



Promoting high quality, digital transformation (VR gamification) and green transition in inclusive YW practices for youth with hearing impairment (or deafness) for better employability prospects

GreenSIGNS Glossary - 54 Green & Sustainability Terms

Project Number: 2023-2-EL02-KA220-YOU-000181130



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Introduction

The GreenSIGNS Glossary has been developed within the framework of the GreenSIGNS project (Project Number: 2023-2-EL02-KA220-YOU-000181130) to support inclusive access to key sustainability and green skills terminology for Deaf and Hard of Hearing learners, educators, and youth workers across Europe.

The glossary presents essential environmental, climate, and green transition concepts in a clear and accessible format, combining scientific definitions with simplified explanations, visual icons and sign language video interpretations. From the Glossary a total of 54 QR codes were created, one for each term, allowing users to scan and access the complete set of learning materials, including scientific and simplified explanations, visual icons, and sign language video interpretations.

By bridging sustainability education with digital accessibility tools, the GreenSIGNS Glossary contributes to equal learning opportunities, enhanced employability prospects, and active participation of DHH individuals in green education and green job pathways.



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AFFORESTATION

CATEGORY: CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENTIFIC

Term Icon

Short Scientific Definition

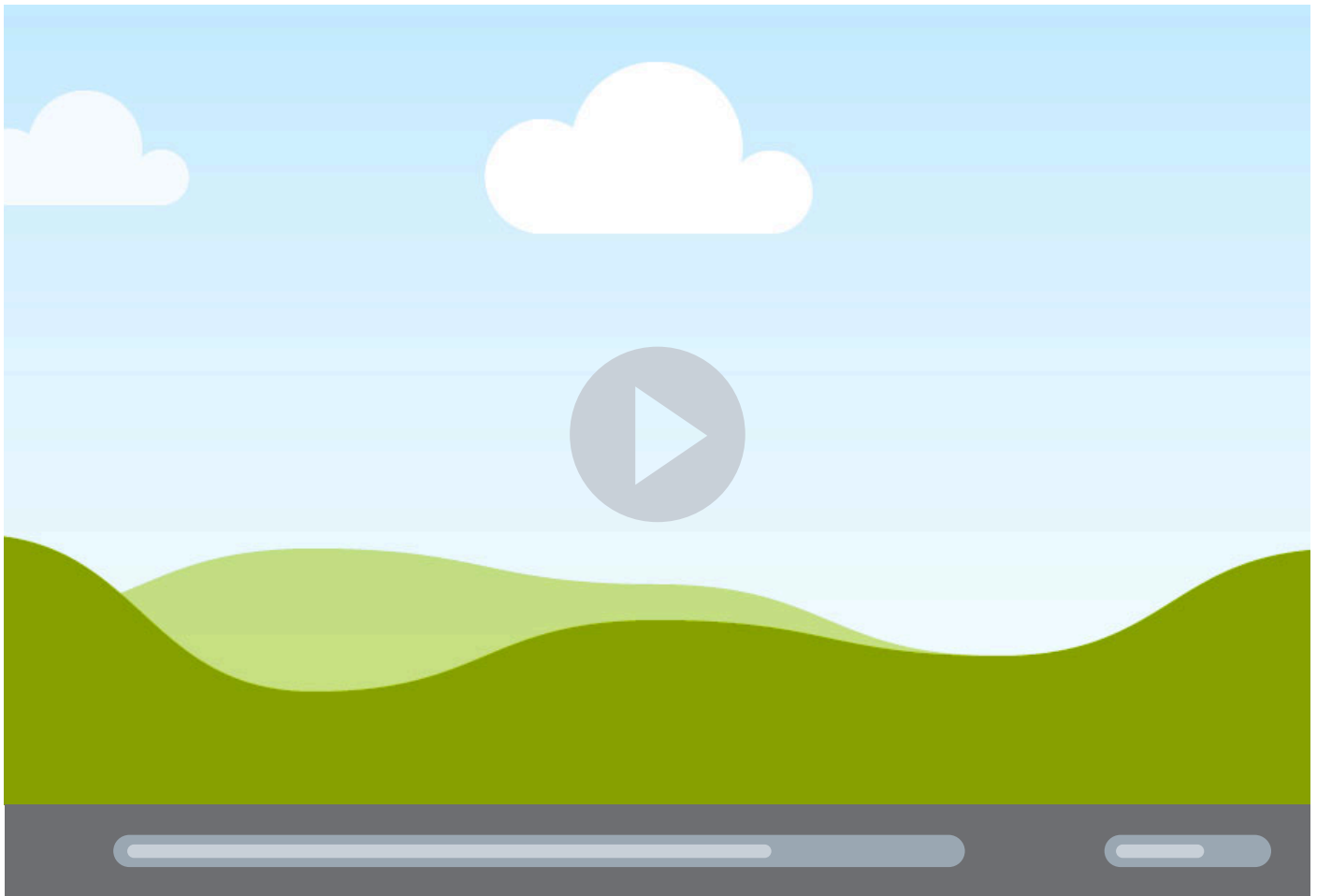
Planting trees in an area where there were no previous forests to restore ecosystems and reduce CO₂ levels.



Detailed Simple language explanation

Planting trees where there were none before. This helps clean the air, make homes for animals, and improve the land.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/earth-and-planetary-sciences/afforestation>

<https://www.weforum.org/stories/2021/11/afforestation-can-help-tackle-climate-change-heres-how/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=amtXcNe_Scc



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CARBON NEUTRALITY

CATEGORY: CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENTIFIC

Term Icon

Short Scientific Definition

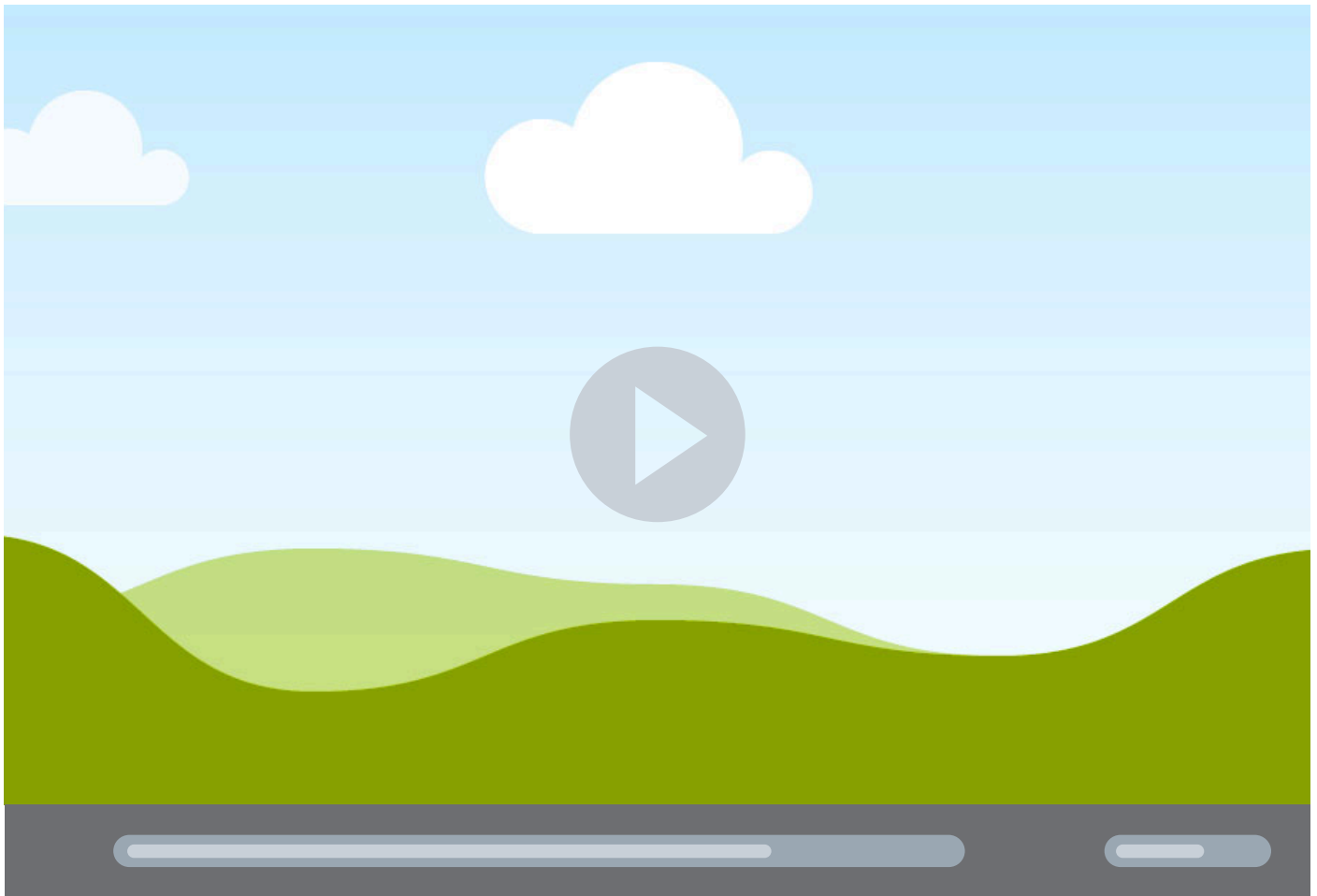
Achieving a balance between emitting carbon and absorbing it from the atmosphere through offsets like tree planting.



Detailed Simple language explanation

Balancing the bad gases we add to the air by doing good things like planting trees or using clean energy.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://unfccc.int/news/a-beginner-s-guide-to-climate-neutrality>

<https://www.weforum.org/stories/2022/08/carbon-neutral-net-zero-sustainability-climate-change/>



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DECARBONIZATION

CATEGORY: CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENTIFIC

Term Icon

Short Scientific Definition

Decarbonisation is the term used for removal or reduction of carbon dioxide (CO₂) output into the atmosphere.

