Appendix A

Glossary of Green Terms and Abbreviations

**Adaptability:** Design strategy that allows for multiple future uses in a space as needs evolve and change. Adaptable design is considered a sustainable building strategy because it reduces the need to resort to major renovations or tearing down a structure to meet future needs. (Seattle 2007)

**Adaptive Reuse:** Renovation of a building or site to include elements that allow a particular use or uses to occupy a space that originally was intended for a different use. (Invista 2007)

**Agricultural Waste:** Materials left over from agricultural processes (e.g., wheat stalks, shell hulls). Some of these materials are finding new applications as building materials and finishes. Examples include structural sheathing and particleboard alternatives made from wheat, rye, and other grain stalks, and panels made from sunflower seed hulls. (Seattle 2007)

**Airborne Particulates:** Total suspended particulate matter found in the atmosphere as solid particles or liquid droplets. Chemical composition of particulates varies widely, depending on location and time of year. Sources of airborne particulates include dust, emissions from industrial processes, combustion products from the burning of wood and coal, combustion products associated with motor vehicle or nonroad engine exhausts, and reactions to gases in the atmosphere. (Invista 2007)

**Air Pollutant:** Any substance in air that could, in high enough concentration, harm humans, other animals, vegetation, or material. Pollutants may include almost any natural or artificial composition of matter capable of being airborne.
They may be in the form of solid particles, liquid droplets, gases, or a combination thereof. Generally, they fall into two main groups: (1) those emitted directly from identifiable sources, and (2) those produced in the air by interaction between two or more primary pollutants, or by reaction with normal atmospheric constituents, with or without photoactivation. Exclusive of pollen, fog, and dust, which are of natural origin, about 100 contaminants have been identified. Air pollutants are often grouped into categories for ease in classification; some of the categories are solids, sulfur compounds, volatile organic chemicals, particulate matter, nitrogen compounds, oxygen compounds, halogen compounds, radioactive compounds, and odors. (EPA 2007)

**Air Quality Construction Management Plan:** A systematic plan for addressing construction practices that can impact air quality during construction and continuing on to occupation. (Seattle 2007)

**Alternative Energy:** Energy from a source other than the conventional fossil-fuel sources of oil, natural gas, and coal (i.e., wind, running water, the sun). Also referred to as “alternative fuel.” (Invista 2007)

**Alternative Fuels:** Substitutes for traditional liquid, oil-derived motor vehicle fuels like gasoline and diesel. Includes mixtures of alcohol-based fuels with gasoline, methanol, ethanol, compressed natural gas, and others. (EPA 2007)

**ASHRAE:** American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers. (Invista 2007)

**ASTM:** American Society for Testing and Materials.

**Bake-out:** Process by which a building is heated in an attempt to accelerate VOC emissions from furniture and materials. (Invista 2007)

**Benefit/Cost Analysis:** An economic method for assessing the benefits and costs of achieving alternative health-based standards at given levels of health protection. (Invista 2007)

**Bicycle Storage:** Covered and/or secured storage for building occupants commuting by bicycle. This amenity is considered a sustainable building technique in that it encourages human-powered transportation options. Some local governments offer subsidies or incentives to include bicycle storage in an existing or proposed building project. (Seattle 2007)

**Biodegradable:** Capable of decomposing under natural conditions. (EPA 2007)

**Biodiversity:** Refers to the variety and variability among living organisms and the ecological complexes in which they occur. Diversity can be defined as the number of different items and their relative frequencies. For biological diversity, these items are organized at many levels, ranging from complete ecosystems to the biochemical structures that are the molecular basis of heredity. Thus, the term encompasses different ecosystems, species, and genes. (EPA 2007)

**Biological Contamination:** Contamination of a building environment caused by bacteria, molds and their spores, pollen, viruses, and other biological materials.
It is often linked to poorly designed and maintained HVAC systems. People exposed to biologically contaminated environments may display allergic-type responses or physical symptoms, such as coughing, muscle aches, and respiratory congestion. (Invista 2007)

**Biomass:** All of the living material in a given area; often refers to vegetation. (EPA 2007)

**Bioremediation:** The cleanup of a contaminated site using biological methods (e.g., bacteria, fungi, plants). Organisms are used to either break down contaminants in soil or water, or accumulate the contaminants in their tissue for disposal. Many bioremediation techniques are substantially less costly than traditional remediation methods using heat, chemical, or mechanical means. (Seattle 2007)

