



**SUSTAINABILITY
GLOSSARY**

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SUSTAINABILITY GLOSSARY

Common sustainability in manufacturing terms

To help you understand some of the common terms you'll hear surrounding sustainability, we've compiled a glossary of common words and phrases to help you to cut through the complexity and understand how we can help you achieve your sustainability goals.



GLOSSARY OF SUSTAINABILITY TERMS

Carbon Emissions

Carbon emissions are the release of carbon dioxide or CO₂ into the atmosphere through the burning of fossil fuels.

Carbon Footprint

The total carbon dioxide or CO₂ emissions generated by an individual or business's actions.

Carbon Neutral

Carbon neutral is when the emission of carbon dioxide or CO₂ is equal to the absorption of carbon dioxide. This can be achieved through carbon offsetting or by simply no longer producing carbon.

Carbon Sink

Anything that absorbs carbon from the atmosphere such as plants and trees.

Circular Economy

The circular economy is when products are designed with their whole life cycle in mind. Repairing and reusing products into the end of their useful life then recycling or disposing of the products where they can be reused or have the energy recovered from them.

Climate Change

Extreme changes in weather, weather events, sea level increase and the destruction of natural habitats.

Closed Loop Manufacturing

Closed loop manufacturing is when the materials used in the manufacturing of a product can be reused and recycled indefinitely without the degradation of materials.

CO₂e

CO₂e stands for Carbon Dioxide Equivalent, which includes CO₂ and other greenhouse gasses.

Embodied Carbon

The carbon dioxide or CO₂ emissions generated during the lifecycle of a product.

Environmental Management System

A framework built to monitor, manage, and improve a business's environmental performance. Such as ISO 14001.

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)

The three factors to consider when measuring the sustainability and ethical impact of a business.

Fossil Fuels

Coal, oil or gas created by the remains of living organisms under the earth's surface over millions of years. Fossil fuels are non-renewable and release carbon when they are burned for energy.

Greenhouse Gas

There are six main greenhouse gases including CO₂ (Carbon Dioxide), CH₄ (Methane), N₂O (Nitrous Oxide), HFC (Hydrofluorocarbons), PFC (Perfluorocarbons), SF₆ (Sulphur Hexafluoride). These gases trap heat in the earth's atmosphere which causes global warming.

Greenhouse Gas Protocol

A global standardised framework built to measure and manage greenhouse gas emissions from both private and public sector organisations.

Greenwashing

Making a misleading claim about the environmental benefits of a product or service. Making a business appear to be more environmentally friendly than it actually is.

ISO 14001

The ISO stands for the International Organisation for Standardisation. The 14001 standard improves resource efficiency, reduces waste and drives down costs and helps businesses to meet legal obligations relating to sustainability.

Net Zero

The target of completely negating the number of greenhouse gases produced by a business. This not only includes Carbon Dioxide but other greenhouse gases too.

Process Efficiency

Managing the manufacturing process in a way that avoids wasting materials and energy. Poor process efficiency can lead to a build of invisible costs.

tCO₂e

tCO₂e stands for tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, similarly, kgCO₂e stands for kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent.

If you want to find out more about any of our products or want to find out more about our sustainability objectives, as well as our top tips, get in touch with our helpful team today.

The sources used to create this document include definitions defined by the [CDP – Carbon Disclosure Project](#). Government definitions of sustainability from [Gov.uk](#), the [International Organization for Standardization \(ISO\)](#) and the [Environment Journal](#).