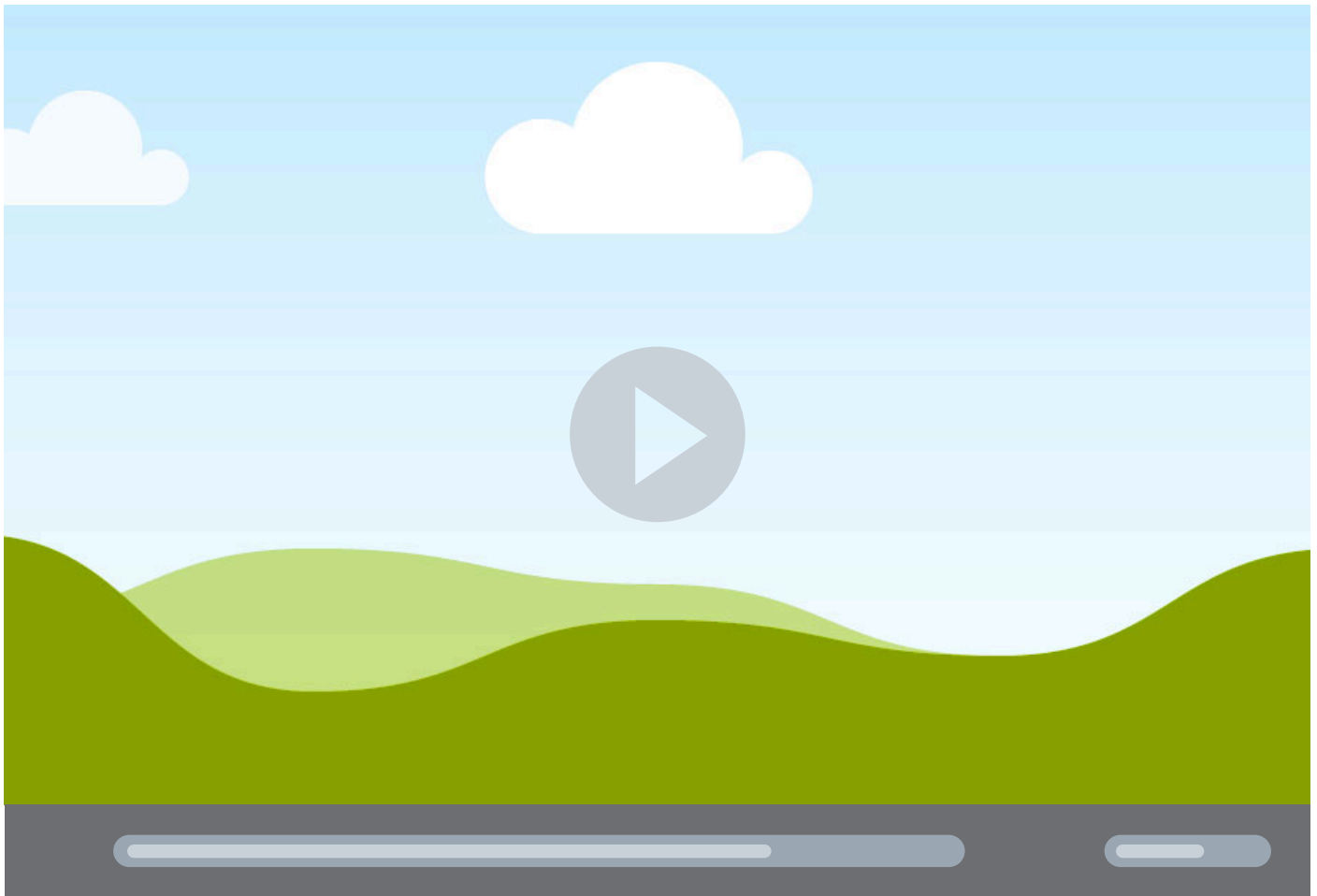
Decarbonisation is achieved by switching to usage of low carbon energy sources.



Detailed Simple language explanation

It means making less dirty gas (CO₂) go into the air by using cleaner energy like wind or sun instead of coal or oil.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.iberdrola.com/about-us/decarbonized-economy-principles-regulatory-actions>

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l836R9WMHgI>



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DESERTIFICATION

CATEGORY: CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENTIFIC

Short Scientific Definition

Desertification is the process by which fertile and productive land degrades into arid, desert-like conditions. This phenomenon occurs due to a combination of anthropogenic factors—such as deforestation, unsustainable agricultural practices, and overgrazing—and natural factors like prolonged droughts and climate change. It damages soil, reduces vegetation, and limits the land's ability to support life.

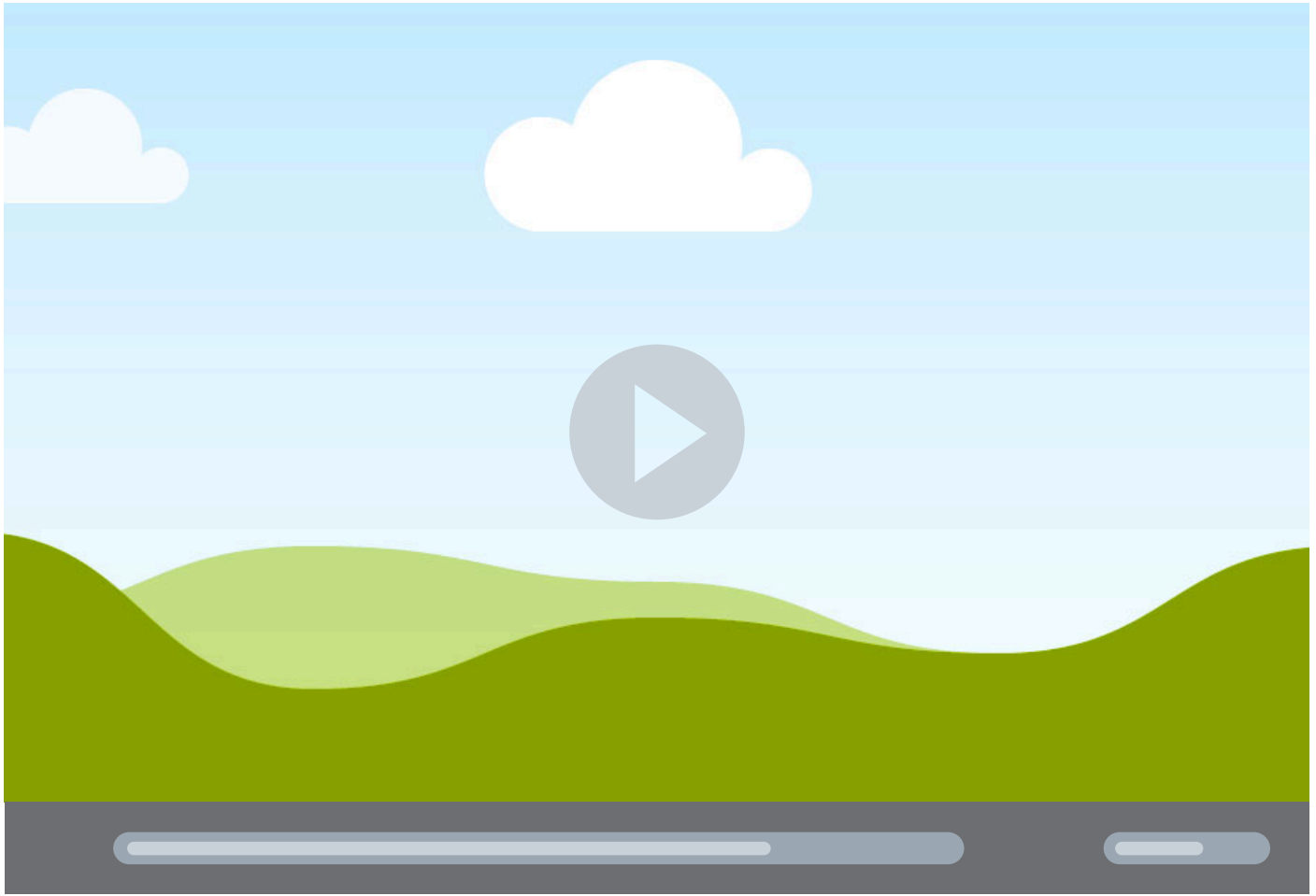
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

Land becomes dry and dead like a desert. It happens when people cut trees, use land too much, or the weather changes.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.unccd.int/land-and-life/desertification/overview>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W-dk2xF1>



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ECO FOOTPRINT

CATEGORY: CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENTIFIC

Short Scientific Definition

An eco-footprint measures how much land and resources people use to meet their needs (like food, energy, and materials) and absorb their waste (like CO₂ emissions). It shows the impact of human activities on Earth and helps compare resource use to what the planet can sustainably provide.

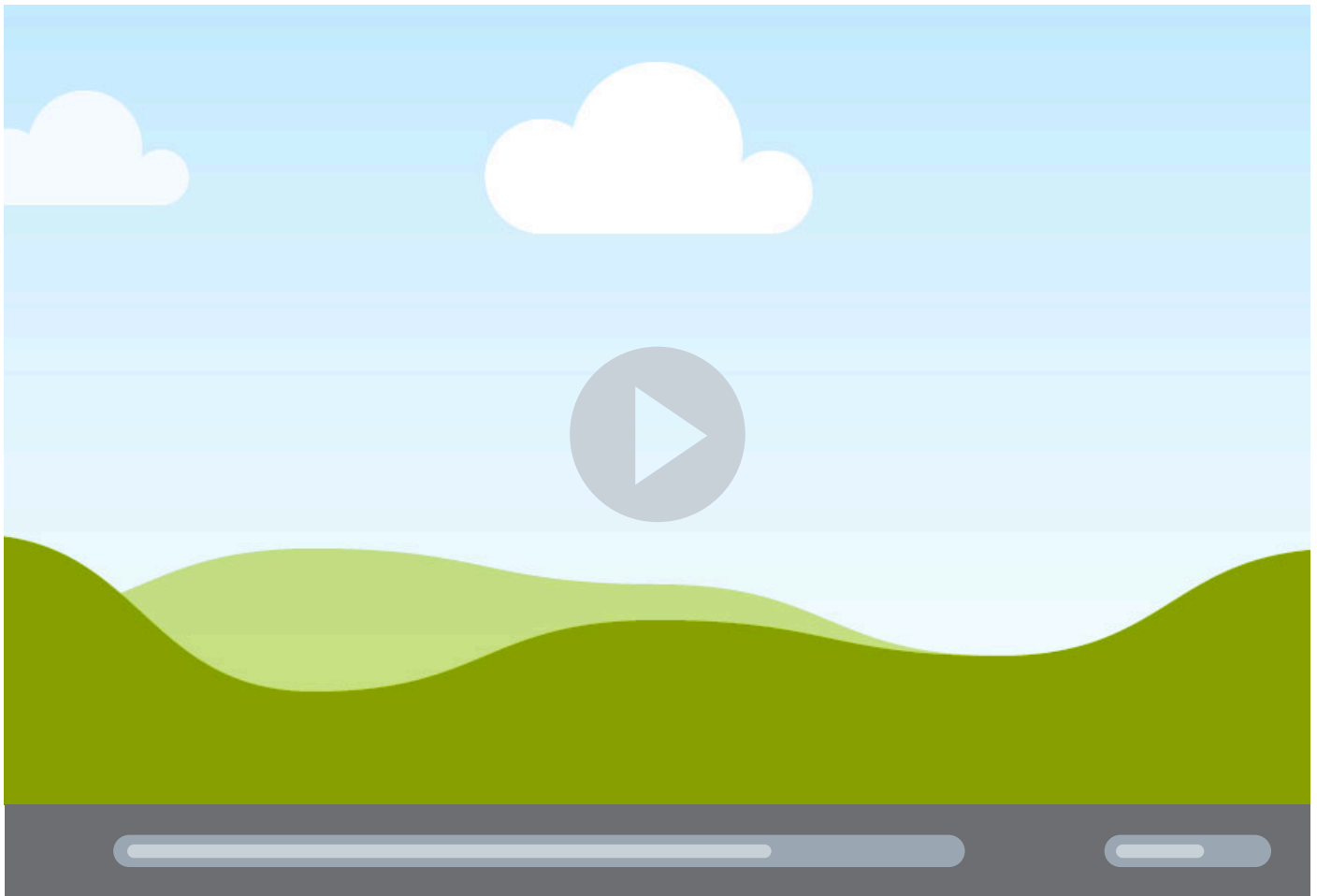
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

Eco footprint measures how much land, water, and resources people use and how much waste they create compared to what Earth can handle.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.footprintcalculator.org/en/quiz/0/food/source>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fACkb2u1JULY>



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ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCE

CATEGORY: CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENTIFIC

Short Scientific Definition

Ecosystem resilience refers to the ability of natural environments—like forests, oceans, and wetlands—to recover and maintain their functions after disturbances such as storms, fires, or human impacts. Resilient ecosystems can adapt to changes and continue to support biodiversity and human needs.