**Bioswale:** A technology that uses plants and soil and/or compost to retain and cleanse runoff from a site, roadway, or other source. (Seattle 2007)

**Blackwater:** Water that contains animal, human, or food waste. (EPA 2007)

**Brownfields:** Abandoned, idled, or underused industrial and commercial facilities or sites where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. They can be in urban, suburban, or rural areas. The EPA’s Brownfields initiative helps communities mitigate potential health risks and restore the economic viability of such areas or properties. (EPA 2007)

**Building Envelope:** The exterior surface of a building’s construction—the walls, windows, floors, and roof. Also called building shell. (EPA 2007)

**Building Flush-Out:** See Flush-Out.

**Building-Related Illness:** Diagnosable illness whose cause and symptoms can be directly attributed to a specific pollutant source within a building (e.g., Legionnaire’s disease, hypersensitivity, pneumonitis). (See sick building syndrome; biological contamination). (EPA 2007)

**Carbon Dioxide Monitoring:** A method for determining indoor air quality by using the concentration of carbon dioxide as an indicator. Although the level of CO2 is a good general indicator of air quality, it is reliant on the presence of certain conditions and must be applied accordingly. (Seattle 2007)

**Carbon Dioxide Sensor:** Device for monitoring the amount of carbon dioxide in an air volume. (Seattle 2007)

**Carbon Monoxide (CO):** A colorless, odorless, poisonous gas produced by incomplete fossil-fuel combustion. (EPA 2007)

**Carcinogen:** Any substance that can cause or aggravate cancer. (EPA 2007)

**Cellulose Insulation:** Insulation alternative to glass fiber insulation. Cellulose insulation is most often a mixture of waste paper and fire retardant, and has thermal properties that are often superior to glass fiber. Glass fiber batt insulation often contains formaldehyde, which can adversely affect indoor air quality and human health, and the glass fibers are hazardous if inhaled and irritating to
the skin and eyes. Specify cellulose insulation with high recycled content for maximum environmental benefit. (Seattle 2007)

**Certified Lumber:** General shorthand term for lumber that has been certified as sustainable harvest by an independent certification authority. See Forest Stewardship Council. (Seattle 2007)

**Charrette:** A meeting held early in the design phase of a project, in which the design team, contractors, end users, community stakeholders, and technical experts are brought together to develop goals, strategies, and ideas for maximizing the environmental performance of the project. Research and many projects’ experience has indicated that early involvement of all interested parties increases the likelihood that sustainable building will be incorporated as a serious objective of the project, and reduces the soft costs sometimes associated with a green design project. (Seattle 2007)

**Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs):** A family of inert, nontoxic, and easily liquefied chemicals used in refrigeration, air conditioning, packaging, insulation, or as solvents and aerosol propellants. Because CFCs are not destroyed in the lower atmosphere, they drift into the upper atmosphere, where their chlorine components destroy ozone. (EPA 2007)

**Cistern:** Small tank or storage facility used to store water for a home or farm; often used to store rainwater. (EPA 2007)

**Commissioning (Building):** The process of ensuring that installed systems function as specified, performed by a third-party Commissioning Authority. Elements to be commissioned are identified, installation is observed, sampling is conducted, test procedures are devised and executed, staff training is verified, and operations and maintenance manuals are reviewed. (Seattle 2007)

**Conservation Easement:** Easement restricting a landowner to land uses that are compatible with long-term conservation and environmental values. (EPA 2007)

**Construction and Demolition Waste:** Waste building materials, dredging materials, tree stumps, and rubble resulting from construction, remodeling, repair, and demolition of homes, commercial buildings, and other structures and pavements. May contain lead, asbestos, or other hazardous substances. (EPA 2007)

**Construction Site Recycling:** See Construction Waste Management. (Seattle 2007)

**Construction Waste Management:** General term for strategies employed during construction and demolition to reduce the amount of waste and maximize reuse and recycling. Construction waste management is a sustainable building strategy in that it reduces the disposal of valuable resources, provides materials for reuse and recycling, and can promote community industries. (Seattle 2007)
Cradle-to-Cradle: A term used in life-cycle analysis to describe a material or product that is recycled into a new product at the end of its defined life. (Invista 2007)

Cradle-to-Grave: A term used in life-cycle analysis to describe the entire life of a material or product up to the point of disposal. Also refers to a system that handles a product from creation through disposal. (EPA 2007)

