

## WASTE OVERVIEW

# Glossary (cont.)

**LEACHATE:** liquid formed when precipitation infiltrates the soil covering a landfill, percolates down through the waste, picking up a variety of suspended and dissolved materials.

**METHANE:** a colourless, odourless, flammable, gaseous hydrocarbon that is the product of the anaerobic decomposition of organic matter. It can be burned as fuel.

**NITROUS OXIDE:** a colourless gas with a sweet smell, used as an anaesthetic (laughing gas).

**NONBIODEGRADABLE:** not capable of being broken down by micro-organisms.

**NONRENEWABLE:** not capable of being naturally restored or replenished.

**OZONE:** a gas and a variant of oxygen containing three molecules rather than two. (O<sub>3</sub>)

**PARTICULATE MATTER:** very small pieces of solid matter or droplets of liquid suspended or carried in the air.

**PLANNED OBSOLESCENCE:** the practice of producing goods that have a very short life, in order to ensure more goods will have to be purchased and produced; the process perpetuates consumption.

**RENAISSANCE:** the artistic, literary and scientific revival which began in fourteenth century Italy and was typified by the spread of humanism and objective scientific inquiry.

**RUN OFF:** water, originating as precipitation, flows across the surface of the ground rather than soaking into it and eventually enters bodies of water; carrying a variety of substances.

**SEPTIC TANK:** a tank in which sewage is broken down by anaerobic bacterial activity.

**SLAG:** non-metallic waste matter obtained when ore is smelted.

**SYNTHETIC:** man-made or produced by a chemical process rather than of natural origin.

**TROPOSPHERIC OZONE:** range of the Earth's atmosphere extending from ground level to a height of 8-15 km. Contains most of the atmospheric moisture and is the region where wind and clouds are formed.

**TURBIDITY:** haziness in the atmosphere due to pollution or murkiness in water due to suspended material.

**WASTE MANAGEMENT HIERARCHY:** handling or controlling waste in a descending order according to preference, with reduction being most favourable.

**WASTE STREAM:** all of the waste generated in the processes of production, utilization and disposal of goods; the total waste produced by a community or society as the waste moves from origin to disposal.

**WEeping TILE BED:** the dispensing of water through perforated drainage pipes in a concentrated area allowing for even absorption of liquid.