

LECTURE 3: GREEN ISSUES

A. Environmental pollution:

Companies should of course minimize **environmental pollution** - damage to the land, sea, etc. caused by their activities.

They should not **pollute** the air with toxic **emissions** from chimneys or with **effluent** - toxic liquids that they **discharge** into rivers or the sea. They should **dispose of waste** in more acceptable ways.

Nuclear power plants are required to monitor levels of **radioactivity** in the air and water around them, but critics say that even minimum levels of radioactivity are unacceptable. And some **pollutants** are **carcinogenic**, causing cancer.

Governments impose **stringent regulations** to force companies to limit pollution.

B. Recycling:

Products should be **recyclable** - the European Union, for example, has regulations about the **proportion** or percentage **content** of products and packaging that must be reused and recycled. **Household** and **industrial waste** should also be recycled. Supporters of **recycling** say that **dumping** waste in **landfills** cannot continue indefinitely and that burning waste in **incinerators** is also **environmentally damaging**.

C. Word combinations with 'environmental':

Environmental	Credentials	evidence that you care about the environment
	Degradation	damage to the environment
	Devastation	severe damage to the environment
	Lobby	pressure groups such as Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth who campaign on issues together
	Standards	rules that companies and government authorities should follow in relation to the environment

D. Sustainability:

Some industries are directly dependent on **natural resources**, and managing these resources so that they are not **depleted** is essential. For example, deep-sea fishing has to be done in a way that maintains fish stocks and avoids **overfishing**.

Ideally, those engaged in **logging** that causes **deforestation** should have an incentive to maintain future timber stocks through **reafforestation**. These industries should be run in ways that are **sustainable** - in ways that maintain the resources that they rely on.

Another aspect of sustainability is **renewable** or **alternative energy sources** such as wind power.

These are some of the **environmental** or **green issues** that companies are facing. Some companies produce reports on these issues that give a more favourable impression than is justified by the real facts. This is called **greenwash** by critics.

Note: Br.E: reafforestation; Am.E: reforestation.

3.1. Complete the table with words from A and B opposite and related forms. Put a stress mark in front of the stressed syllable in each word. (The first one has been done for you.)

Verb	Noun	Adjective
	Car'cinogen	Carcino'genic
Discharge	
Dispose (Of)	
	Environment
.....	Incinerator/ Incineration	
Pollute
.....	Recycling	Recyclable/ Recycled
	Toxicity/ Toxin

3.2. Match the two parts of these sentences containing expressions from C opposite.

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. He led a political campaign against the company, saying its oil production caused environmental 2. According to the environmental 3. If you really want to show your environmental 4. The project will boost Brazilian efforts to fight environmental 5. In the richest countries with the toughest environmental 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. lobby, this type of plastic is such a dangerous substance to manufacture and dispose of that it should be banned. b. credentials, there are several household cleaning products that will cause less damage to the environment, but are likely to cost slightly more, c. devastation in the area, d. standards, - the amount of household waste is growing more slowly than the economy as a whole. e. degradation in the Amazon basin.
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3.3. Complete the sentences with expressions from D opposite.

1. Illegal could accelerate degradation or even cause, which has affected more than 9.8 million acres of forest in the past 30 years.
2. Fishermen are being encouraged to catch alternative fish species because has the stocks to near-collapse.
3. The country's society is maturing and adopting a model of economic development that balances economic growth, social justice and the use of
4. They accuse multinational companies of ' '- polishing up their images on environmental issues with brochures and advertising campaigns.
5. Many congressmen are keen to revive research into renewable like solar and wave power.

Over to you: What does your local government authority do to encourage recycling? Does it do enough?