

DecarbToday.com Dictionary

Terms and acronyms used in the decarbonization space

Term/Acronym	Meaning
B2G	Building-To-Grid
BEV	Battery Electric Vehicle
BoP	Balance of plant
Brownfield	A tract of land that has been developed for industrial purposes, polluted, and then abandoned
BTU	British Thermal Unit; a unit of energy; one BTU is equal to 1055 Joules
Budget Reconciliation	A US Senate procedure that allows passage of bills with a simple majority as opposed to the customary 60-vote supermajority. Budget reconciliation bills deal with spending, revenue, and the federal debt limit. The Senate can pass one bill per year affecting each subject.
C&I	Commercial and Industrial
CAES	Compressed air energy storage
Capex	Capital expenditure
Carbon Neutral	A policy of not increasing carbon emissions and of achieving carbon reduction through carbon offsets.
Carbon Offset	A reduction or removal of emissions of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases made in order to compensate for emissions made elsewhere.
CCS	Carbon Capture and Storage
CCUS	Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage
CDR	Carbon Dioxide Removal
CES	Clean Energy Standard
CFE	Carbon Free Energy
Chlorophyll	The green pigment in plants and leaves that converts CO ₂ into food for the plant with oxygen given off as the byproduct.
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
CSP	Concentrated Solar Power
DAC	Direct Air Capture
Decarbonization	The removal of carbon from our energy source mix.
DER	Distributed Energy Resource
EIA	Energy Information Agency
EJ	Environmental justice
Electrolysis	A chemical decomposition produced by passing an electric current through a liquid.
Emissionality	A neologism for a way to refer to the quantification of carbon emission reductions.
ERoEI	Energy return on energy invested

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ESG	The use of Environmental, Social, and Governance factors to evaluate companies and countries on how far advanced they are with sustainability.
EV	Electric Vehicle
FCEV	Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; A Federal Government commission that oversees RTOs, interstate transmission, and the sale of bulk electricity and natural gas.
FID	Final Investment Decision
Filibuster	In general, it is an action such as a prolonged speech that obstructs progress in a legislative assembly. See https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/how-does-the-filibuster-work to learn about US Senate rules around a filibuster.
Firm	An electricity source that can be turned on on demand for as long as needed (e.g. natural gas).
Fission Energy	The splitting of an atom in order to release energy that heats water to steam that used to create electricity.
Fossil Fuel	An energy source based on former living organic matter (e.g. coal, oil, natural gas).
Fusion Energy	The joining of two atoms in order to release energy that heats water to steam that used to create electricity. It is the process used by the Sun.
Geothermal	Energy released from inside the Earth carried to the surface in the form of steam / hot water.
GHG	Greenhouse gas(es)
Gt CO ₂ e	Gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent
GW	Gigawatt
GWh	Gigawatt-hour
HEV	Hybrid Electric Vehicle
ICE	Internal Combustion Engine
IEA	International Energy Agency
IOU	Investor Owned Utility; A business that makes a profit by investing in infrastructure such as generators and getting a guaranteed rate of return based on capital expenditures from being a regulated monopoly.
IPCC	The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IRR	Internal rate of return
ISO	Independent System Operator

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ITC	An investment tax credit (ITC), first passed in the 1970s allowing a deduction from one's taxes for clean-energy investment such as installing new clean-power generators.
Joule (J)	A unit of energy. In practical terms, it is the amount of electricity required to run a 1 watt device for 1 second.
kW	Kilowatt
kWh	Kilowatt-hour
LAES	Liquid air energy storage
LCA	Life Cycle Analysis
LCOE	Levelized cost of electricity
LCOS	Levelized cost of storage
LDES	Long Duration Energy Storage
Li-ion	Lithium-ion
MEDC	More economically developed countries
MW	Megawatt
MWh	Megawatt-hour
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution; It is a term used by the UN for each country's individual national plan to slash greenhouse gas emissions.
Net Zero	Achieving a balance between the carbon emitted into the atmosphere, and the carbon removed from it.
NMC	Nickel, Manganese and Cobalt
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPV	Net present value
O&M	Operation and maintenance
Offset	See Carbon Offset
PHEV	Plug in Hybrid Electric Vehicle
Photosynthesis	The process by which plants convert CO ₂ into food and oxygen.
PPA	Power Purchase Agreement
PSH	Pumped storage hydropower
PTC	A production tax credit (PTC), first passed in the 1990s allowing a deduction from one's taxes for clean-energy production
PUC	Public Utility Commission
PV	Photovoltaic
Quad (Q)	A unit of energy equal to a quadrillion BTU or 1.0551E+15 kilojoules
R&D	Research and development

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Term/Acronym	Meaning
RE	Renewable energy
REC	Renewable Energy Credit
Regenerative Agriculture	A set of farming and grazing practices that, among other benefits, reverse climate change by rebuilding soil organic matter and restoring degraded soil biodiversity – resulting in both carbon drawdown and improving the water cycle.
Renewable Energy	Forms of energy collected from resources that are naturally replenished on a human timescale. Examples are sunlight, wind, rain, tides, waves, and geothermal heat.
RTE	Round-trip efficiency
RTO	Regional Transmission Operator/Organization; Organizations that manages the electricity transmission in a given territory to the wholesale power market.
SBT	Science Based Technology
SMR	Small Modular Reactor (nuclear)
T&D	Transmission and distribution
TAM	Total addressable market
TW	Terawatt
TWh	Terawatt-hour
WACC	Weighted average cost of capital
Watt	A unit of power or energy over time. One Watt is equal to 1 Joule per second. A practical example is a 220 pound person who climbs a 10 foot ladder in 5 seconds is expending about 600 watts of power.
ZEV	Zero Emission Vehicle