chronic effect—an effect that results from long-term exposure to low levels of toxin.

deep well injection—drilling a hole in the ground that's below the water table to hold waste.

disease—occurs when infection causes a change in the state of health.

dose-response analysis—a process in which an organism is exposed to a toxin at different concentrations, and the dosage that causes the death of the organism is recorded.

dose-response curve—the result of graphing a dose-response analysis.

ED_{50}—the point at which 50 percent of the test organisms show a negative effect from a toxin.

global warming—an intensification of the Greenhouse Effect due to the increased presence of heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere.

gray smog (industrial smog)—smog resulting from emissions from industry and other sources of gases produced by the burning of fossil fuels, especially coal.

hazardous waste—any waste that poses a danger to human health; it must be dealt with in a different way from other types of waste.

heat islands—urban areas that heat up more quickly and retain heat more than do nonurban areas.

high-level radioactive waste—radioactive wastes that produce high levels of ionizing radiation.

industrial smog (gray smog)—smog resulting from emissions from industry and other sources of gases produced by the burning of fossil fuels.

infection—the result of a pathogen invading a body.

LD_{50}—the point at which 50 percent of the test organisms die from a toxin.

leachate—the liquid that percolates to the bottom of a landfill.

low-level radioactive waste—radioactive wastes that produce low levels of ionizing radiation.

moving sources—a mobile source of pollution, such as a car.

noise pollution—any noise that causes stress or has the potential to damage human health.

non-point source pollution—pollution that does not have a specific point of release.

open-loop recycling—when materials are reused to form new products.

ozone holes—the thinning of the ozone layer over Antarctica (and to some extent, over the Arctic).

pathogens—bacteria, virus, or other microorganisms that can cause disease.

photochemical smog—when photochemical smog, NO_x compounds, VOCs, and ozone combine to form smog with a brownish hue.