Daylighting: Using natural light in an interior space to substitute for artificial light. Daylighting is considered a sustainable building strategy in that it can reduce reliance on artificial light (and reduce energy use in the process) and when well designed, contributes to occupant comfort and performance. (Seattle 2007)

Demand-side Waste Management: Prices whereby consumers use purchasing decisions to communicate to product manufacturers that they prefer environmentally sound products packaged with the least amount of waste, made from recycled or recyclable materials, and containing no hazardous substances. (EPA 2007)

Dioxin: Any of a family of compounds known chemically as dibenzo-p-dioxins. Concern about them arises from their potential toxicity as contaminants in commercial products. Tests on laboratory animals indicate that dioxins are one of the more toxic anthropogenic (man-made) compounds. (EPA 2007)

Disassembly: Taking apart an assembled product. Design for disassembly in buildings allows building components to be readily reused and recycled. (Seattle 2007)

Drought Tolerance: The capacity of a landscape plant to function well in drought conditions. (Seattle 2007)

Durability: A factor that affects the life-cycle performance of a material or assembly. All other factors being equal, the more durable item is environmentally preferable, because it means less frequent replacement. However, durability is rendered moot as a factor if the material is replaced for aesthetic reasons prior to it actually wearing out. (Seattle 2007)

Embodied Energy: The total amount of energy used to create a product, including energy expended in raw materials extraction, processing, manufacturing, and transportation. Embodied energy is often used as a rough measure of the environmental impact of a product. (Seattle 2007)

Energy Analysis: Analysis of the energy use of a structure. (Seattle 2007)

Energy Management System: A control system capable of monitoring environmental and system loads and adjusting HVAC operations accordingly in order to conserve energy while maintaining comfort. (EPA 2007)

Energy Modeling: Process to determine the energy use of a building based on software analysis. Also called building energy simulation. Common simulation software programs are DOE-2 and Energy Plus. (Seattle 2007)
Energy Star: Program administered by the EPA that evaluates products based on energy efficiency. (Seattle 2007)

Engineered Lumber/Wood: Composite wood products made from lumber, fiber or veneer, and glue. Engineered wood products can be environmentally preferable to dimensional lumber, because they allow the use of waste wood and small-diameter trees to produce structural building materials. Engineered wood products distribute the natural imperfections in wood fiber over the product, making them stronger than dimensional lumber. This allows for less material to be used in each piece, another environmental benefit. Potential environmental drawbacks with engineered wood include impacts on indoor environmental quality from offgassing of chemicals present in binders and glues, and air and water pollution related to production. (Seattle 2007)

Environmental Footprint: For an industrial setting, this is a company’s environmental impact determined by the amount of depletable raw materials and nonrenewable resources it consumes to make its products, and the quantity of wastes and emissions that are generated in the process. Traditionally, for a company to grow, the footprint had to get larger. Today, finding ways to reduce the environmental footprint is a priority for leading companies. An environmental footprint can be determined for a building, city, or nation as well, and gives an indication of the sustainability of the unit. (Invista & Seattle 2007)

Environmental Impact Statement: A document required of federal agencies by the National Environmental Policy Act for major projects or legislative proposals significantly affecting the environment. A tool for decision making, it describes the positive and negative effects of the undertaking and cites alternative actions. (EPA 2007)

Environmental Tobacco Smoke: Mixture of smoke from the burning end of a cigarette, pipe, or cigar and smoke exhaled by the smoker. (EPA 2007)

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency

Erosion: The wearing away of land surface by wind or water, intensified by land-clearing practices related to farming, residential or industrial development, road building, or logging. (Seattle 2007)

Fluorocarbons (FCs): Any of a number of organic compounds analogous to hydrocarbons in which one or more hydrogen atoms are replaced by fluorine. Once used in the United States as a propellant for domestic aerosols, they are now found mainly in coolants and some industrial processes. FCs containing chlorine are called chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). They are believed to be modifying the ozone layer in the stratosphere, thereby allowing more harmful solar radiation to reach the Earth’s surface. (EPA 2007)

Flush-Out: A period after finish work and before occupation that allows the building’s materials to cure and release volatile compounds and other toxins.
A building flush-out procedure is normally followed, with specified time periods, ventilation rate, and other criteria. (Seattle 2007)