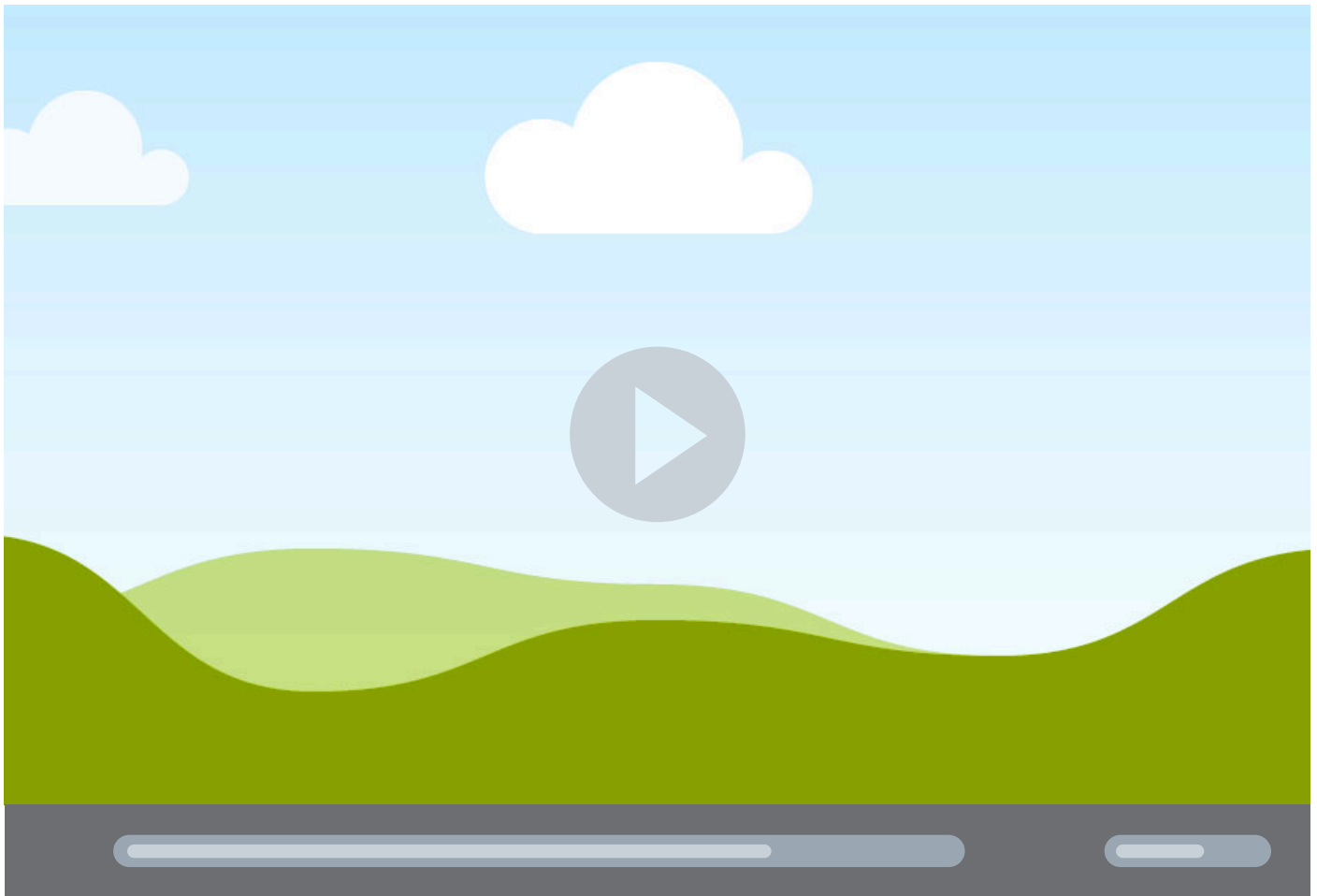
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

Ecosystem resilience is how well nature (plants, animals, and environments) can recover after problems like storms, fires, or pollution.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://passel2.unl.edu/view/lesson/d6c3e24cbc7e/2>



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GLACIER MELTING

CATEGORY: CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENTIFIC

Short Scientific Definition

AGlacier melting is the process where glaciers, large masses of ice, slowly melt due to warmer temperatures, particularly from climate change. As glaciers melt, they contribute to rising sea levels and can affect water sources for humans and animals.

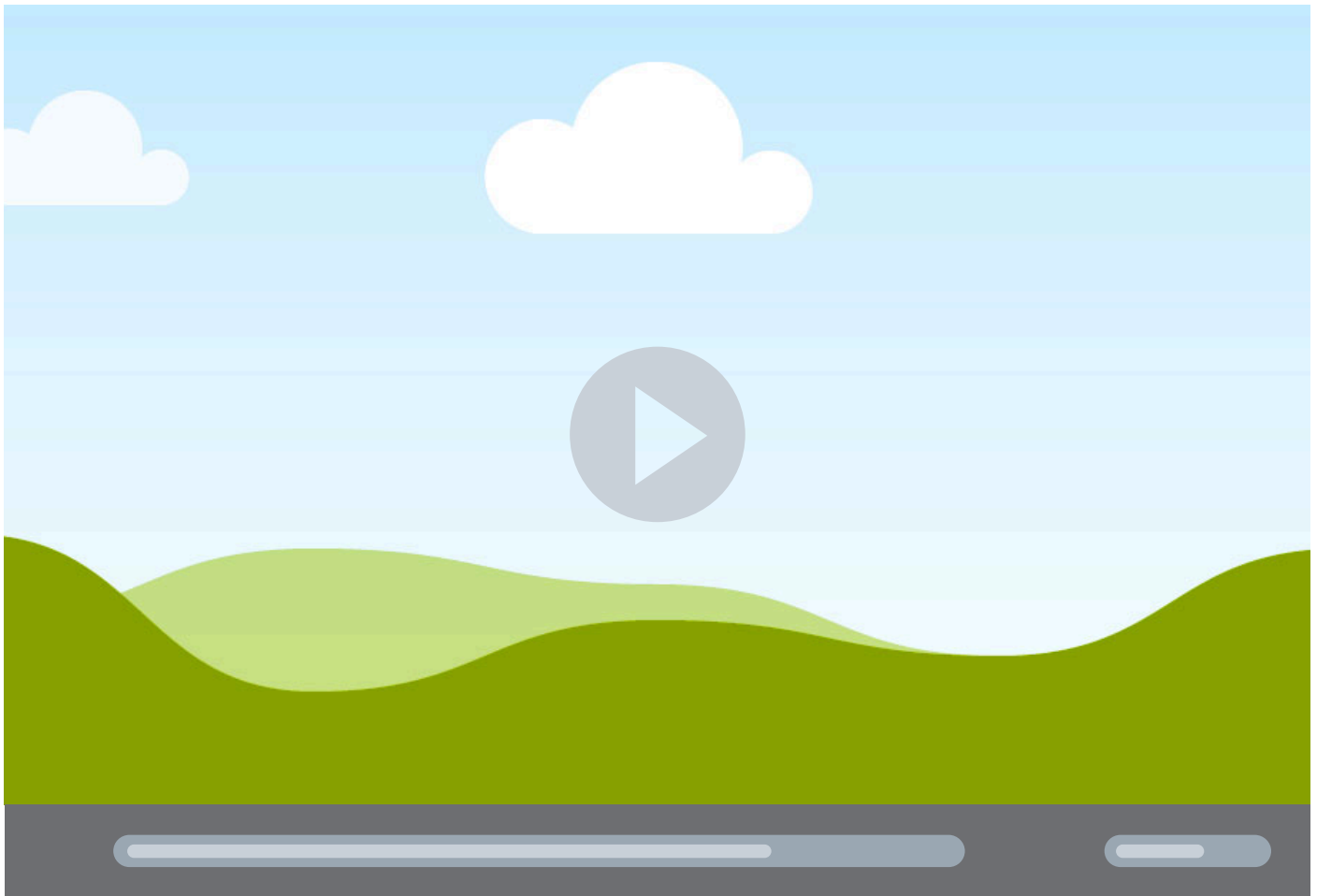
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

Glacier melting happens when ice sheets shrink because of higher temperatures, making oceans rise and reducing freshwater supplies.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0QVVzFPChAU>

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/big-thaw>



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GREENHOUSE EFFECT

CATEGORY: CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENTIFIC

Short Scientific Definition

The greenhouse effect is a natural process where gases in the Earth's atmosphere, like carbon dioxide, trap heat from the sun, keeping the planet warm enough to support life. However, human activities like burning fossil fuels are increasing these gases, leading to more heat and climate change.

