



ENVIRONMENTAL TERMS

com·post *n.* (käm'pōst) fertilizer for plants or yards created from grass clippings, garden trimmings, wood chips, fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds and filters, tea leaves and bags, etc.

e·waste *n.* (i wäst) electronics (old computers, game boys or other electronic games, cell phones, etc.) containing toxic chemicals that cannot be disposed of in landfills.

en·vi·ron·ment *n.* (in vī'rən mənt) where we live, our surroundings.

house·hold haz·ard·ous waste *n.* (hous-hōld' haz'ərdəs wäst) includes the leftovers of any products in your home that contain chemicals, which cannot be disposed of in landfills. Examples: paint, motor oil, batteries, computers, cell phones.

land·fill *n.* (landfil') the site where garbage is disposed of by burying garbage between layers of dirt in a big hole in the ground.

pol·lu·tion *n.* (pə lōō'ən) the contamination of soil, water, or the environment by the discharge of harmful substances.

re·cy·cle *v.* (rē sī'k'l) to make something new out of something old.

re·duce *v.* (ri dōōs') to use less and make less garbage.

re·use *v.* (rē yōōz') to use something over and over again.

san·i·tar·y sew·er sys·tem *n.* (san'ə ter'ē) an underground system of pipes that carries waste water from homes and businesses to treatment plants where it is cleaned, solids and pollutants are removed and the water is discharged into the ocean.

so·lid waste *n.* (sāl'id wäst) another word for garbage.

storm drain *n.* (stôrm drān) above ground or below ground pipes and channels that transport storm water to the ocean for flood control purposes.

storm wa·ter *n.* (stôrm wôt' ər) Created when trash, cigarette butts, animal waste, pesticides, motor oil and other contaminants left on the ground are washed or thrown directly into storm drains. This toxic soup mixes with millions of gallons of rainwater and flows untreated to the ocean.