**Fly Ash:** A fine, glass-powder recovered from the gases of burning coal during the production of electricity. These micron-sized earth elements consist primarily of silica, alumina, and iron. When mixed with lime and water, the fly ash forms a cementitious compound with properties very similar to that of portland cement. Because of this similarity, fly ash can be used to replace a portion of cement in the concrete, providing some distinct quality advantages. The concrete is denser, resulting in a tighter, smoother surface with less bleeding. Fly ash concrete offers a distinct architectural benefit with improved textural consistency and sharper detail. (Invista & Seattle 2007)

**Footprint (Building):** The area of a building formed by the perimeter of the foundation. Shrinking the footprint of a building allows for more open space and pervious surface on a site. (Seattle 2007)

**Footprint (Environmental):** See Environmental Footprint

**Forest Stewardship Council (FSC):** A third-party certification organization, evaluating the sustainability of forest products. FSC-certified wood products have met specific criteria in areas such as forest management, labor conditions, and fair trade. (Seattle 2007)

**Formaldehyde:** A colorless, pungent, and irritating gas, CH₂O, used chiefly as a disinfectant and preservative and in synthesizing other compounds like resins. (EPA 2007)

**Fungus (Fungi):** Molds, mildews, yeasts, mushrooms, and puffballs, a group of organisms lacking in chlorophyll (i.e., are not photosynthetic) and that are usually nonmobile, filamentous, and multicellular. Some grow in soil, whereas others attach themselves to decaying trees and other plants from whence they obtain nutrients. Some are pathogens; others stabilize sewage and digest composted waste. (EPA 2007)

**Glazing:** Translucent or transparent element of a window assembly. Glazing can have properties that increase the window’s thermal performance, including Low-Emissivity coatings, multiple panes, thermally broken spacers, etc. (Seattle 2007)

**Gray Water:** Domestic wastewater composed of wash water from kitchen, bathroom, and laundry sinks, tubs, and washers. (EPA 2007)

**Gray Water Reuse:** A strategy for reducing wastewater outputs from a building, by diverting the gray water into productive uses such as subsurface irrigation, or on-site treatment and use for nonpotable functions such as toilet flushing. Gray water reuse is restricted in many jurisdictions; check with local health and building officials. (Seattle 2007)

**Green Design:** A design, usually architectural, conforming to environmentally sound principles of building, material, and energy use. A green building, for
example, might use solar panels, skylights, and recycled building materials. (Invista 2007)

**Green Label:** A certification program by the Carpet and Rug Institute for carpet and adhesives meeting specified criteria for release of volatile compounds. (Seattle 2007)

**Green Roof:** Contained green space on, or integrated with, a building roof. Green roofs maintain living plants in a growing medium on top of a membrane and drainage system. Green roofs are considered a sustainable building strategy in that they have the capacity to reduce stormwater runoff from a site, modulate temperatures in and around the building, have thermal insulating properties, can provide habitat for wildlife and open space for humans, and offer other benefits. (Seattle 2007)

**Ground Cover:** Low-growing plants often grown to keep soil from eroding and to discourage weeds. (Seattle 2007)

**Halon:** Bromine-containing compounds with long atmospheric lifetimes whose breakdown in the stratosphere causes depletion of ozone. Halons are used in firefighting. (EPA 2007)

**Heat Island Effect:** A “dome” of elevated temperatures over an urban area caused by structural and pavement heat fluxes, and pollutant emissions. (EPA 2007)

**Heavy Metals:** Metallic elements with high atomic weights (e.g., mercury, chromium, cadmium, arsenic, and lead); can damage living things at low concentrations and tend to accumulate in the food chain. (EPA 2007)

**High Efficiency:** General term for technologies and processes that require less energy, water, or other inputs to operate. A goal in sustainable building is to achieve high efficiency in resource use when compared to conventional practice. Setting specific targets in efficiency for systems (e.g., using only EPA Energy Star–certified equipment, furnaces with an AFUE rating above 90 percent) and designs (e.g., watts per square foot targets for lighting) help put this general goal of efficiency into practice. (Seattle 2007)

**High-Performance Glazing:** Generic term for glazing materials with increased thermal efficiency. (Seattle 2007)

**HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning):** General term for the heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning system in a building. System efficiency and design impact the overall energy performance of a home and its indoor environmental quality. (Seattle 2007)