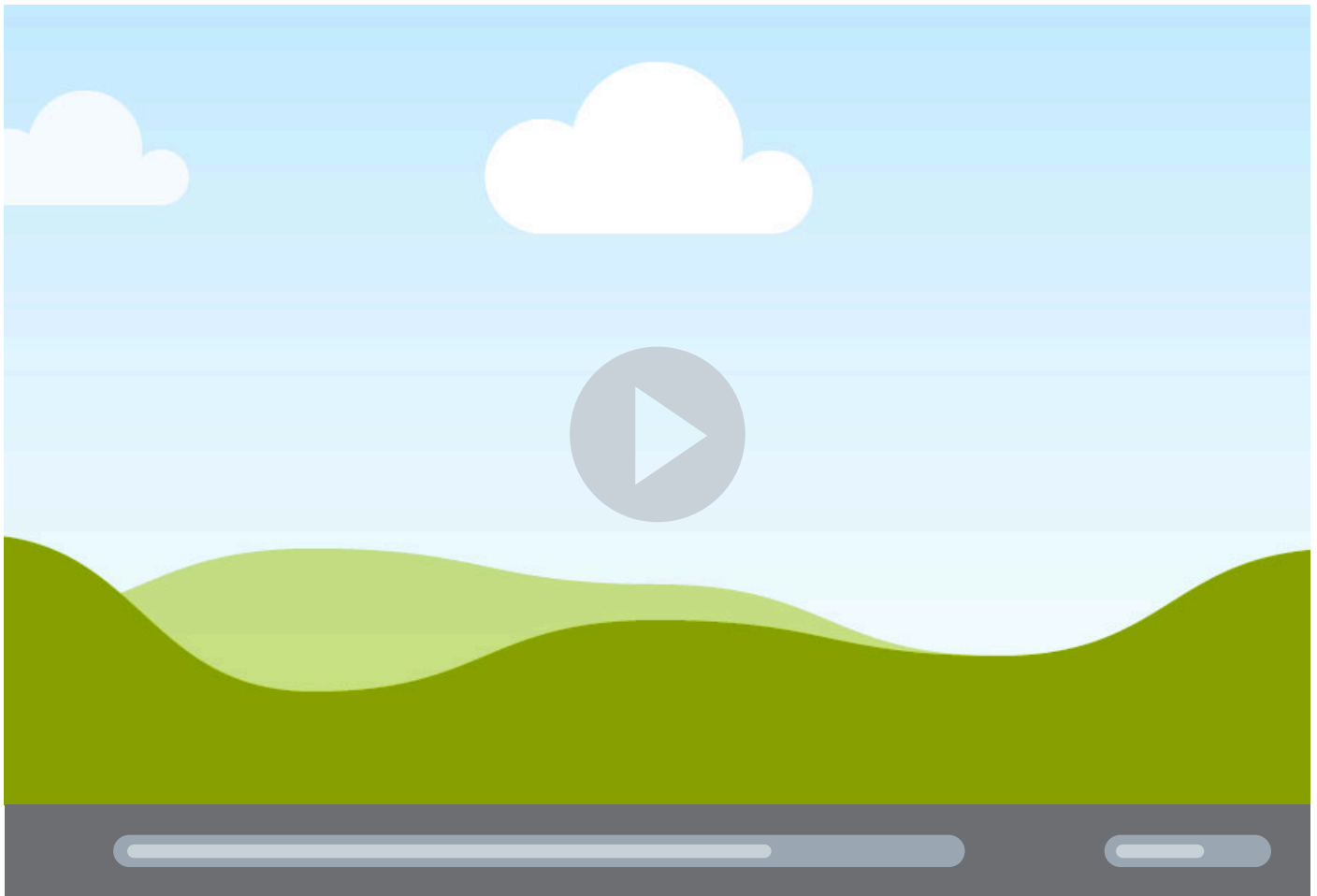
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

The greenhouse effect happens when gases in the air trap heat from the sun, keeping the Earth warm. This is good because it helps the Earth not be too cold. But if there are too many gases, the Earth gets too hot, which causes problems.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://plus.nasa.gov/video/what-is-the-greenhouse-effect/>



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MITIGATION STRATEGIES

CATEGORY: CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENTIFIC

Short Scientific Definition

Mitigation strategies are actions taken to reduce or prevent the causes of climate change, like cutting down greenhouse gas emissions, switching to renewable energy sources, and protecting forests. These strategies aim to limit the harmful impacts of climate change on the planet and society.

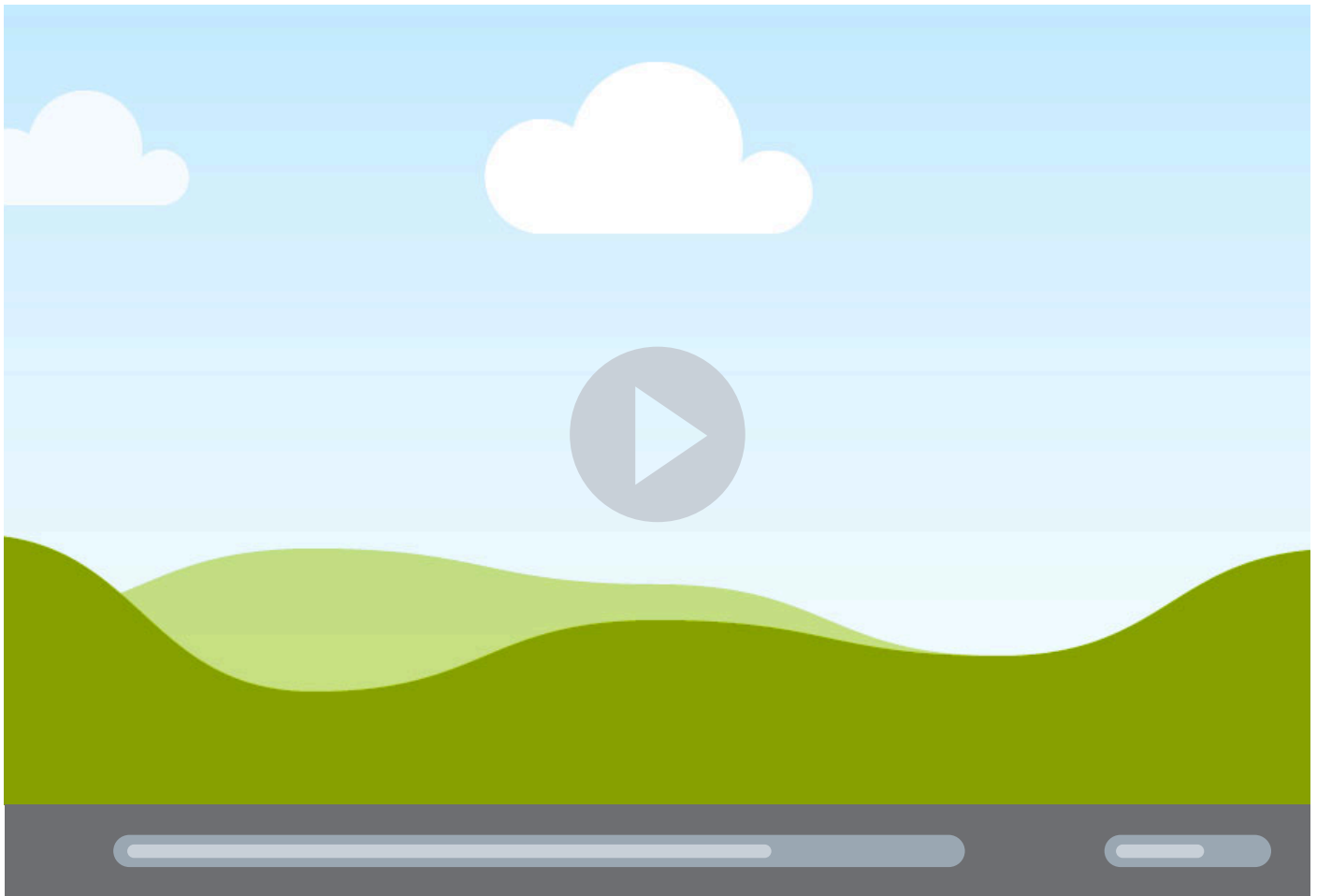
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

Mitigation strategies are actions to stop or reduce climate change. This includes using clean energy, cutting down harmful gases, and protecting trees. The goal is to make the Earth safer for everyone.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://climatepromise.undp.org/news-and-stories/what-climate-change-mitigation-and-why-it-urgent>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X9viglANE_8



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SEA LEVEL RISE

CATEGORY: CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENTIFIC

Short Scientific Definition

Sea level rise is the increase in the average level of the world's oceans, caused by factors like the melting of glaciers and ice caps and the expansion of seawater as it warms. This can lead to flooding of coastal areas and pose a threat to ecosystems and human populations.

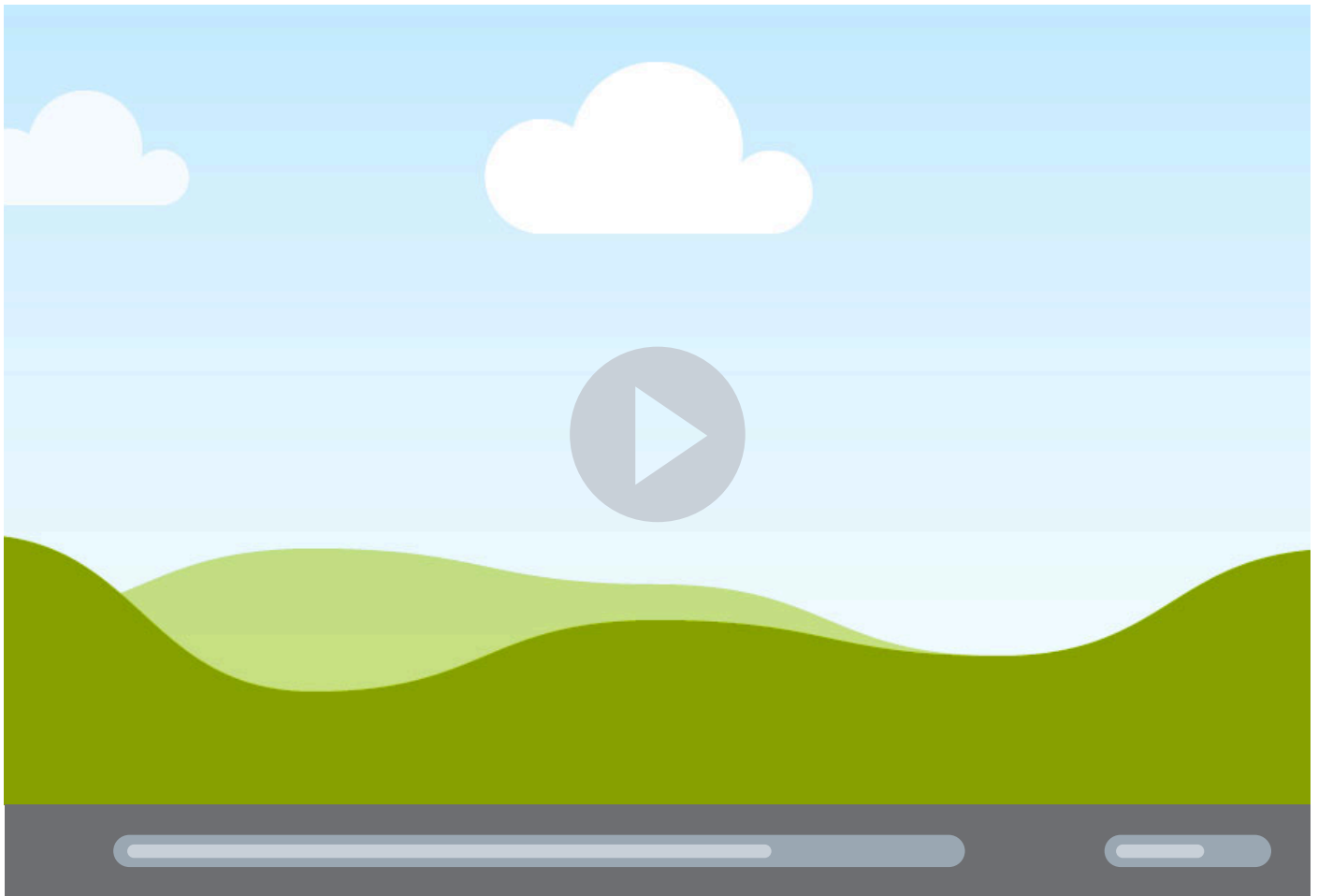
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

