PATUCK-GALA COLLEGE OF COMMERCE & MANAGEMENT
STUDENT BULLETIN BOARD
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ECO-FRIENDLINESS

Meaning of Eco-friendliness

The term **Eco-friendliness** refers to the beings, who are earth friendly, and harmless to the other beings and the environment. It refers to the lifestyle that promotes and practice green living conserving the natural resources.

Examples of Eco-friendly products to use in daily life:

1. Clothes made from recycled Fabric
2. Sustainable shopping bags
3. Use a Stainless-Steel Water bottle
4. LED bulbs
5. Kitchen composter/Compost pail
6. Refill capsule B-Cap

Understanding The Ecosystem

The ecosystems are classified into many types and are based on a number of factors. We will discuss major types of ecosystems and will try and understand on what basis these classifications are done. It is also essential to know the different factors which differentiate the ecosystems from one another.Ecosystems can generally be classified into two classes such as **natural**

and artificial. Artificial ecosystems are natural regions affected by man's interferences. They are artificial lakes, reservoirs, townships, and cities. **Naturalecosystems** are basically classified into two major types. They are **aquatic** ecosystem and **terrestrialecosystem**.

Abiotic (Non-living Components): Abiotic components consist of climate or factors of climate such as temperature, light, humidity, precipitation, gases, wind, water, soil, salinity, substratum, mineral, topography, and habitat. The flow of energy and the cycling of water and nutrients are critical to each ecosystem on the earth. Non-living components set the stage for ecosystem operation.

Aquatic Eco-system: An ecosystem which is located in a body of water is known as an aquatic ecosystem. The nature and characteristics of the communities of living or biotic organisms and non-living or abiotic factors which interact with and interrelate to one another are determined by the aquatic surroundings of their environment they are dependent upon. Aquatic ecosystem can be broadly classified into Marine Ecosystem and Freshwater Ecosystem.

Marine Ecosystem: These ecosystems are the biggest of all ecosystems as all oceans and their parts are included in them. They contain salt marshes, intertidal zones, estuaries, lagoons, mangroves, coral reefs, the deep sea, and the sea floor. Marine ecosystem has a unique flora and fauna, and supports a vast kingdom of species. These ecosystems are essential for the overall health of both marine and terrestrial environments. Salt marshes, seagrass meadows, and mangrove forests are among the most productive ecosystem. Coral reef provides

food and shelter to the highest number of marine inhabitants in the world. Marine ecosystem has a large biodiversity.

Freshwater Ecosystem: Freshwater ecosystem includes lakes, rivers, streams, and ponds. Lakes are large bodies of freshwater surrounded by land. Plants and algae are important to freshwater ecosystem because they provide oxygen through photosynthesis and food for animals in this ecosystem. Estuaries house plant life with the unique adaptation of being able to survive in fresh and salty environments. Mangroves and pickle weed are examples of estuarine plants.

Many animals live in freshwater ecosystem. Freshwater ecosystem is very important for people as they provide them water for drinking, energy and transportation, recreation, etc.

Terrestrial Ecosystem: They are those ecosystems that exist on land. Water may be present in a terrestrial ecosystem but these ecosystems are primarily situated on land. These ecosystems are of different types such as forest ecosystem, desert ecosystem, grassland and mountain ecosystems.

Functions of The Ecosystem

The functional attributes of the ecosystem keep the components running together. Ecosystem functions are natural processes or exchange of energy that take place in various plant and animal communities of different biomes of the world. For instance, green leaves prepare food and roots absorb nutrients from the soil, herbivores feed on the leaves and the roots and in turn serve as food for

the carnivores. Decomposers execute the functions of breaking down complex organic materials into simple inorganic products, which are used by the producers. Fundamentally, ecosystem functions are exchange of energy and nutrients in the food chain. These exchanges sustain plant and animal life on the planet as well as the decomposition of organic matter and the production of biomass.