**Hydrocarbons (HC):** Chemical compounds that consist entirely of carbon and hydrogen. (EPA 2007)

**Indigenous Planting:** Landscaping strategy that uses native plants. Provided the natives are placed in the proper growing conditions, such plantings can have low or zero supplemental water needs. (Seattle 2007)
Indoor Air Pollution: Chemical, physical, or biological contaminants in indoor air. (EPA 2007)

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ): The ASHRAE defines acceptable indoor air quality as air in which there are no known contaminants at harmful concentrations as determined by cognizant authorities and with which 80 percent or more people exposed do not express dissatisfaction. (Invista 2007)

Infiltration: (1) The penetration of water through the ground surface into subsurface soil or the penetration of water from the soil into sewers or other pipes through defective joints, connections, or manhole walls. (2) The technique of applying large volumes of wastewater to land to penetrate the surface and percolate through the underlying soil. (EPA 2007)

Infiltration Rate: The quantity of water that can enter the soil in a specified time interval. (EPA 2007)

Inflow: Entry of extraneous rainwater into a sewer system from sources other than infiltration, such as basement drains, manholes, storm drains, and street washing. (EPA 2007)

Integrated Pest Management (IPM): A mixture of chemical and other non-pesticide methods to control pests. (EPA 2007)

Integrated Waste Management: The complementary use of a variety of practices to handle solid waste safely and effectively. Techniques include source reduction, recycling, composting, combustion, and landfilling. (Invista 2007)

Lead (Pb): A heavy metal that is hazardous to health if breathed or swallowed. Its use in gasoline, paints, and plumbing compounds has been sharply restricted or eliminated by federal laws and regulations. (EPA 2007)

LEED™: A self-assessing green building rating system developed by the U.S. Green Building Council. LEED™ stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, and evaluates a building from a systems perspective. By achieving points in different areas of environmental performance, a building achieves a level of certification under the system. (Seattle 2007)

Life Cycle (of a Product): All stages of a product’s development, from extraction of fuel for power to production, marketing, use, and disposal. (EPA 2007)

Life-Cycle Analysis (LCA): The assessment of a product’s full environmental costs, from raw material to final disposal, in terms of consumption of resources, energy, and waste. Life-cycle analysis is used as a tool for evaluating the relative performance of building materials, technologies, and systems. (Invista & Seattle 2007)

Life-Cycle Inventory (LCI): An accounting of the energy and waste associated with the creation of a new product through use and disposal. (Invista 2007)

Light Shelf: A horizontal shelf positioned (usually above eye level) to reflect daylight onto the ceiling and to shield direct flare from the sky. (Seattle 2007)
**Linoleum**: A resilient flooring product developed in the 1800s, manufactured from cork flour, linseed oil, oak dust, and jute. Linoleum’s durability, renewable inputs, antistatic properties, and easy-to-clean surface often make it classified as a green building material. (Seattle 2007)

**Local/Regional Materials**: Building products manufactured and/or extracted within a defined radius of the building site. For example, the U.S. Green Building Council defines local materials as those that are manufactured, processed, and/or extracted within a 500-mile radius of the site. Use of regional materials is considered a sustainable building strategy because these materials require less transport, reducing transportation-related environmental impacts. Additionally, regional materials support local economies, supporting the community goal of sustainable building. (Seattle 2007)

**Low-Emissivity (low-E) Windows**: Window technology that lowers the amount of energy loss through windows by inhibiting the transmission of radiant heat while still allowing sufficient light to pass through. (EPA 2007)

**Low Toxic**: Generic term for products with lower levels of hazard than conventional products. Specific criteria need to be applied to this term to make it meaningful in the selection of sustainable building materials. (Seattle 2007)

**Low VOC**: Building materials and finishes that exhibit low levels of offgassing, the process by which Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) are released from the material, impacting health and comfort indoors and producing smog outdoors. Low (or zero) VOC is an attribute to look for in an environmentally preferable building material or finish. See Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) for more information. (Seattle 2007)


**Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs)**: A compilation of information required under the OSHA Communication Standard on the identity of hazardous chemicals, health and physical hazards, exposure limits, and precautions. Section 311 of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) requires facilities to submit MSDSs under certain circumstances. (EPA 2007)

**MDF (Medium-Density Fiberboard)**: A composite wood fiberboard, used for cabinetry and other interior applications. MDF containing urea formaldehyde can contribute to poor indoor air quality. (Seattle 2007)