Sea level rise happens when ocean water levels go up. This is caused by ice melting and the ocean water getting warmer. It can lead to flooding of low-lying areas and cause problems for people living near the coast.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.floodmap.net/>

<https://www.weforum.org/stories/2024/09/rising-sea-levels-global-threat/>



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ACID RAIN

CATEGORY: EDER POLLUTION REGISTER

Short Scientific Definition

Acid rain is rain or any other form of precipitation (rain, snow, sleet, or fog) that is unusually acidic, meaning that it has elevated levels of hydrogen ions (low pH) with a pH below 5.6.

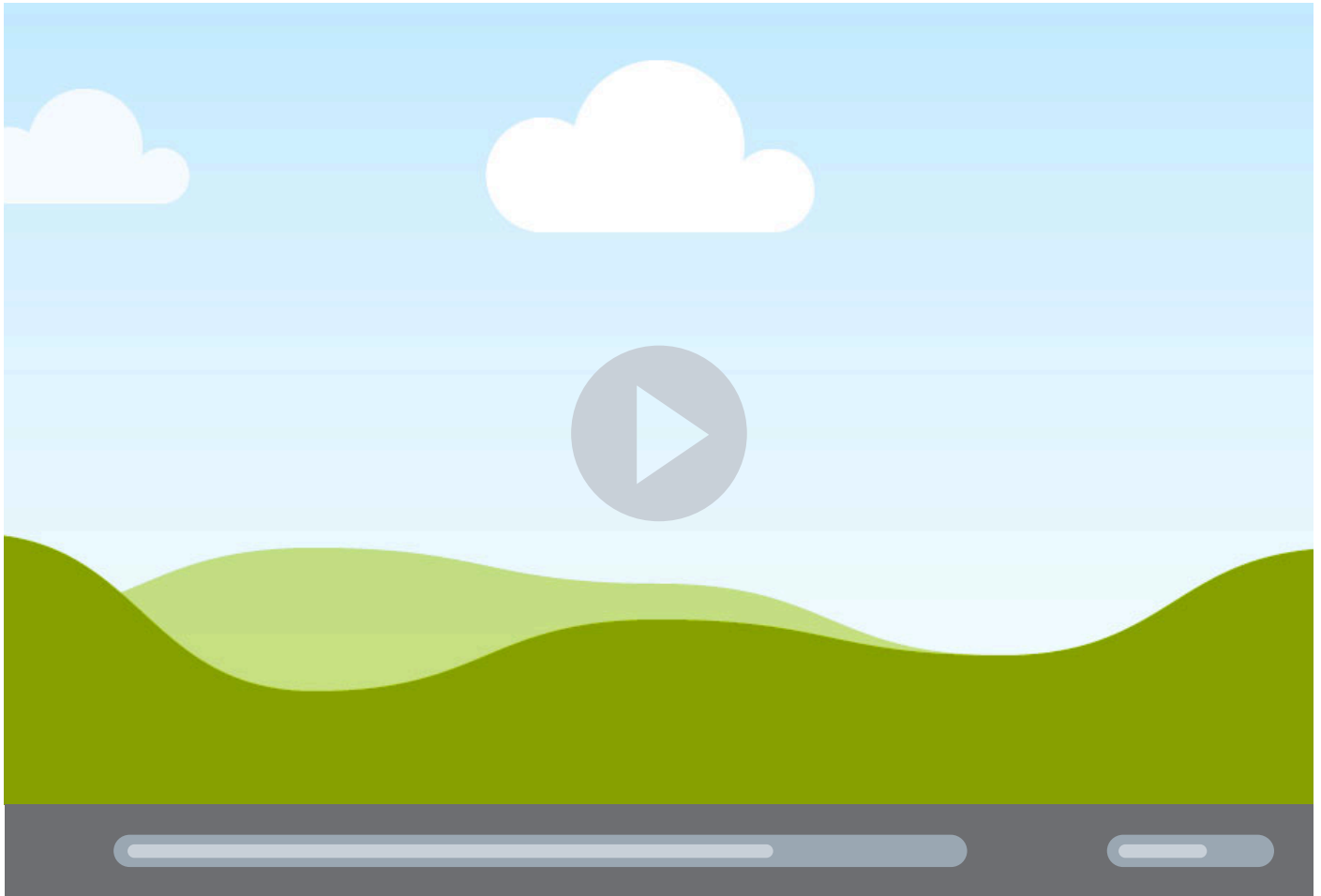
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

Acid rain is a type of rain that contains substances like sulfuric and nitric acids, which come from the air. These acids are formed when gases from factories, cars, and other sources mix with moisture in the atmosphere. This rain can harm trees, plants, animals living in lakes and rivers, and even buildings.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.epa.gov/acidrain>

<https://www.livescience.com/63065-acid-rain.html>





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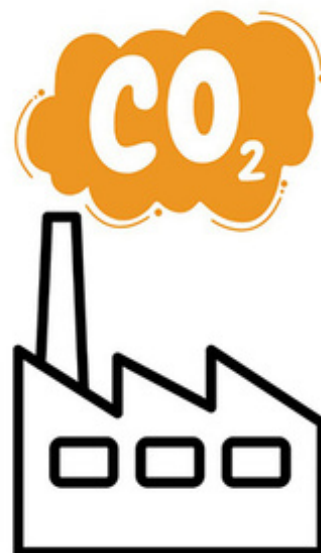
CARBON DIOXIDE (CO₂)

CATEGORY: EDER POLLUTION REGISTER

Short Scientific Definition

CO₂ is an important heat-trapping gas (colourless, odourless), also known as a greenhouse gas, that comes from the extraction and burning of fossil fuels (such as coal, oil, and natural gas), from wildfires, and natural processes like volcanic eruptions.

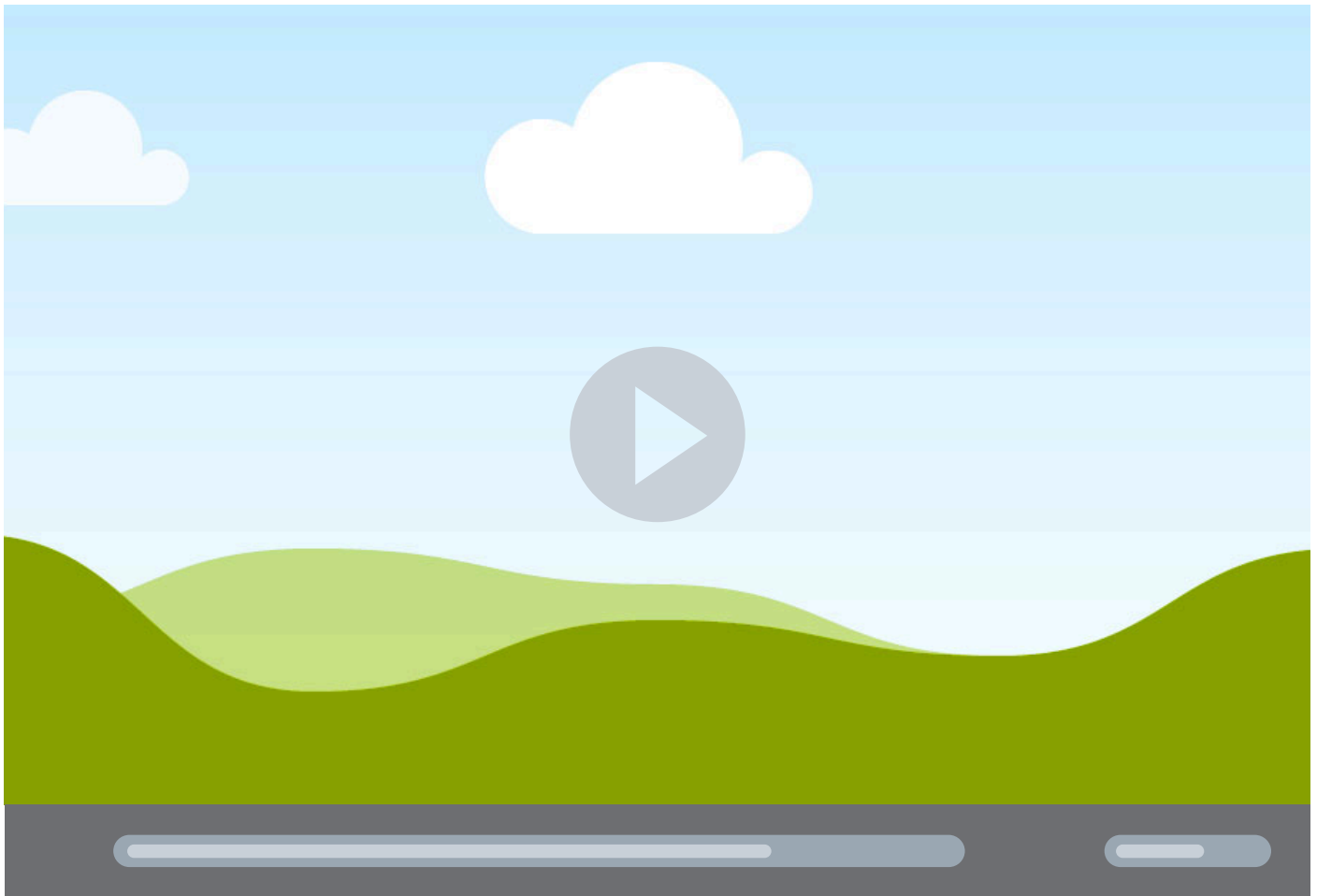
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

CO₂ is a colorless, odorless gas that is found in the air. CO₂ is the gas that humans and animals exhale, unlike plants that “inhale” CO₂ and produce oxygen. It is an important greenhouse gas that, if present in large quantities in the air, contributes to global warming and climate change.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

https://www.ces.fau.edu/nasa/module-4/causes/carbon_story.php

<https://climate.nasa.gov/vital-signs/carbon-dioxide/?intent=121>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qADD1Y886rI&t=17s>



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CHEMICAL CONTAMINANTS

CATEGORY: EDER POLLUTION REGISTER

Short Scientific Definition

Chemical contaminants are substances that are unintentionally present in food or feed, and that have the potential to cause harm.

