

Definition

Environmental Technology: An environmental technology is a technology that advances sustainable development by reducing risk [of harm to human health or the environment], enhancing cost-effectiveness [of achieving environmental protection], improving process efficiency, and creating products and processes that are environmentally beneficial or benign. The word “technology” is intended to include hardware, software, systems, services and tools.

Categories of environmental technologies

- **Avoidance:** Avoidance technologies avoid the production of environmentally hazardous substances or alter human activities in ways that minimize damage to the environment.
- **Monitoring and assessment:** Monitoring and assessment technologies are used to establish and monitor the condition of the environment, including releases of pollutants and other natural or anthropogenic materials of a harmful nature.
- **Control:** Control technologies render hazardous substances harmless before they enter the environment.
- **Remediation and restoration:** Remediation technologies render harmful or hazardous substances harmless after they enter the environment. Restoration technologies embody methods designed to improve ecosystems that have declined because of naturally induced or anthropogenic effects.

Examples

- Hardware:
 - Weather systems, extended deployment monitors, etc.
- Software:
 - GIS, Matlab, SPSS
- Services
 - Information management
- Systems
 - Models
- Tools
 - Remote sensing



