

Terms	Definition
capacity factor	the ratio of the net electricity generated, for the time considered, to the energy that could have been generated at continuous full-power operation during the same period
carbon offset	a monetary investment in a project or activity that abates greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions or sequesters carbon from the atmosphere; the credit is used to compensate for GHG emissions from other activities or as a way of funding GHG reduction activities; offsets can be bought by a business or individual in the voluntary market (or within a trading scheme); a carbon offset usually represents one metric ton of CO ₂ e
conjunctive management	conjunctive management refers to the coordinated and planned use and management of both surface water and groundwater resources to maximize the availability and reliability of water supplies in a region to meet various management objectives
deforestation	the removal of a forest stand where the land is put to a nonforest use
ecosystem restoration	the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed; an ecosystem has recovered - and is restored - when it contains sufficient biotic and abiotic resources to continue its development without further assistance or subsidy; including sustaining itself structurally and functionally; demonstrating resilience to normal ranges of environmental stress and disturbance, and interacting with contiguous ecosystems in terms of biotic and abiotic flows and cultural interaction
emission scenario	a plausible representation of the future development of emissions of substances that are potentially radiatively active (e.g., greenhouse gases, aerosols), based on a coherent and internally consistent set of assumptions about driving forces (such as demographic and socioeconomic development, technological change) and their key relationships
Energy Star©	Energy Star is a United States government program created in 1992 by the US Environmental Protection Agency in an attempt to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emission by power plants; the Energy Star label indicates a product that meets high standards of energy efficiency, as set forth by the agency; the logo is a blue and white star and appears in the form of a sticker on most products

ensemble informed approach	a modeling approach that uses information from a larger array of climate simulations; climate models are aggregated using various statistical methods to develop a set of ensemble-informed simulations
environmental stewardship	environmental stewardship is the responsibility for environmental quality shared by all those whose actions affect the environment, reflected as both a value and a practice by individuals, companies, communities, and government organizations; positive stewardship behavior demonstrates acceptance of this responsibility through the continuous improvement of environmental performance to achieve measurable results and sustainable outcomes
firming power	the energy from a variable renewable resource, such as wind, is stored in some fashion, smoothing the flow of power
GCM downscaling	global climate models (GCMs) are run at coarse spatial resolution (typically of the order 19,000 square miles) and are unable to resolve important sub-grid scale features such as clouds and topography; as a result GCMs can not be used for local impact studies; downscaling methods allow GCM data to be used to provide local-scale surface weather data
gigawatt	abbreviated GW; one billion (10^9) watts
kilowatt	abbreviated KW; one thousand (10^3) watts
megawatt	abbreviated MW; one million (10^6) watts
metric ton	common international measurement for the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions; a metric ton is equal to 2205 lbs or 1.1 short tons
public goods	goods that render benefit simultaneously to more than one 'consumer', thus exhibiting non-rival consumption, and for which excluding consumers from using very costly or impossible
qualitative approach	an approach to projecting future impacts of climate change that does not require modeling or mathematical calculations; information from published climate change studies are used to qualitatively describe the types of impacts that might occur in an area as a result of climate change

Reid Gardner	the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has received energy from Reid Gardner Powerplant, a coal-fired facility in Moapa, Nevada since 1983; under the Reid Gardner Unit 4 Participation Agreement, DWR has ownership-like rights to 67.8 percent of Reid Gardner Unit 4 (RG4) and imports up to 235 MW from Unit 4 (90.4 percent of the unit's capacity); DWR notified NPC it will not renew or extend the contract when it expires in 2013, as a result, the SWP's carbon footprint will be substantially reduced by an estimated one million metric tons annually
relative change approach	an approach to projecting the future impacts of climate change that does not involve complex modeling; this approach involves defining the likely magnitude of changes on a variable of interest as a result of climate change, the quantity or percentage change is then added or subtracted to historical values for the variable of interest to estimate the potential change due to climate change; this method relies on impact assessment results from other studies that indicate the general direction and order of magnitude of the expected changes due to climate change
renewable power	fuel sources that restore themselves over short periods of time and do not diminish; includes the sun, wind, moving water, organic plant and waste material (biomass), and the earth's heat (geothermal)
scenario approach	an approach to projecting future impacts of climate change that relies on identifying a single projection or a small number of projections that represent potential scenarios of future climate
The Climate Registry	the Climate Registry is a nonprofit collaboration among North American states, provinces, territories and Native Sovereign Nations that sets consistent and transparent standards to calculate, verify and publicly report greenhouse gas emissions into a single registry