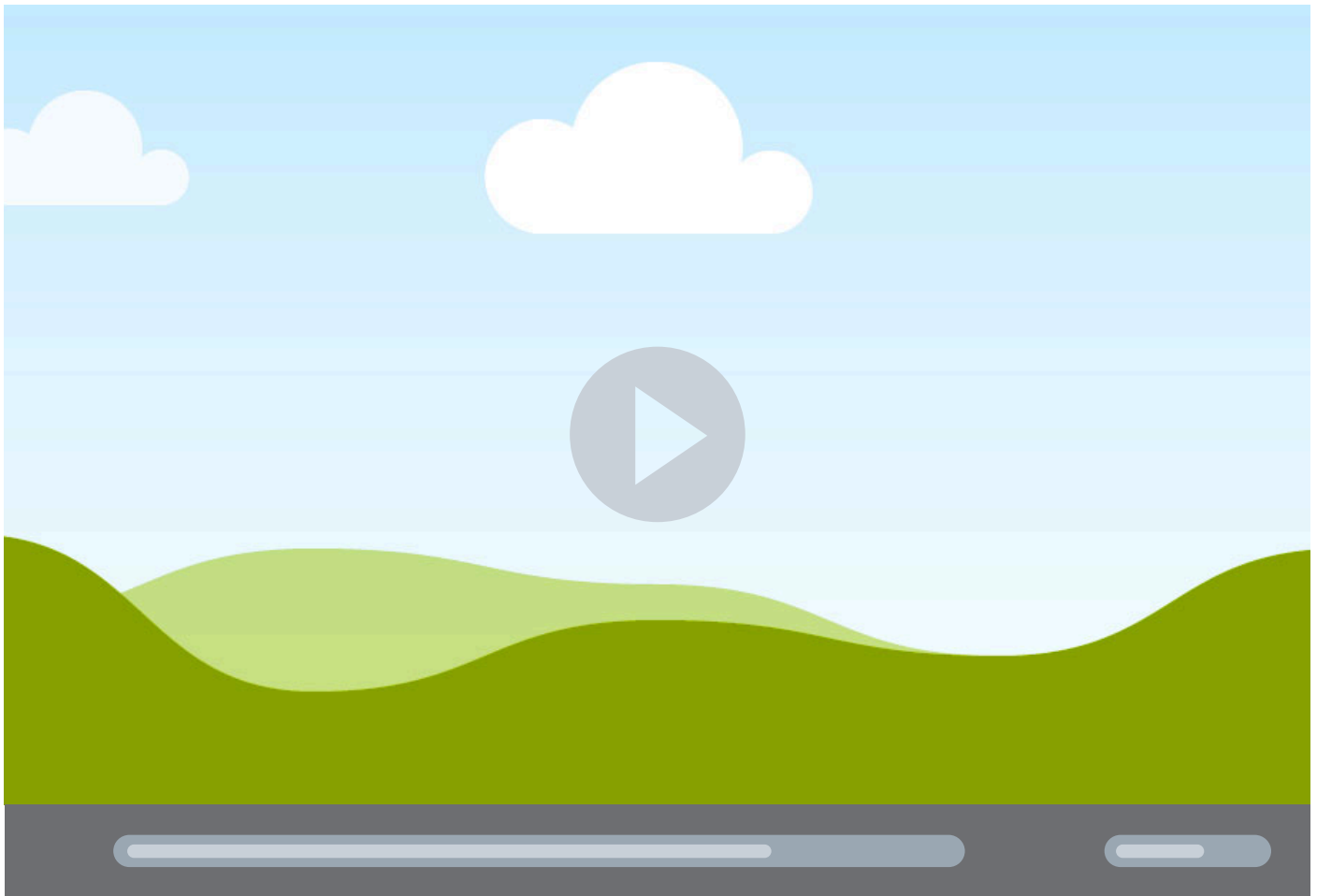
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

They are substances that are harmful to health, which can pollute water, air, soil, food. They come from factories, cars, pesticides, or other human activities. It is important to avoid them or reduce them as much as possible to protect nature and health.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/interactive_tools/contaminants-in-food-chain_17/contaminants-in-food-chain_17.png



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EMISSIONS

CATEGORY: EDER POLLUTION REGISTER

Short Scientific Definition

The act of sending gas, heat, light, etc. out into the air.

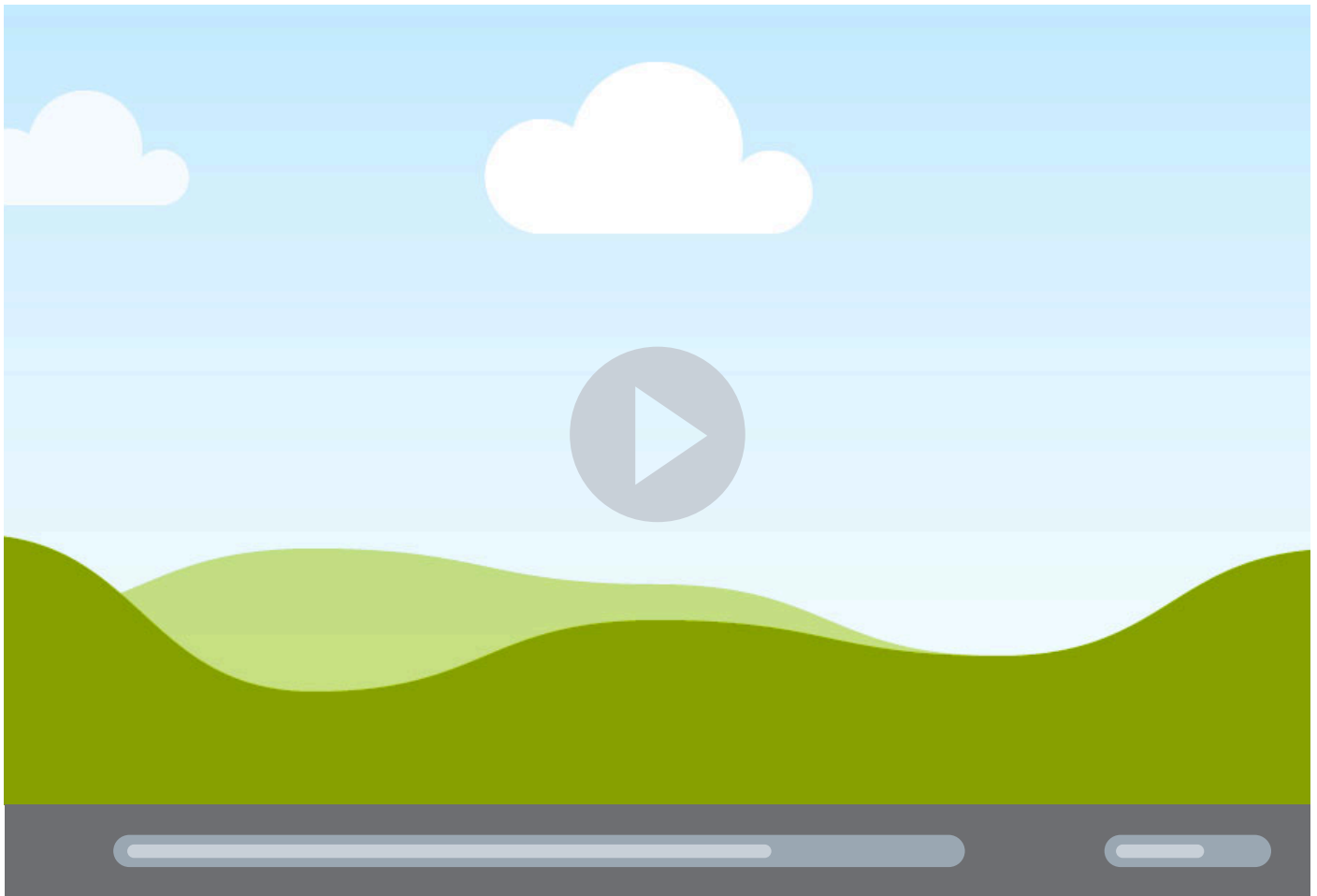
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

Technically, an emission is anything that's been released out into the open. But more often it refers to gases being released into the air, like greenhouse gasses or emissions from power plants and factories. Anytime your body emits something (sweat, drool, gas), it's also considered an emission.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watchv=5pfVOGO19VA&feature=youtu.be>



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GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

CATEGORY: EDER POLLUTION REGISTER

Short Scientific Definition

Greenhouse gas emissions is the release of gases, such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O), that trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere, contributing to the greenhouse effect and global warming.

