

CHAPTER 24 VOCABULARY – Politics, Environment, and Sustainability

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civil suit	Court case brought to settle disputes or damages between one party and another.
common law	A body of unwritten rules and principles derived from court decisions along with commonly accepted practices, or norms, within a society. Compare <i>statutory law</i> .
defendant	The party in a court case being charged with creating a harm. See <i>plaintiff</i> and <i>civil suit</i> .
democracy	Government by the people through their elected officials and appointed representatives. In a <i>constitutional democracy</i> , a constitution provides the basis of government authority and puts restraints on government power through free elections and freely expressed public opinion.
environmental policy	Laws, rules, and regulations related to an environmental problem that are developed, implemented, and enforced by a particular government body or agency.
lobbying	Process in which individuals or groups use public pressure, personal contacts, and political action to persuade legislators to vote or act in their favor.
plaintiff	Party in a court case bringing charges or seeking to collect damages for injuries to health or for economic loss; may also seek an injunction, by which the party being charged would be required to stop whatever action is causing harm. See <i>defendant</i> and <i>civil suit</i> .
policies	programs, and the laws and regulations through which they are enacted, that a government enforces and funds.
politics	Process through which individuals and groups try to influence or control government policies and actions that affect the local, state, national, and international communities.
statutory laws	Laws developed and passed by legislative bodies such as federal and state governments. Compare <i>common law</i> .