***Source**: http://bit.ly/2Pk4H8D*

WHY TO BECOME ECO-FRIENDLY

1. To minimize the threats to Biodiversity
2. Biodiversity is a paramount factor for the survival of the living world in general and mankind in particular. The fewer species (animals and plants) we have, the fewer people we will have on the earth. During the last few decades, loss of biodiversity is on the rise. Following are the major causes of threat to biodiversity.
3. To minimize the habitat loss
4. Today, major loss to biodiversity in the world has been done by man. Man has begun to overuse or misuse most of these natural ecosystems.
5. Due to mindless and unsustainable resource use, once productive forest and grasslands have been turned into deserts, and wastelands have increased all over the world. Rapid industrialization, urbanization, and growth in population have resulted in massive deforestation and consequential habitat loss around the world.
6. For instance, mangroves have been cleared for fuel-wood and prawn farming, which has led to a decrease in the habitat essential for breeding of marine fish.

7. Forests all over the world, in particular tropical rainforests such as the Amazon, are under unforeseen threat largely from conversion to other land-uses.
8. Scientists have estimated that human activities are likely to eliminate approximately10 million species by the year 2050. It is also estimated that at the present rate of extinction about 25 percent of the world's species will undergo extinction fairly rapidly. Rich bio-diversities such as tropical forests, wetlands, and coral reefs world over will constitute the major part of this extinction.
9. To minimize the Poaching of Wildlife
10. Poaching of wildlife for trade and commercial activities has been on the rise for the last many decades. It has been a significant cause of the extinction of hundreds of species and the endangerment of many more, such as whales and many African large mammal, Asian tigers, etc. Most extinction over the past several hundred years is mainly due to overharvesting for food, fashion, and profit.
11. Illicit trade in wildlife in current times is driving many species of wild animals and plants to extinction. Elephants are poached for ivory; tigers and leopards for their skin; pangolins for meat and scales; and rare timber is targeted for hardwood furniture.
12. The global illegal wildlife trade is estimated to be between $7 billion and $23 billion in illicit revenue annually. It is now considered the most lucrative global crime after drugs, humans, and arms.
13. In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution for tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife. The Sustainable Development Goals has laid down specific targets to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species.
14. To minimize the Man-Wildlife Conflict

15. Man-wildlife conflict refers to the interaction between wild animals and people and the consequential negative impact on both of them. Human population growth and the resultant destruction of wildlife habitat for human habitation and economic prosperity create reduction of resources or life to some people and wild animals.
16. World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) defines this conflict as "any interaction between humans and wildlife that results in a negative impact on human social, economic, or cultural life, on the conservation of wildlife population, or on the environment."
17. Although man-wildlife conflict is as old as human civilization, in modern times the degree of conflict has been on the rise due to high rise in human population in the past several centuries.

Since human populations expand into wild animal habitats, natural wildlife territory is displaced. Reduction in the availability of natural prey/food sources leads to wild animals seeking alternate sources. Alternately, new resources created by humans draw wildlife resulting in conflict. Competition for food resources also occurs when humans attempt to harvest natural resources such as fish and grassland pasture.

There are many **consequences** of **man versus wildlife conflicts**. The major consequences are −

1. Destruction of wildlife habitat
2. Injury and loss of life of both humans and wildlife
3. Crop damage and livestock depredation
4. Damage to human property
5. Decrease in wildlife population and reduction in geographic ranges

6. Tropic cascades

Apart from the above, there are other causes of threat to biodiversity. Factors such as climate change, invasion of non-native species also add to biodiversity losses in some or the other.

QUESTIONS TO KNOW HOW ECO-FRIENDLY ARE YOU

1. Do you recycle?
2. Do you try to reduce your production of daily trash?
3. Would you buy an electric car?
4. Do you turn out the lights when you leave the house?
5. How many miles per gallon does your vehicle get?
6. Do you buy organic foods?
7. Do you have compact fluorescent bulbs in your house?
8. Do you leave your cell phone charger plugged in when the phone isn't even on it?
9. Do you drink bottled water?
10. Do you flush your un-used prescription drugs down the toilet?
11. What do you do with clothes that you don't want anymore?
12. How often do you eat at fast food establishments?

***Source**: https://www.proprofs.com/quiz-school/story.php?title=how-ecofriendly-are-you_1*