Term Icon

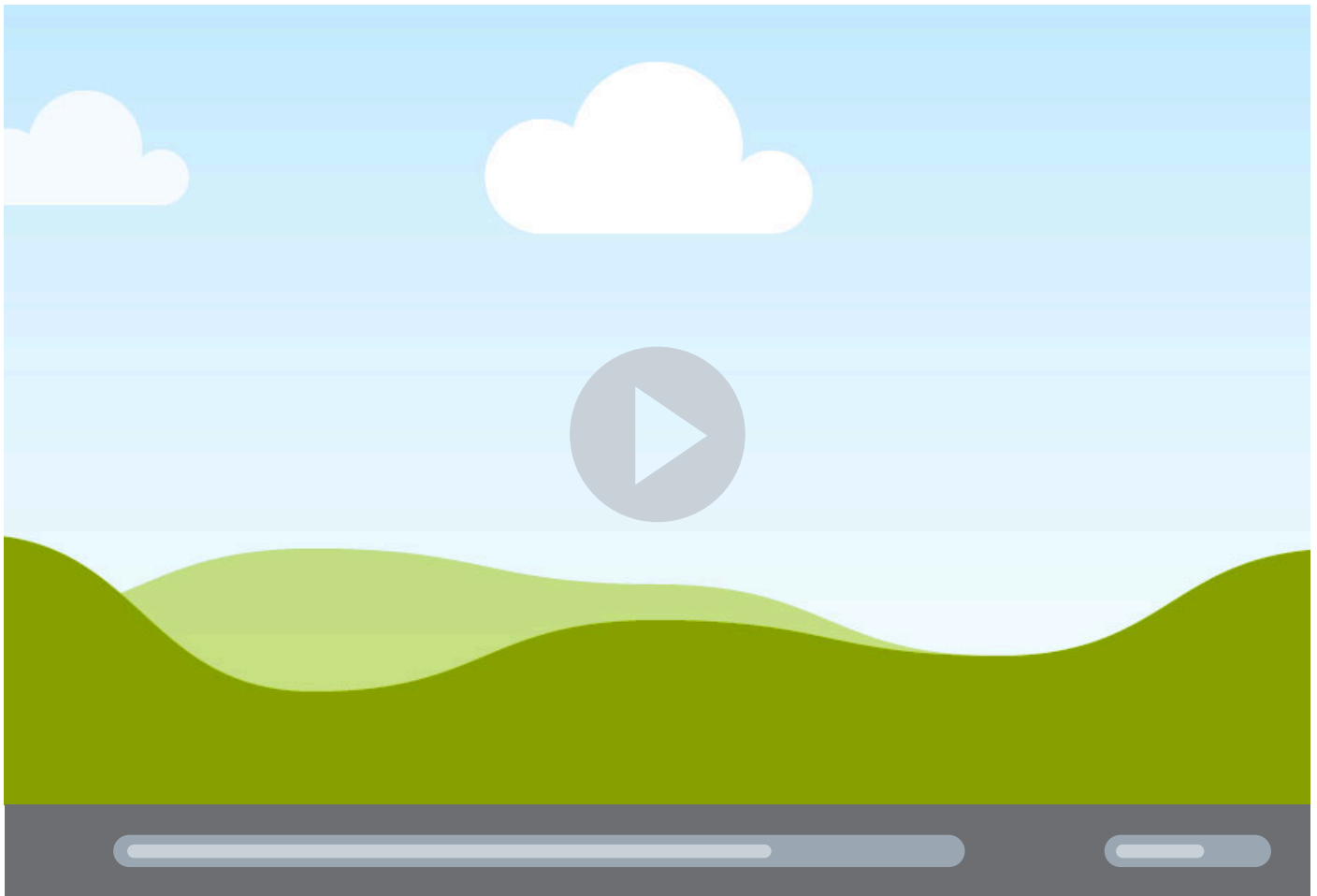


Detailed Simple language explanation

Greenhouse gas emissions are when certain gases are released into the air that make the Earth warmer. This happens because of things we do, like: 1. Burning oil, coal, or gas to make electricity or power cars. 2. Animals, like cows, releasing gases. 3. Factories and trash producing these gases.

These gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, trap heat around the Earth like a blanket. This makes the planet hotter, changing the weather and causing problems like melting ice, stronger storms, and rising sea levels.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

https://www.esa.int/ESA_Multimedia/Videos/2018/05/Paxi_-_The_Greenhouse_Effect

<https://climatekids.nasa.gov/menu/greenhouse-gases/>



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LIGHT POLLUTION

CATEGORY: EDER POLLUTION REGISTER

Short Scientific Definition

Light pollution is the excessive or misdirected artificial light that brightens the night sky, disrupting ecosystems, human health, and obscuring celestial visibility. It includes types such as glare, skyglow, light trespass, and over-illumination.

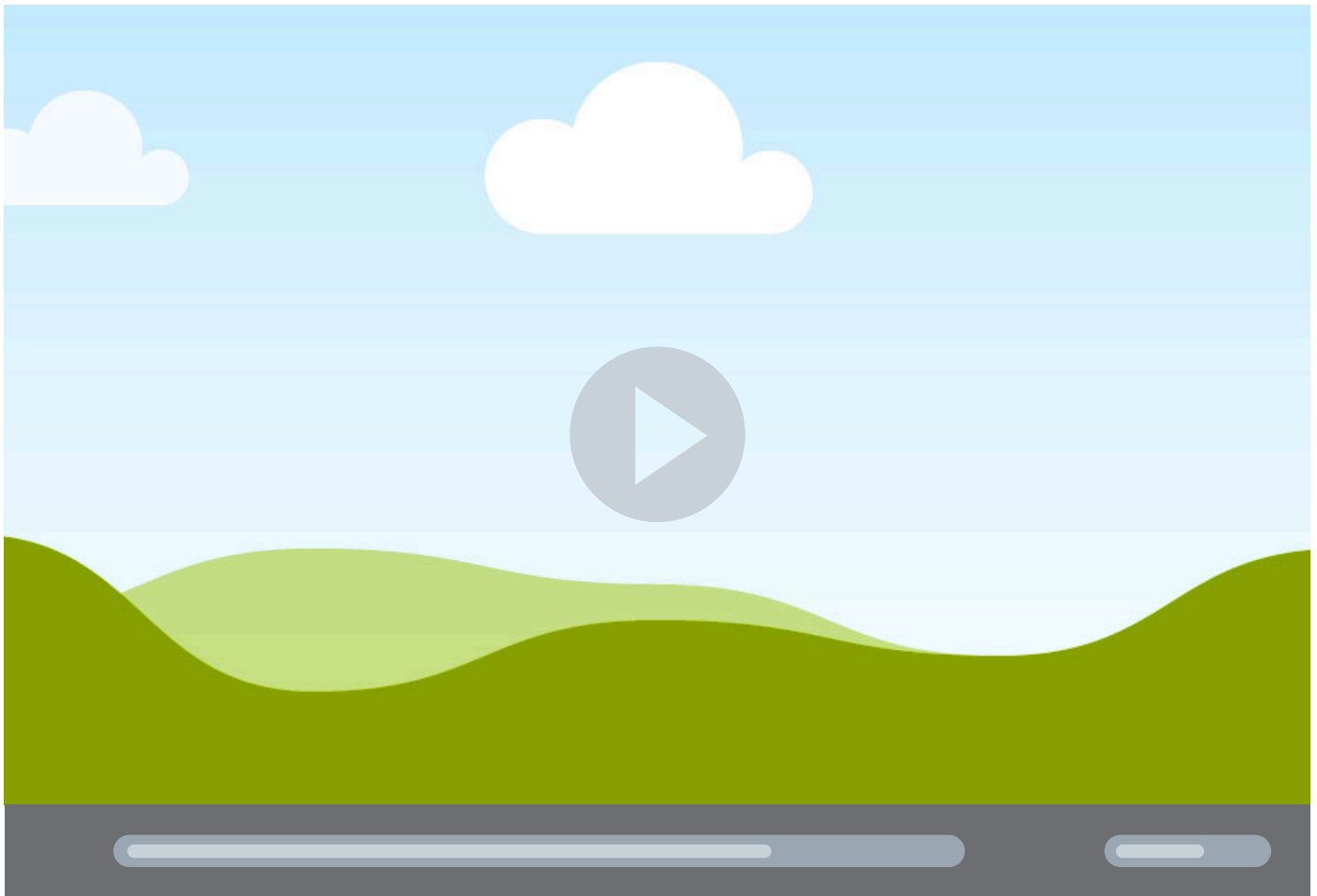
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

Light pollution is when there is too much or unnecessary light at night from sources like streetlights, advertisements, or buildings, making the sky less dark. This makes it harder to see stars, confuses animals like birds and turtles that rely on darkness to navigate, and can disrupt human sleep. We can reduce light pollution by turning off unnecessary lights and using fixtures that direct light downward instead of toward the sky.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wraMeDbLw5k>

<https://kids.earth.org/climate-change/why-are-dark-skies-important/>

https://kids.kiddle.co/Light_pollution



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Emphasys
CENTRE





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MICROPLASTICS

CATEGORY: EDER POLLUTION REGISTER

Short Scientific Definition

Microplastics are tiny pieces of plastic, usually less than five millimeters in size, that pollute the environment. These particles can originate from various sources, such as cosmetics, clothing, and industrial processes.

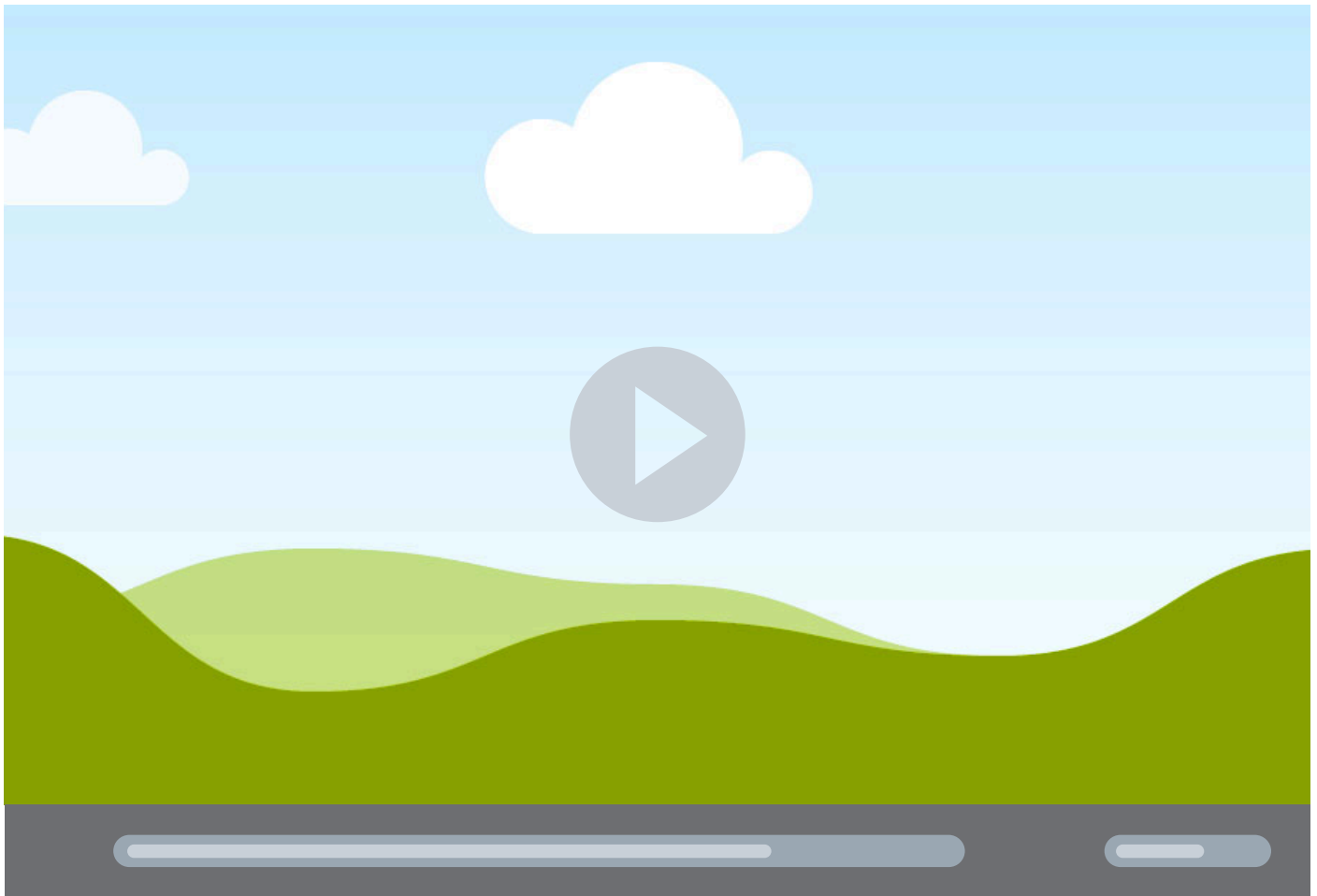
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

