

Deforestation

“Added to this are the costs of deforestation to create grazing land, energy use to ship food, and depletion of resources.”

The process of destroying a forest and replacing it with something else.

Global warming

“Today, Canada’s farmers face challenges, such as changes in weather patterns due to global warming... and genetically modified crops mixing with regular crops.”

The observed and projected increase in the earth’s average temperature due to burning of fossil fuels and deforestation.

Acid precipitation

“Many forests and natural areas are also suffering from the effects of industrial pollution, such as acid precipitation.”

Any form of precipitation that is high in sulfuric and nitric acids as a result of pollution in the air.

CO2 emissions

“Some people have become “locavores,” eating foods that are grown or produced locally. Supporters of this diet say... shorter shipping distances reduce CO2 emissions”

Carbon dioxide emissions caused by burning of fossil fuels; largest contributor to global warming.

Groundwater

“Only 2.5% of the world’s water is fresh water. About 70% of that is in the form of ice caps and glaciers, and most of the remaining amount is groundwater.”

Water beneath Earth’s surface in underground streams and other forms.

Aquifer

“Using new well-drilling technologies and techniques, farmers were able to tap the groundwater in aquifers beneath their land.”

An underground layer of rock, gravel, etc., from which water can be drawn for wells and which is a source of springs.

Greenhouse gases (GHG)

“The lowest layer of Earth’s atmosphere, the troposphere, contains most of the atmospheric gases, including “greenhouse” gases (GHG)”

Various gases in the atmosphere that absorb and emit radiation, including carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone.

Ultraviolet radiation

“Ozone, a special kind of oxygen, is the only gas in the atmosphere that blocks the sun’s ultraviolet (UV) rays. Ultraviolet radiation can cause skin cancer in humans”

Invisible rays from the sun that can cause skin cancer.

Ozone layer

“In 1978, satellite observation of the atmosphere revealed that the ozone layer was thinning.”

A thin layer of ozone in the atmosphere 15 to 30 kilometres above Earth; the ozone layer filters the sun’s ultraviolet (UV) rays.

CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons)

“Chemicals, particularly chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), destroy the ozone layer.”

Chemicals used in coolants, solvents, and aerosol cans that damage the ozone layer.

Montreal Protocol

“The United Nations Environment Programme created the Montreal Protocol to phase out the use of ozone-depleting chemicals.”

An international agreement signed in 1987 to phase out the ozone-depleting chemicals CFCs.

Kyoto Protocol

“The Kyoto Protocol... outlined target reductions for GHG emissions.”

An international agreement that sets binding targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions; the average target is 5 percent of 1990 levels by 2008–2012.