

# Community Investment Glossary of Terms<sup>1</sup>



**Carbon credits** – Discrete GHG reductions used to compensate for (i.e., credit) GHG emissions elsewhere. Credits are calculated relative to a baseline that represents a hypothetical scenario for what emissions would have been in the absence of the mitigation project that generates the credits.

(Source: [RBC Climate Report 2023](#), endnote 45)

**Circular economy** – A system of production and consumption that aims to minimize waste and promote a sustainable use of natural resources – through smarter product design, longer use, recycling and more – as well as regenerate nature.

(Source: [United Nations Development Programme](#))

**Clean technology** - Any good or service designed with the primary purpose of contributing to remediating or preventing any type of environmental damage and/or is less polluting or more resource efficient than equivalent normal products that furnish a similar utility.

(Source: [Government of Canada](#))

**Climate adaptation** - Actions to prepare for and adjust to the current and projected impacts of climate change.

(Source: [Global Center on Adaptation](#))

**Climate change mitigation** – Reducing the flow of heat-trapping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

(Source: [NASA](#))

**Decarbonization** - Human actions to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from human activities.

(Source: [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#))

**Energy efficiency** - Using less energy to perform the same task.

(Source: [Environmental and Energy Study Institute](#))

**Ecosystem functions** - The collective intraspecific and interspecific interactions of the biota, such as primary and secondary production and mutualistic relationships. The interactions between organisms and the physical environment, such as nutrient cycling, soil development, water budgeting, and flammability.

(Source: [Biology Online](#))

**Ecosystem resilience** – The capacity of an ecosystem to tolerate disturbance without collapsing into a qualitatively different state that is controlled by a different set of processes.

(Source: [University of Waterloo - Waterloo Institute for Social Innovation and Resilience](#))

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<sup>1</sup> The definitions contained in this glossary may be updated from time to time.

**Equitable outcomes** - When all people have fair access, opportunity, resources, and power to thrive, with consideration for and elimination of historical and systemic barriers and privileges.  
(Source: [Deloitte Insights](#))

**Ecosystem services** – The direct and indirect contributions of ecosystems to human well-being, which have an impact on our survival and quality of life. There are four types of ecosystem services: provisioning, regulating, cultural and supporting services.  
(Source: [University of Waterloo – Waterloo Institute for Social Innovation and Resilience](#))

**Green infrastructure** - The natural vegetative systems and green technologies that collectively provide society with a multitude of economic, environmental, health, and social benefits.  
(Source: [Green Infrastructure Ontario Coalition](#))

**Green skills** - The knowledge, abilities, values and attitudes needed to live in, develop and support a sustainable and resource-efficient society. This includes skills in renewable energy expertise, waste management and recycling, and sustainable agriculture and food production.  
(Source: [Immigration.ca](#))

**Low-carbon practices and/or behaviours** – A set of actions and/or approaches to decrease carbon emissions  
(Source: [Journal of Global Information Management](#))

**Nature-based solutions** - Actions to protect, sustainably manage, or restore natural ecosystems, that address societal challenges such as climate change, human health, food and water security, and disaster risk reduction effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits.  
(Source: [World Bank Group](#))

**Regenerative economy** - A holistic, dynamic system that fosters renewal, restoration, preservation, and net positive impacts across ecological, economic, and social systems, necessitating transformational change within and across individuals, organizations and societies.  
(Source: [Sustainable Development Solutions Network](#))

**Renewable electricity** - Energy produced from renewable sources such as hydroelectricity, wind and solar.  
(Source: [RBC Climate Report 2023](#), endnote 14)