Glossary of terms

Abstraction	removal of water from surface waters (lakes, reservoirs, rivers) and groundwater (rocks) for domestic, commercial and industrial use.
Ammonia NH_3	a compound of nitrogen and hydrogen. A colourless, highly soluble gas which is pungent and toxic at high concentration.
Basket of greenhouse gases	the basket comprises the six main gases with a direct greenhouse effect: carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF_6).
Biodiversity	the total range of variety of life on earth or in any given part of it.
Carbon dioxide	a colourless, odourless gas which is a natural constituent of air. Formed by natural processes and by the combustion of fuels containing carbon.
Commercial waste	waste arising from any premises which are used wholly or mainly for trade, business, sport recreation or entertainment, excluding municipal and industrial waste.
Composting	an aerobic, biological process in which organic wastes, such as garden and kitchen waste are converted into a stable granular material which can be applied to land to improve soil structure and enrich the nutrient content of the soil.
Dwelling density	measurement of the number of dwellings in a particular area.
Fertiliser	any material added to soil to supply nutrients for plant growth.
Fossil fuels	coal, natural gas and fuels derived from crude oil.
Fuel poverty	a fuel poor household is one needing to spend in excess of 10 per cent of

	household income to achieve a satisfactory heating regime (21ºC in the living room and 18ºC in the other occupied rooms).
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	a measure of the value of goods and services produced in a country's economy in a year.
Gross National Income (GNI)	a measure of a country's income.
Gross Value Added (GVA)	a measure of the contribution to the economy of each individual producer, industry or sector in the country.
Healthy life expectancy	the number of years in full health that an individual is expected to live.
Household waste	waste from household collection rounds (waste within Schedule 1 of the Controlled Waste Regulations 1992), waste from services such as street sweeping, bulky waste collection, hazardous household waste collection, litter collections, household clinical waste collection and separate garden waste collection (waste within Schedule 2 of the Controlled Waste Regulations 1992), waste from civic amenity sites and wastes separately collected for recycling or composting through bring/drop off schemes, kerbside schemes and at civic amenity sites.
Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)	compounds consisting of hydrogen, fluorine, and carbon atoms which, like the HCFCs, are destroyed naturally in the lower atmosphere. They have many of the useful properties of the CFCs. They are important greenhouse gases with very high global warming potential, but because they do not contain chlorine, they are not involved in ozone depletion.
Industrial waste	waste from any factory and from any premises occupied by an industry (excluding mines and quarries).
Land Recycling	previously developed land, usually urban, brought back into beneficial use. A means of promoting urban renewal and minimising

	the need to develop previously undeveloped land in the countryside.
Landfill sites	any areas of land in which waste is deposited. Landfill sites are often located in disused mines or quarries.
Methane (CH_4)	a light, colourless and odourless gaseous hydrocarbon. Formed during the decomposition of organic matter. It is the main constituent of most natural gas and is a greenhouse gas.
Mortality rates	the ratio of deaths in an area to the population of that area.
Municipal Waste	household waste and any other wastes collected by a Waste Collection Authority, or its agents, such as municipal parks and gardens waste, beach cleansing waste, commercial or industrial waste and waste resulting from the clearance of fly-tipped materials.
Nitrogen oxides (NO_x)	a range of compounds formed by the oxidation of atmospheric nitrogen. Some of these oxides contributes to acid rain and smog, and can affect the stratospheric ozone layer.
Nitrous oxide (N_2O)	a relatively inert oxide of nitrogen emitted by soils and during the manufacture of nylon.
Ozone (O_3)	a strong pungent blue gas, which is an irritant to eyes, nose and throat and toxic by inhalation. It is formed in the upper atmosphere by ultraviolet light and is produced by photochemical reactions involving volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides in the lower atmosphere. It contributes to photochemical smog and is toxic to life.
Particulate	a fine solid (or liquid) particle found in air or emissions, such as dust, smoke or smog.
Perfluorocarbons (PFCs)	PFCs, for example tetrafluoromethane (CF_4) and hexafluoroethane (C_2F_6), are

	greenhouse gases with a very high global warming potential in addition to an exceptionally long atmospheric lifetime.
PM10	the resulting mass of particles collected by a size-selective sampler which selects 50 per cent of particles 10 μm (10 thousands of a millimetre) in diameter, more than 95 per cent of particles 5μm in diameter, and less than 5 per cent of particles 20μm in diameter.
Sulphur dioxide (SO_2)	a colourless gas with a choking smell, the main product of the combustion of sulphur contained in fuels. Globally, much of the sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere comes from natural sources, but in highly developed and heavily populated regions the greater part comes from combustion of sulphur-containing fossil fuels (coal and oil).
Sulphur hexafluoride (SF_6)	a very potent greenhouse gas with a very high global warming potential.
Sustainable development	a widely-used international definition (Brundtland definition) is the 'development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'.
Waste Recycling	involves the reprocessing of wastes, either into the same product or a different one. Many non-hazardous industrial wastes such as paper, glass, cardboard, plastics and scrap metals can be recycled. Special wastes such as solvents can also be recycled by specialist companies, or by in-house equipment.
Well-being	the quality of life (physical, social and mental state) experienced by individuals.