

## UN Climate Change Conference - Glossary

**atmosphere** [noun]

the air round the Earth or round another planet  
*The burning of fossil fuels results in the pollution of the atmosphere.*

**build-up** noun [count]

a gradual increase in the amount or level of something  
*The 'greenhouse effect' is caused by the build-up of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.*

**burden** noun [count]

a serious or difficult responsibility that you have to deal with  
*Unemployment places a heavy burden on the welfare state.*

**cabinet** noun [count]

a group of members of a government who are chosen by the leader of the government to give advice and be responsible for its policies.  
*The PM called a meeting of his cabinet.*

**commitment** noun [count]

a promise to do something  
*The Government will continue to honour its commitment to pensioners.*

**cope** verb

to deal successfully with a difficult situation or job  
*Young people especially find it difficult to cope with death.*

**deforestation** noun [uncount]

the process of removing the trees from an area of land

**draw attention [to sth]** phrasal verb

to make someone notice something

**emissions** noun [count]

a substance, especially a gas, that goes into the air  
*New regulations are aimed at reducing vehicle emissions.*

**environmental** adjective

relating to the natural world and the effect that human activity has on it  
*The Minister discussed environmental issues.*

**fossil fuel** noun [count/uncount]

a fuel such as coal or oil, made from decayed material from animals or plants that lived many thousands of years ago

**greenhouse gas** noun [count]

a gas that stops heat from escaping from the atmosphere and causes the greenhouse effect

**impact** noun [count]

an effect, or an influence  
*Her paper discusses the likely impact of global warming on climate change.*

**legally binding** adjective

needing to be obeyed according to the law  
*Once you've signed the agreement, it becomes a legally binding document.*

**low-lying** adjective

in a position which is close to the level of the sea or the ground

**principle** noun [count]

one of the major ideas or theories that a system of beliefs is based on, for example in religion or politics  
*the principles and ideals that the party stands for*

**publicity stunt** noun [count]

something unusual that is done to make people notice a person, organization, or product

**reluctant** adjective

not willing to do something  
*She was reluctant to leave.*

**sea bed** noun

the ground at the bottom of the sea

**substantial** adjective

large in amount or degree  
*The study reveals very substantial differences between population groups.*

**undeniable** adjective

certainly correct or true  
*It is undeniable that attitudes towards marriage have been changing.*