**Mercury**: A metal that is an odorless silver liquid at room temperature, converting to an odorless, colorless gas when heated. Mercury readily combines with other elements and accumulates in the environment. Mercury is toxic and causes a range of neurological, organ, and developmental problems. Fluorescent lights and old thermostats are two building-related products that can contain significant amounts of mercury. Newer fluorescent lights are available with substantially reduced amounts of mercury. (Seattle 2007)
Methane: A colorless, nonpoisonous, flammable gas created by anaerobic decomposition of organic compounds. A major component of natural gas used in the home. Methane has also been found to be a potent greenhouse gas. Methane from landfills, livestock, and composting operations can be captured and used as a fuel source for alternative energy production. (EPA & Seattle 2007)

Mulch: A layer of material (wood chips, straw, leaves, etc.) placed around plants to hold moisture, prevent weed growth, and enrich or sterilize the soil. (EPA 2007)

Natural Ventilation: Ventilation design that uses existing air currents on a site and natural convection to move and distribute air through a structure or space. Strategies include placement and operability of windows and doors, thermal chimneys, landscape berms to direct airflow on a site, and operable skylights. (Seattle 2007)

Nonrenewable Energy: Energy derived from depletable fuels (i.e., oil, gas, coal) created through lengthy geological processes and existing in limited quantities on the earth. (Invista 2007)

Nonrenewable Resource: A resource that cannot be replaced in the environment (e.g., fossil fuels) because it forms at a rate far slower than its consumption. (Invista 2007)

Offgassing: Release of volatile chemicals from a product or assembly. Many chemicals released from materials impact indoor air quality and occupant health and comfort. Offgassing can be reduced by specifying materials that are low- or no-VOC and by avoiding certain chemicals (e.g., urea formaldehyde) entirely. Controlling indoor moisture and specifying prefinished materials can also reduce offgas potential. (Seattle 2007)

On-Site Stormwater Management: Building and landscape strategies to control and limit stormwater pollution and runoff. Usually an integrated package of strategies, elements can include vegetated roofs, compost-amended soils, pervious paving, tree planting, drainage swales, and more. (Seattle 2007)

Operations and Maintenance Manual (O&M Manual): Manual developed to assist building occupants in operating and maintaining a green building and its features. Many features’ effectiveness can be reduced or eliminated by the actions (or inaction) of occupants and maintenance crews. An operations manual usually includes product and system information and warranties, contact information, and other information required for effective operations and maintenance. (Seattle 2007)

Organic Compound: Vast array of substances typically characterized as principally carbon and hydrogen, but that may also contain oxygen, nitrogen, and a variety of other elements as structural building blocks. (EPA 2007)
OSB (Oriented Strand Board): A high-strength, structural wood panel formed by binding wood strands with resin in opposing orientations. OSB is environmentally beneficial in that it uses small-dimension and waste wood for its fiber; however, resin type should be considered for human health impact and the production process monitored for air pollutant emissions. (Seattle 2007)

Overhangs: Architectural elements on roofs and above windows that function to protect the structure from the elements or to assist in daylighting and control of unwanted solar gain. Sizing of overhangs should consider their purpose, especially related to solar control. (Seattle 2007)

Pathogens: Microorganisms (e.g., bacteria, viruses, or parasites) that can cause disease in humans, animals, and plants. (EPA 2007)

Particulate Pollution: Pollution made up of small liquid or solid particles suspended in the atmosphere or water supply. (Invista 2007)

Particulate: (1) Fine dust or particles (e.g., smoke). (2) Of or relating to minute discrete particles. (3) A particulate substance. (Invista 2007)

Passive Solar: Strategies for using the sun’s energy to heat (or cool) a space, mass, or liquid. Passive solar strategies use no pumps or controls to function. A window, oriented for solar gain and coupled with massing for thermal storage (e.g., a Trombe wall), is an example of a passive solar technique. (Seattle 2007)

Phytoremediation: Low-cost option for site cleanup when the site has low levels of contamination that are widely dispersed. Phytoremediation (a subset of bioremediation) uses plants to break down or uptake contaminants. (Seattle 2007)

Pollution: Generally, the presence of a substance in the environment that, because of its chemical composition or quantity, prevents the functioning of natural processes and produces undesirable environmental and health effects. Under the Clean Water Act, for example, the term has been defined as the man-made or human-induced alteration of the physical, biological, chemical, and radiological integrity of water and other media. (Invista 2007)

