

Vocabulary to Help You Prepare for World Climate Negotiations

Afforestation: starting a forest or stand of trees in an area where there was no forest before.

Carbon Dioxide (CO₂): a gas that can be naturally made by living things and used by plants for photosynthesis or produced by burning fuel (gas, wood, coal, oil, etc.).

Climate Change: refers to any long-term changes in Earth's weather patterns (rain, temperature, sunshine, storms, etc.) Scientist have been studying changes in the earth's climate over millions of years and the data shows that the weather patterns have been changing dramatically recently.

See **NASA** link for more info: <http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/5-8/features/nasa-knows/what-is-climate-change-58.html>

Or **EPA** link for more info: <http://www3.epa.gov/climatechange/>

Climate Change Adaptation: changes made by people or plants and animals in the way things are usually done in order to respond or react to changes in climate. (For example, some species of birds are not migrating for winter anymore, since where they live is warmer now and they can find enough food in the winter.)

Compliance: the act of obeying or following an order, rule, or request.

Cost of Living: the amount of money needed to buy basic expenses such as housing, food, taxes, and healthcare. Cost of living is often used when comparing how expensive it is to live in one place compared to another.

Deforestation: the clearing of trees, transforming a forest into cleared land.

Delegate: a person who is chosen or elected to represent all the people from that group. Usually the delegate will vote or act for others.

Developed Nation: a country where the average income (what people earn from their work) is much higher than in other countries. It is a country that usually has good education and health care.

Developing Nations: a country where the average income (what people earn from their work) is much lower than in other countries (see developed nations above). It can also mean a country with poor education and health care.

Economy: the wealth/money and resources of a country, especially in terms of the production (making) and consumption (using/sale of) of goods and services.

Emissions: making and giving off something (for example: giving off carbon dioxide gas).

Annual rate of Emissions: the amount of emissions given off in a year.

Carbon Emissions: usually means the amount of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) gas given off by burning fuel for machines (coal, gas, wood, oil, for examples) from cars, machines, factories, power plants and other man made sources.

Fossil Fuel Emissions: all the different gases given off by burning fossil fuels such as oil, gas, and coal. 90% of the emissions are CO₂ gas, but methane and other gasses are emitted too. Fossil fuels were formed hundreds of millions of years ago from prehistoric photosynthesizing organisms.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions: gases that trap heat in our atmosphere are called greenhouse gases. They act like a blanket in our atmosphere, trapping in heat. The gases are: Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), Methane (CH₄), Nitrous Oxide (N₂O) and others.

See the **EPA** link for more info: <http://www3.epa.gov/climatechange/ghgemissions/global.html>

Fuel Efficiency Standard: a set goal or expectation usually set by the government, for the average mileage traveled by an automobile per gallon of gasoline or fuel (miles per gallon, mpg) for example: cars must get 25mpg or better in the USA.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP): the total value (money) of goods produced and services provided in a country during one year.

Growing Economy: usually when a government tries to improve the standard of living (see below) and GDP (see above) through the creation of jobs, technology, education, health care and new ideas. For example: building or improving factories, roads, bridges, cities, or starting new businesses.

Land Degradation (REDD): the temporary or permanent loss or spoiling of the quality of land (for examples: soil, vegetation, habitat, or water) caused usually by human overuse or harmful use.

See Wikipedia more info:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reducing_emissions_from_deforestation_and_forest_degradation

Legislation: a law or set of laws made by a government; the action or process of making laws.

Monitor: to observe and check the progress or quality of (something) over a period of time; to make sure something is working or being done.

Negotiator: someone who tries to help two groups who disagree to reach an agreement with each other, usually so that everyone benefits.

Outpace: something happens faster than you expect or can handle.

Reforestation: restoring (putting back) forest where it is gone, either by natural means or by planting new seeds or trees.

Standard of Living: the amount of money and things (food, housing, education, health care....) people have in a particular country or group. For example, the standard of living in the USA is that a family has a house, the parent(s) have jobs that pay enough money to buy the things the family needs such as schooling, healthcare, other basics, and even extras. In other parts of the world, the standard of living might be a shack, a little food and water, no healthcare or education and the parent(s) don't make much money for their work.

The Right to Development: the idea that people all over the world should as human beings have the right to a good standard of living/economy, education, health, safety, food, politics and other basic human needs.

See the **United Nations** link for more info:

http://www.un.org/en/events/righttodevelopment/pdf/rtd_at_a_glance.pdf

Verifiable Agreements: something that can be checked scientifically to make sure it is being done.