drips out of the header pipe at the top of the collector, runs down the collector absorber and into a tray at the bottom, all draining to a storage tank at the end
trombe wall	a wall built on the winter sun side of a building with high thermal mass used to store solar energy passively in a solar home, absorbing solar energy and transferring it to the space behind the wall
tube-in-plate-absorber	a type of solar thermal collector where the tubes through which the heat transfer fluid flows are placed in the absorber plate

tube-type collector	a type of solar thermal collector with tubes (pipes) through which the heat transfer fluid flows and they are connected to a flat absorber plate
turbine	a rotary mechanical device extracting energy from the flow of a fluid (air, steam, water, or hot gases) and converting it into mechanical motion
two-tank (dual tank) solar system	a type of solar thermal system having one tank for storing solar heated water for the purpose of preheating the water in a conventional water heater
unglazed solar collector	a type of solar thermal collector having an absorber without a glazed covering
variable-speed wind turbines	in these types of turbines the rotor speed increases and decreases with changing wind speed, producing electricity with a variable frequency
vertical ground loop	a type of closed-loop geothermal heat pump installation, in which the fluid-filled plastic heat exchanger pipes are laid out horizontally to the ground surface
voltage	electromotive force or potential difference in electric energy, that is expressed in volts
wafer	a thin sheet of semiconductor (photovoltaic) material made by cutting it from crystalline silicon or ingot to use in conventional solar cells
waste management plan	a detailed methodology for the purpose of: (1) collection, transport, treatment and disposal of waste, (2) control, monitoring and regulation of the production, collection, transport, treatment and disposal of waste, and (3) prevention of waste production
wastewater	any poor quality used water, typically discharged into the sewage system containing matter and bacteria in solution or suspension
water source heat pump	a type of (geothermal) heat pump using ground water or surface water as a heat source
water turbine	a turbine using water pressure to rotate its blades and primarily used to make an electric generator work
wind energy (wind power)	alternative energy derived from the air flow across a landscape caused by the heating of the atmosphere, earth, and oceans by the sun
wind energy conversion system (WECS) or device	a machine powered by the energy of the wind and used for wind energy conversion into mechanical energy; it can be used to power machinery and also to operate an electrical generator
wind generator	a WECS for the purpose of producing electricity, also a generator converting the mechanical energy of the wind into electrical energy
wind generator blade	the wide, long part of a wind generator that is shaped in order to generate the maximum power from the wind
windmill	a WECS used to grind grain, and typically having a high-solidity turbine rotor
windpower curve	a graph explaining the relationship between the power produced from the wind and the speed of the wind; the power generated from the wind increases reciprocally with the cube of the wind speed
wind power plant (wind generating station)	a group of wind turbines that are physically interconnected to a joint power provider system through a system of generators or transformers, distribution lines, and (normally) one substation
wind resource assessment	the process of describing the wind resource together with its energy potential, for a specific site or geographical area
wind rose	a diagram indicating the average percentage of time that the wind blows from various directions, measured on a monthly or an annual basis
wind speed	a fundamental atmospheric rate of wind flow caused by the movement of air without impediment
wind speed profile	a profile corresponding to how the wind speed varies with height above the surface of the ground or water
wind turbine	a wind energy conversion device producing electricity equipped with one, two, or three blades
wind turbine rated capacity	it is the amount of power that a wind turbine produces at its rated wind speed, generally corresponding to the point at which the conversion efficiency reaches its maximum.