Pollution Prevention: Techniques that eliminate waste before treatment, such as changing ingredients in a chemical reaction. Identifying areas, processes, and activities that create excessive waste products or pollutants in order to reduce or prevent them through alteration or elimination of a process. The EPA has initiated several voluntary programs in which industrial or commercial partners join with the EPA in promoting activities that conserve energy, conserve and protect the water supply, reduce emissions or find ways of utilizing them as energy resources, and reduce the waste stream. (Invista 2007)

Porous Paving: Paving surfaces designed to allow stormwater infiltration and reduce runoff. (Seattle 2007)
Post-Consumer Recycling: Use of materials generated from residential and consumer waste for new or similar purposes (e.g., converting wastepaper from offices into corrugated boxes or newsprint.) (EPA 2007)

Postconsumer Recycle Content: A product composition that contains some percentage of material that has been reclaimed from the same or another end use at the end of its former, useful life. (Invista 2007)

Postindustrial Material: Industrial manufacturing scrap or waste; also called preconsumer material. (Invista 2007)

Postindustrial Recycle Content: A product composition that contains some percentage of manufacturing waste material that has been reclaimed from a process generating the same or a similar product. Also called preconsumer recycle content. (Invista 2007)

Preconsumer Materials/Waste: Materials generated in manufacturing and converting processes such as manufacturing scrap and trimmings and cuttings. Includes print overruns, overissue publications, and obsolete inventories. (EPA 2007)

Public Transportation: Mass transit, including bus and light rail systems. Siting a building near public transit is considered a sustainable building strategy, because it facilitates commuting without the use of single-occupancy vehicles. (Seattle 2007)

Radon: A colorless, naturally occurring, radioactive, inert gas formed by radioactive decay of radium atoms in soil or rocks. Design strategies help reduce the amount of radon infiltration into a building and remove the gas that does infiltrate. (EPA 2007)

Rainwater Catchment/Harvest: On-site rainwater harvest and storage systems used to offset potable water needs for a building and/or landscape. Systems can take a variety of forms, but usually consist of a surface for collecting precipitation (roof or other impervious surface) and a storage system. Depending on the end use, a variety of filtration and purification systems may also be employed. (Seattle 2007)

Reclamation: Restoration of materials found in the waste stream to a beneficial use that may be other than the original use. (Invista 2007)

Recycled Content: The content in a material or product derived from recycled materials versus virgin materials. Recycled content can be materials from recycling programs (postconsumer) or waste materials from the production process or an industrial/agricultural source (preconsumer or postindustrial). (Seattle 2007)

Recycling: Process by which materials that would otherwise become solid waste are collected, separated or processed, and returned to the economic mainstream to be reused in the form of raw materials or finished goods. (Invista 2007)
Recycling Areas: Space dedicated to recycling activities is essential to a successful recycling program, both on the construction site and in the building after occupation. (Seattle 2007)

Recycling Bins: Containers to temporarily hold recyclable materials until they are transferred to a larger holding facility for pickup by a recycling service. Conveniently located bins increase recycling rates by allowing occupants to recycle more easily. Designing space for recycling bins is a physical reminder of a commitment to recycling. (Seattle 2007)

Refurbished: Products that have been upgraded to be returned to active use in their original form. Refurbishing is considered a form of reuse, and is preferable to recycling because it requires less processing and inputs to return a product to useful service. (Seattle 2007)

Regional Manufacture: Goods produced within a certain radius of the project site. Using regionally produced goods is considered a sustainable building strategy in that it reduces the transportation impacts associated with the product, it often allows for a better understanding of the production process and increases the likelihood that the product was manufactured in accordance with environmental laws, and it supports regional economies. (Seattle 2007)

Relite: Windows or translucent panels above doors or high in a partition wall intended to allow natural light to penetrate deeper into a building. (Seattle 2007)

Renewable Resources: A resource that can be replenished at a rate equal to or greater than its rate of depletion (e.g., solar, wind, geothermal, and biomass resources). (Invista 2007)

Renovation: Upgrade of an existing building or space that maintains the original structure of a building. (Seattle 2007)

Resource Conservation: Practices that protect, preserve, or renew natural resources in a manner that will ensure their highest economic or social benefits. (Invista 2007)

