A GLOSSARY OF "GREEN" TERMS RELATED TO MEETINGS
(Source: Meetgreen)

The following is a list of definitions of some of the words found in this guide to sustainable meeting.

Biodegradable: Capable of being broken down by natural processes, such as bacterial action.

BOMA BESt: A Canadian environmental certification program for commercial buildings sponsored by the Building Owners and Managers Association of Canada. BESt stands for Building Environmental Standards.

Carbon footprint: A measure of the impact human activities have on the environment in terms of the amount of greenhouse gases produced, measured in units of carbon dioxide.

Carbon offset: A way of counteracting the carbon emitted when the use of fossil fuel causes greenhouse gas emissions. Offsets commonly involve renewable energy, tree planting and energy efficient projects.

Compost: A mixture of humus-rich, decomposed vegetable matter, used as a fertilizer or soil enrichment.

Ecology: The system of relationships between organisms and their environments.

Energy/water conservation: Practices and strategies that are designed to minimize the amount of energy and water used.

Environmentally-responsible transportation: Transportation options that minimize environmental impact such as mass public transportation (subway, electric/hybrid/biodiesel buses) and alternative fuel vehicles, such as bio-diesel, electricity and hybrid technology.

Fair Trade: Small farmers are paid a fair market price that enables them to improve their standard of living.

Green meeting: A meeting that incorporates environmental considerations throughout all stages of the meeting to minimize the negative impact on the environment.

Greenhouse gas (GHG): A combination of gases that contribute to the greenhouse effect by absorbing solar radiation. These gases include, but are not limited to, carbon dioxide, ozone, methane, and chlorofluorocarbons.

Hybrid vehicle: Vehicle that uses a combination of two engine types. Cars are most commonly gasoline-electric hybrids.

LEED: The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System® is a voluntary, third-party certification program and an internationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings.

Organic foods: Grown without chemicals that can harm the land, water or human health. Organic food certification can be through an independent organization or government program.

Post-consumer material: An end product that has completed its life cycle as a consumer item and would be disposed of as solid waste. Post-consumer materials include recyclables collected in commercial and residential recycling programs, such as office paper, cardboard, aluminium cans, plastics and metals.

Post-consumer waste (PCW): Recycled material collected after people have tossed it in the blue bin. Office recycling programs and household recycling programs are the main sources of post-consumer waste.

Recycled paper: Uncoated paper with at least 30% post-consumer waste (PCW) and coated paper with at least 10% post-consumer waste can be called "recycled" paper. Most green organizations are targeting the use of 100% PCW copy paper.

Recycling: The process of reusing waste materials by reprocessing them into new products, which then are resold.

Sustainability: Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (as defined by the Brundtland Commission, 1987).

Vegan: Lifestyle choice which excludes the consumption and use of animal flesh and by-products.

Vegetarian: Dietary choice which excludes the consumption of animal flesh or by-products, but may include eggs and dairy.