

POLLUTION NOTES

What is pollution?

Pollution is something that enters the environment and messes up the natural balance of the ecosystem.

What is the Air Quality Index?

The air quality index or the "AQI" helps you understand what the air quality around you means to your health.

What does each color in the AQI mean?

Green	Good
Yellow	Moderate
Orange	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups
Red	Unhealthy
Purple	Very Unhealthy
Maroon	Hazardous

What is point source pollution?

Point source pollution is pollution coming from a single, identifiable source.

Give at least 2 examples of point source pollution:

1. Dumping trash into a body of water
2. Motorboat oil from a specific boat

What is non-point source pollution?

Non-point source pollution occurs as water moves across the land or through the ground and picks up pollutants on its way to a river, bay, estuary, stream, or other body of water.

Why is it bad for an excess of organic material to be flushed into a body of water?

Natural occurring bacteria break down organic material and while doing so, they deplete the water of vital oxygen.

Why is it bad for large amounts of nitrogen and phosphorous to be in our lakes and rivers?

These nutrients create large algae blooms which block sunlight and deplete the water of vital oxygen.

What is an impervious surface?

An impervious surface is something hard (like concrete or brick) that water cannot soak into.