Reuse: Using a product or component of municipal solid waste in its original form more than once (e.g., refilling a glass bottle that has been returned or using a coffee can to hold nuts and bolts). Reuse is a sustainable building strategy in that it reduces the strain on both renewable and nonrenewable resources, and when materials are reused on or near the site of salvage, they reduce transportation-related environmental impacts. (EPA & Seattle 2007)

Salvage: Building materials diverted from the waste stream intended for reuse. (Seattle 2007)

Sick Building Syndrome: Building whose occupants experience acute health and/or comfort effects that appear to be linked to time spent therein, but where no specific illness or cause can be identified. Complaints may be localized in
a particular room or zone, or may be spread throughout the building. (EPA 2007)

**Sisal:** A durable natural fiber used as a floor covering, derived from leaves of the sisal plant. (Seattle 2007)

**Source Reduction:** The design, manufacture, purchase, or use of materials to reduce the amount or toxicity of waste in an effort to reduce pollution and conserve resources (i.e., reusing items, minimizing the use of products containing hazardous compounds, extending the useful life of a product and reducing unneeded packaging). (Seattle 2007)

**Staging:** The sequencing and physical positioning of building materials on a construction site. Sustainable building pays particular attention to staging in order to minimize the impact to the construction site and protect materials from damage. (Seattle 2007)

**Stakeholder:** Any organization, governmental entity, or individual that has a stake in or may be impacted by a given approach to environmental regulation, pollution prevention, energy conservation, etc. (EPA 2007)

**Straw-Bale Construction:** Alternative building method using bales of straw for wall systems. The method uses an agricultural waste product in place of diminishing dimensional lumber and achieves high insulation values. It is a building method most appropriate for regions with relatively little precipitation. (Seattle 2007)

**Structural Insulated Panel (SIP):** Manufactured panels consisting of a sandwich of polystyrene between two layers of engineered wood paneling. Can be used for walls, roof, or flooring, and results in a structure that is very resistant to air infiltration. (Seattle 2007)

**Subsidies:** Economic incentives to engage in an activity or purchase a product. Subsidies can work for or against environmental protection. Governments and utilities will sometimes offer subsidies for technologies that decrease energy or water use. (Seattle 2007)

**Sulfur Dioxide (SO2):** A heavy, smelly gas that can be condensed into a clear liquid; used to make sulfuric acid, bleaching agents, preservatives, and refrigerants; a major source of air pollution in industrial areas. (Invista 2007)

**Sunshades:** Devices for blocking unwanted solar gain. (Seattle 2007)

**SFI (Sustainable Forestry Initiative)**

**Tipping Fee:** Charge for the unloading or dumping of waste at a recycling facility, composting facility, landfill, transfer station, or waste-to-energy facility. (Invista 2007)

**Total Volatile Organic Compounds:** The total mass, typically in milligrams per cubic meter, of the organic compounds collected in air. (Invista 2007)

**Toxic:** Capable of having an adverse effect on an organism; poisonous, harmful, or deadly. (Invista 2007)
Trombe Wall: Thermal storage system used in passive solar design. A high-mass wall that stores heat from solar gain during the day and slowly radiates the heat back into the living space at night. (Seattle 2007)

Truck Tire Wash-Down Area: A strategy for removing dirt and other contaminants from construction vehicles in order to prevent stormwater contamination related to transport of contaminants off-site on vehicle tires. A specified area is created for wash-down, with structural controls in place to prevent wash-down waters from entering the storm system or the larger environment. (Seattle 2007)

Urea-Formaldehyde Foam Insulation: A material once used to conserve energy by sealing crawl spaces, attics, etc. that is no longer used because emissions were found to be a health hazard. (Seattle 2007)

Volatile Organic Compound (VOC): Organic substances capable of entering the gas phase from either a liquid or solid form. (Invista 2007)

Walk-off Mat: Design strategy for reducing the amount of contaminants introduced into an interior space by providing grating or other material to remove contaminants from shoes. A significant portion of contaminants in a building are brought in this way, impacting indoor environmental quality. (Seattle 2007)

Wastewater: The spent or used water from a home, community, farm, or industry that contains dissolved or suspended matter. (EPA 2007)


Wetlands: An area that is saturated by surface or ground water with vegetation adapted for life under those soil conditions, such as swamps, bogs, fens, marshes, and estuaries. (EPA 2007)

Window Shading: Any device for reducing unwanted heat gain from a window. (Seattle 2007)

REFERENCES

