

# Vocabulary Cards Sustainable Development

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## **Biodiversity = biodiversiteetti**

means the number and variety of animal and plant species that are present in a certain area. The greater the biodiversity is, the better it is for both the planet and the people living there.

## **Biodiversity loss = luontokato**

refers to the ongoing extinction of organisms. Biodiversity loss is a threat to the variety of life on our planet. Human activities are the main cause of this loss.

## **Carbon footprint = hiilijalanjälki**

tells how much greenhouse gases are produced during the manufacturing of a product. Food items, goods and services all have a carbon footprint.

## **Carbon handprint = hiilikädenjälki**

is the opposite of carbon footprint. It tells about the positive things we make to slow down the climate change. For example, if a company's product or service helps people decrease their emissions, it has a big carbon handprint.

## Carbon neutrality = hiilineutraalius

means that we produce carbon dioxide emissions only to the extent that carbon sinks can bind and store them. Carbon sinks include forests, plants and oceans.

## Carbon offsetting = päästöjen kompensointi

means that individuals can compensate for the greenhouse gas emissions that they produce. These compensations support sustainable use of renewable energy, land and forest. The goal is to prevent climate change.

## **Carbon sinks = hiilinielut**

are places that bind carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and reduce the impact of carbon emissions. The main natural carbon sinks are soil, forests and oceans.

## **Circular economy = kiertotalous**

refers to an economic model where energy and raw materials are circulated. This means that natural resources are used as little as possible and no waste is produced.

## **Corporate responsibility = yritysvastuu**

A responsible company respects human rights and considers environmental effects. The actions of a responsible company are reliable, socially acceptable and environmentally respectful.

## **Cultural sustainability = kulttuurinen kestävyys**

means that we respect diversity and the rights of all people. It means dialogue between different generations, groups and cultures. Everyone has the right to express their opinion on what cultural heritage we must protect and what we should give up.

## Earth Overshoot Day = ylikulutuspäivä

Overspending means that we overconsume our natural resources and buy more things than we actually need. Natural resources include for example water, wood, oil and metals. The global overshoot day is the calculated day when people have used more natural resources than the Earth is able to provide for the whole year.

## **Ecological carrying capacity = ekologinen kantokyky**

Human activity strains the Earth and nature because of production, consumption and waste. Ecological carrying capacity refers to the maximum amount of stress that the Earth and nature can bear.

## **Ecological footprint = ekologinen jalanjälki**

tells how large land and water area is needed to produce food, materials and energy for people. This also includes waste management. A smaller ecological footprint is better for the nature.

## **Ecological sustainability = ekologinen kestävyys**

is the most important aspect of sustainable development. It means that we take care of nature in such a way that the Earth's natural resources are sufficient.

## **Economic sustainability = taloudellinen kestävyys**

secures the wellbeing of people and communities. When making financial decisions nature's carrying capacity, natural resources and the stability of the society are taken into account.

## Ecosystem = ekosysteemi

is a system or entity which a certain area, for example a lake, forms. An ecosystem includes both the living organisms such as animals and plants, and the non-living nature such as water and rocks within the area. They live in interaction with each other and their environment.

## **Environmental responsibility = ympäristövastuullisuus**

means acting in the best possible way for the environment. It includes protecting nature, conserving natural resources and reducing environmental risks.

## Ethics = etiikka

in sustainable development relates to how we act fairly and responsibly from the perspective of the environment, people and the economy.

## **Fossil fuels = fossiiliset polttoaineet**

Oil, natural gas and coal are fossil fuels. They are used for energy production. They are produced from non-renewable energy sources.

## Greenhouse effect = kasvihuoneilmiö

happens when the atmosphere lets sunlight and heat pass through, but it doesn't let all the warmth go back to space. Humans cause a lot of carbon dioxide emissions which speeds up the greenhouse effect. The Earth warms too much.

## Life cycle = elinkaari

means the entire existence of something from beginning to end. For a product (such as a T-shirt), the life cycle includes various stages of the product, from production to disposal.

## **Linear economy = linear and wasteful**

is an economic model in which products are manufactured for short-term use after which they become waste. Linear economy consumes a lot of natural resources and generates / produces big amounts of waste.

## **Natural resources = luonnonvarat**

refer to things that people get from nature and that they can use. These resources include for example wood, water, oil, metals and minerals. Forests are our most important natural resource.

## **Non-renewable energy = uusiutumaton energia**

is produced from natural resources that form very slowly. Humans consume these resources much faster than they can reform. Examples of non-renewable energy sources are oil, coal, natural gas and peat.

## **Non-renewable natural resource = uusitutumaton luonnonvara**

is a substance or energy that does not renew in nature or renews very slowly. Oil is an example of a non-renewable natural resource. Nature does not produce new oil quickly enough to replace the oil that we use now.

## Renewable energy = uusiutuva energia

is environmentally friendly. When it is produced, it does not generate greenhouse gases or emissions. Examples of renewable energy sources are wind power, hydropower and solar power.

## Renewable natural resource = uusitutuva luonnonvara

is a substance or energy that renews quickly in nature and that people make use of. Wood is an example of a renewable natural resource because when a tree is cut down, a new tree can be grown in its place.

## Resilience = resilienssi, sietokyky

means the ability to adapt. It means that people and communities know how to act even if conditions change. They are able to face troubles and crises. Resilience also includes nature's capacity to return the balance in ecosystems.

## Resource wisdom = resurssiviisau

The goal of resource wisdom is to avoid wasting materials and energy. Examples of resource-wise actions include reusing products or recycling them.

## Side stream = sivuvirta

refers to additional material and energy which is produced together with the main product (for example heat). It's beneficial to reuse side streams as raw materials or energy for other products.

## **Social responsibility = sosiaalinen vastuullisuus**

A socially responsible company ensures fair working conditions in all countries where its products are manufactured. Socially responsible companies have a positive impact on society and individuals.

## **Social sustainability = sosiaalinen kestävyys**

includes poverty reduction, equality, good health and education. It also emphasizes everyone's right to participate in society and decision-making processes.

## **Sustainable development = kestävä kehitys**

means ensuring that future generations have equal or better living conditions than we do now. It includes caring for the environment and people and using money responsibly.

## Waste = hävikki

Waste or wastage refers to products or raw materials that disappear, expire, spoil or break in a company. In such cases, the company can no longer use or sell them. Waste has a big effect on climate.

## **Water footprint = vesijalanjälki**

includes both direct water use (such as water from the tap) and the so-called virtual water. Virtual water means the water that is used in the production of goods. Most of our water consumption actually comes from virtual water.