

A close-up photograph of several vibrant green grass blades, likely from a lawn or field. The blades are long, narrow, and pointed at the tips, with visible veins. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, creating a sense of depth and natural beauty. The lighting is bright and even, highlighting the texture and color of the grass.

Introduction to Environmental Engineering

What is Environmental Engineering?

Definition: The application of science and engineering knowledge and concepts to care for and/or restore our natural environment and/or solve environmental problems.

Who does it affect?

- **Everyone & Everything!**
 - plants
 - insects
 - animals
 - humans
 - ecosystems
 - our planet



What are environmental issues?

- **Three areas:**
 - air quality
 - land quality
 - water quality



Air Quality

Why is air quality such a problem?

Poor air quality can lead to:

- smog
- respiratory & other illnesses
- acid rain
- global warming

From where do air pollutants come?



Air pollution in China



Air Quality

- **Air pollutant:** A known substance in the air that can cause harm to humans and the environment.
 - nitrogen oxides (NO_x)
 - sulfur oxides (SO_x)
 - carbon monoxide (CO)
 - carbon dioxide (CO_2)



Effects of acid rain on plants



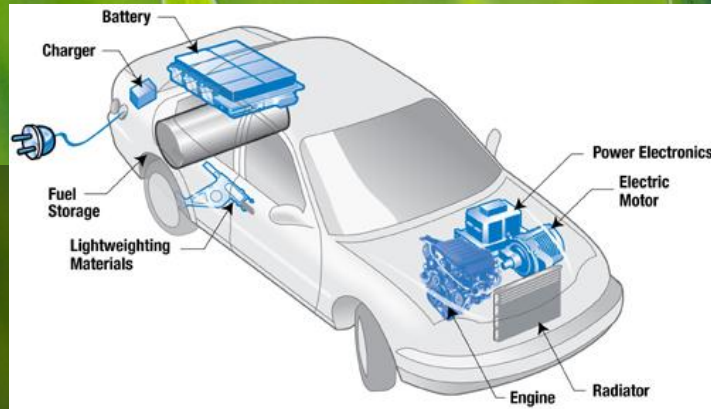
Greenhouse Gases & Global Warming

- **Global warming:** An increase in the average air temperature of the Earth.
- **Greenhouse effect:** Heat from the sun gets trapped inside the glass of a greenhouse and heats up its air.
- More carbon dioxide (CO₂) being released in the atmosphere traps more heat.



How do we reduce air pollutants?

- carpool
- hybrid cars
- EPA government regulation
- NEW: geologic carbon sequestration
- alternative fuels
- walk, bike or use public transportation



Land Quality

- **Land pollution:** Destruction of the Earth's surface caused by human activities and the misuse of natural resources.
- **Natural resources:** Land and raw materials that exist naturally in the environment undisturbed by humans.
- **Renewable resource:** A natural resource that can be replaced by a natural process.
- **Non-renewable resource:** A natural resource that cannot be produced or re-grown or reused.

Examples

Renewable Resources



Non-Renewable Resources



What problems arise from land pollution?

Acid mine drainage



Pesticides and herbicides



Landfills



How do we reduce land pollution?



**Join the
One Less Bag
Challenge.**

Take the pledge and
get a **FREE** recycling kit.



Reduce, reuse, recycle and save resources.