

Glossary

- Acre feet (af):** The amount of water required to fill an acre of land to a depth of one foot.
- Advocacy:** Encouragement of citizens and policy makers in order to change or improve their behavior.
- Bioaccumulation:** The accumulation of substances, such as pesticides or heavy metals, in organisms in increasing concentration up the food chain.
- Condensation:** The conversion of a substance from a gas (e.g., water vapor) to a liquid state.
- Contour interval:** The difference in elevation between two adjacent contour lines.
- Contour lines:** A line on a topographical map that connects the points on a land surface that have the same elevation.
- Direct services:** Face-to-face contact between the youth and those who will benefit from the services.
- Dissolved oxygen:** Refers to oxygen molecules that are dissolved in water, which aquatic organisms such as fish and crustaceans depend on for survival.
- Diversion:** Moving surface or groundwater from one area to another, typically through pipes, canals, or ditches.
- Effluent:** A discharge of liquid waste.
- Environmentally friendly:** Products which protect the environment by using less harmful chemicals and ingredients.
- Eutrophication:** A process whereby bodies of water receive excess nutrients that stimulate the growth of algae and plants. Eutrophication results in the depletion of dissolved oxygen.
- Evaporation:** a process in which a substance (e.g., water) is changed from a liquid or a solid to a vapor.
- Extensification agriculture:** Growing more crops by extending agriculture to new geographic areas.
- Freshwater:** Water on the surface of the Earth that has very low amounts of dissolved salts. Freshwater is found principally as groundwater and in lakes and streams.
- Geographic coordinate systems:** A means by which geographic locations are represented as points on a map using specific dimensions.
- Global water distribution:** Approximately 97% of all water on Earth is in the ocean. Most freshwater is in the form of glaciers and icecaps. Less than 1% of all water on Earth is useable freshwater.
- Grade:** The degree of inclination or steepness of a slope.
- Groundwater:** Water located in open pore spaces below the surface of the Earth.
- Humidity:** Water vapor in the air; expressed as a percentage of the maximum amount that the air can hold at a given temperature.
- Impoundment:** An area where water collects (e.g., reservoir or pond) that is the result of the construction of a dam or embankment, or by digging a large depression in the Earth.
- Indirect services:** Support for those engaged in direct service.
- Industrial wastes:** Water pollutants from industrial processes.
- Intensification agriculture:** Growing more crops by intensifying the use of a given geographic area. Also known as “high-input” farming, intensive agricultural practices often involve the use of large-scale irrigation and the heavy use of fertilizers and pesticides.
- Irrigation:** A process whereby arid land is supplied with water artificially.
- Lake:** A large inland body of standing water. Most lakes are filled with freshwater.
- Latitude longitude coordinate system:** A grid-based method to identify locations on the Earth that uses degrees, minutes, and seconds to plot points (locations) on maps.
- Non-point source pollution:** Pollutants that come from a widespread area.

Organic matter: Residues of dead plants or animals in some state of decay.

Pathogen: Disease-causing agents, such as some bacteria, viruses, or fungi.

Point: A location on a map where map lines intersect.

Point source pollution: Pollutants that come from a single identifiable source.

Polar ice caps and glaciers: Freshwater frozen on land and in the ocean, typically occurring at extreme altitudes and latitudes.

Pollution: Chemicals and waste produced by human activities that may be hazardous to the environment.

Precipitation: A form of water, such as rain, snow, or sleet, that falls to the Earth's surface.

Recreational irrigation: The irrigation of recreational venues (e.g., golf courses).

Relief: The shapes on a surface that show differences between higher and lower elevations and slope.

Relief: Variations in height of the land surface.

Rivers: Water that has a steady current, flowing through a channel or bed (e.g., river).

Saltwater: Water on the surface of the Earth that has high amounts of dissolved salts. Saltwater is found principally in oceans.

Service learning: A form of experiential learning in which youth combine critical thinking skills and subject knowledge to address genuine needs in their community.

Soil erosion: The transport of sediment, soil, and rock by wind or water.

Surface runoff: Excess water runoff due to ground saturation.

Thermal pollution: The discharge of heated water from industrial processes into a body of water. The subsequent rise in temperature endangers aquatic life.

Topographic map: A map that displays the shape and features of the land surface.

Topography: The shape and features of the surface of the land.

Toxin: A substance that is poisonous to an organism.

Universal transverse mercator (UTM) coordinate system: A grid-based method to identify locations on Earth. UTM divides the earth into sixty zones and is based around the metric system of measurement.

Urban/rural interface: Geographical regions where densely populated urban areas and less populated rural areas come into contact. Interactions between these areas affects land use and natural resources.

Water conservation: The protection and/or efficient management of water resources.

Water cycle: Also referred to as the hydrologic cycle, the water cycle is the alternating sequence of evaporation and condensation that controls the distribution of water on the Earth. Water evaporates from bodies of water such as lakes and oceans, condenses, precipitates, and returns to those same bodies of water over time where the cycle repeats itself.

Water quality: The level of purity of water.

Water rights: Laws dealing with the permissions to use water from a water source (lakes, streams, groundwater).

Water vapor: Water in a gaseous state.

Watershed: An area of land where ground water and surface runoff drain to the lowest point in that region.

Wastewater: Water whose quality has been adversely affected by human activity.

Wastewater treatment: Processes that treat wastewater in order to remove contaminants. Includes municipal wastewater treatment and industrial wastewater treatment.

Youth-adult partnership: Any collaboration between youth and adults that utilizes the skill set and knowledge base of both parties.