Microplastics are tiny pieces of plastic that end up in the air, water, and soil. They are dangerous to animals and humans because they can be swallowed or inhaled.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://magazine.hms.harvard.edu/articles/microplastics-everywhere>

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9920460/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_RBPAhx06w

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aiEBEGKQp_I



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NOISE POLLUTION

CATEGORY: EDER POLLUTION REGISTER

Short Scientific Definition

Noise pollution, also known as environmental noise or sound pollution, refers to unwanted or excessive sounds that disrupt the natural balance of the environment, human activities, or wildlife. It is considered a form of pollution because it can negatively impact health, well-being, and ecosystems.

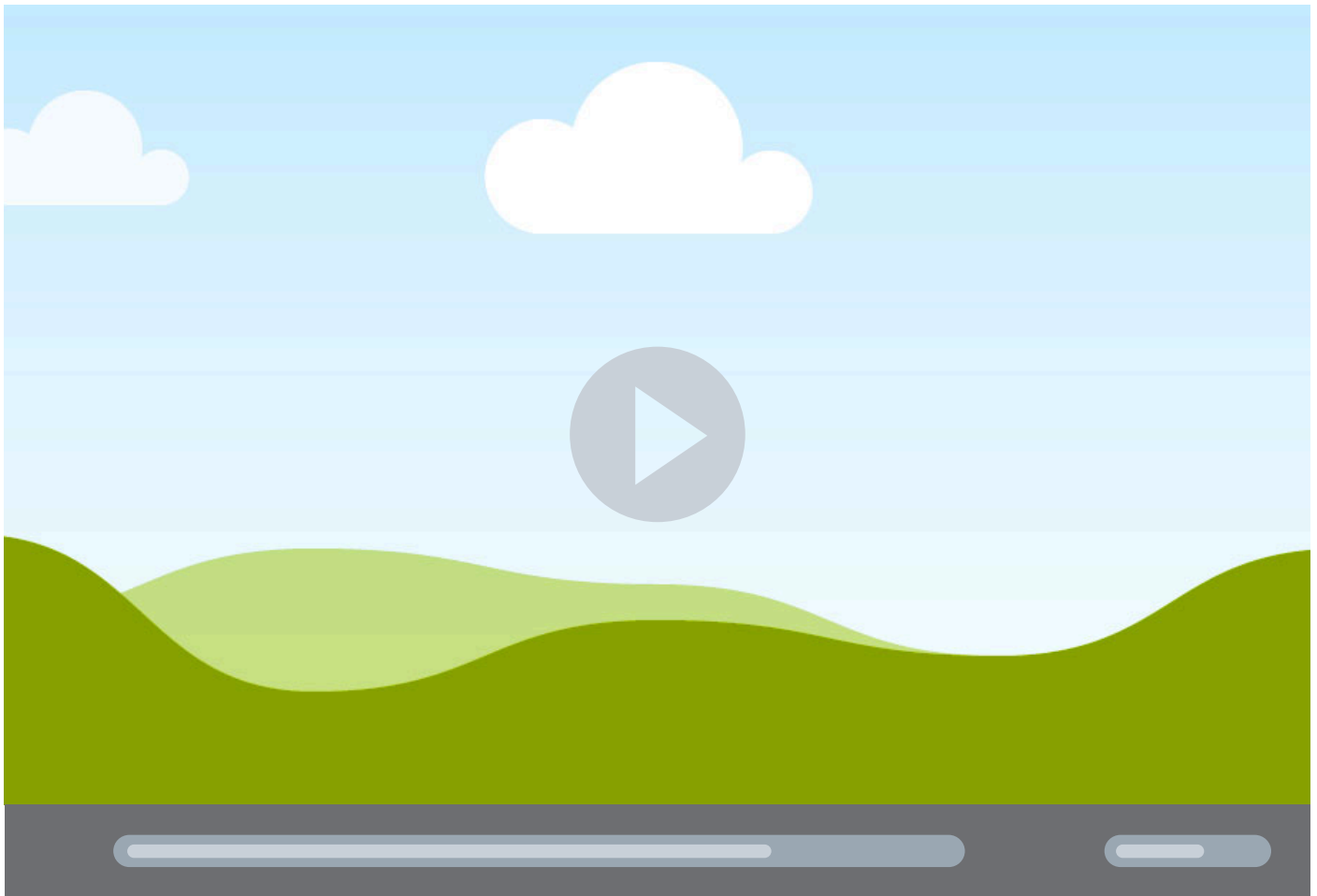
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

Example: A busy urban area with constant traffic noise, honking cars, construction work, and loud music from nearby venues creates a high level of noise pollution. This can lead to issues like stress, hearing loss, and sleep disturbances for people living in the area. It can also interfere with wildlife communication and migration patterns.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5jfmzufa8qo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p7XkZleu9aY>

<https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/noise-pollution/>



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POLLUTANT RELEASE

CATEGORY: EDER POLLUTION REGISTER

Short Scientific Definition

Pollutant release refers to the discharge or emission of harmful substances, such as chemicals or waste, into the environment—air, water, or soil. This process typically occurs as a result of industrial, agricultural, or transportation activities and can have detrimental effects on ecosystems and human health.

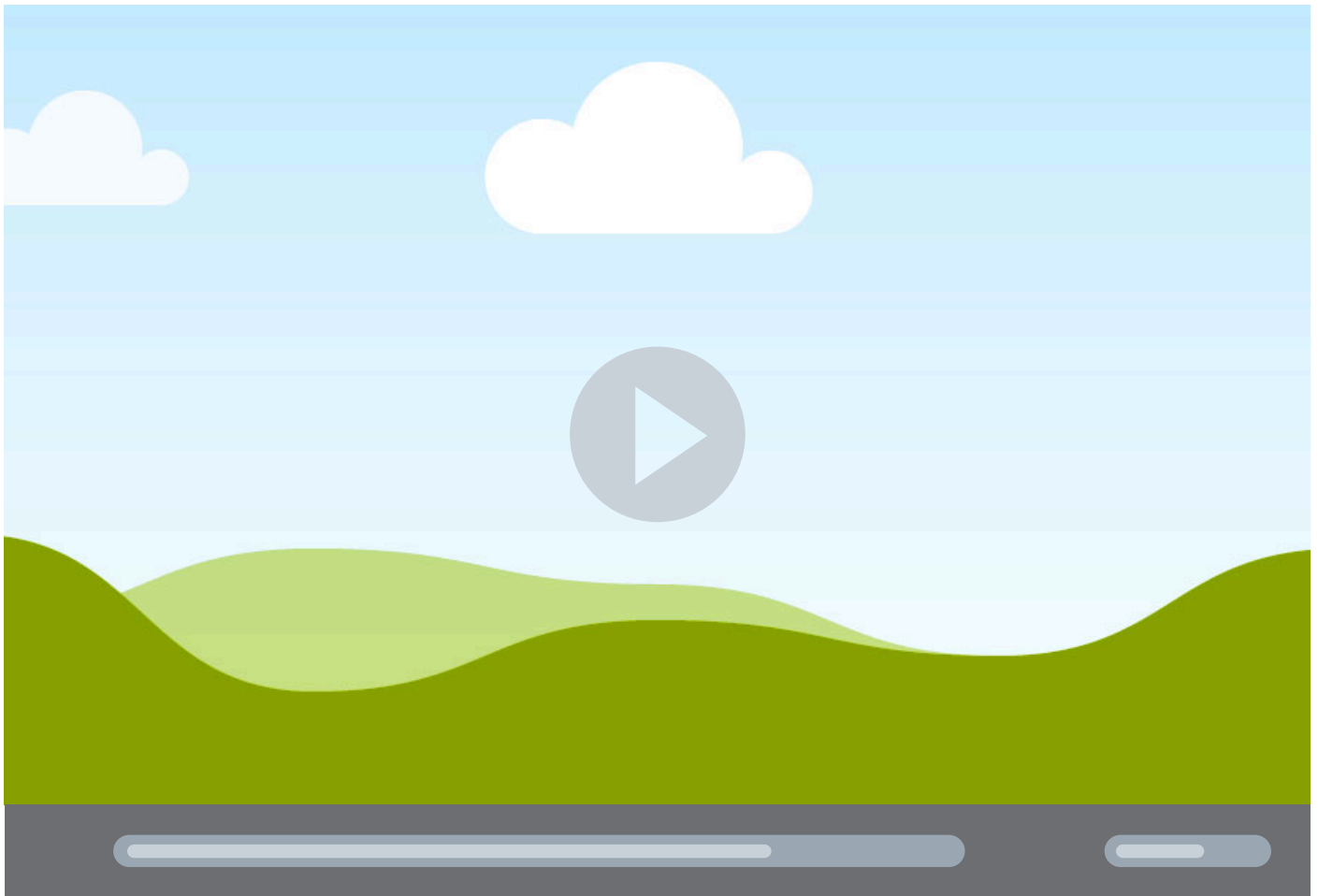
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

Pollutant release means letting harmful stuff, like chemicals or waste, get into the environment—air, water, or land. It usually happens from things like factories, farms, or cars and can hurt nature and people.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8kg585Se7fU>





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SOIL POLLUTION

CATEGORY: EDER POLLUTION REGISTER

Short Scientific Definition

Soil pollution as a part of land degradation is caused by the presence of xenobiotic (human-made) chemicals or other alteration in the natural soil environment. It is typically caused by industrial activity, agricultural chemicals or improper disposal of waste.

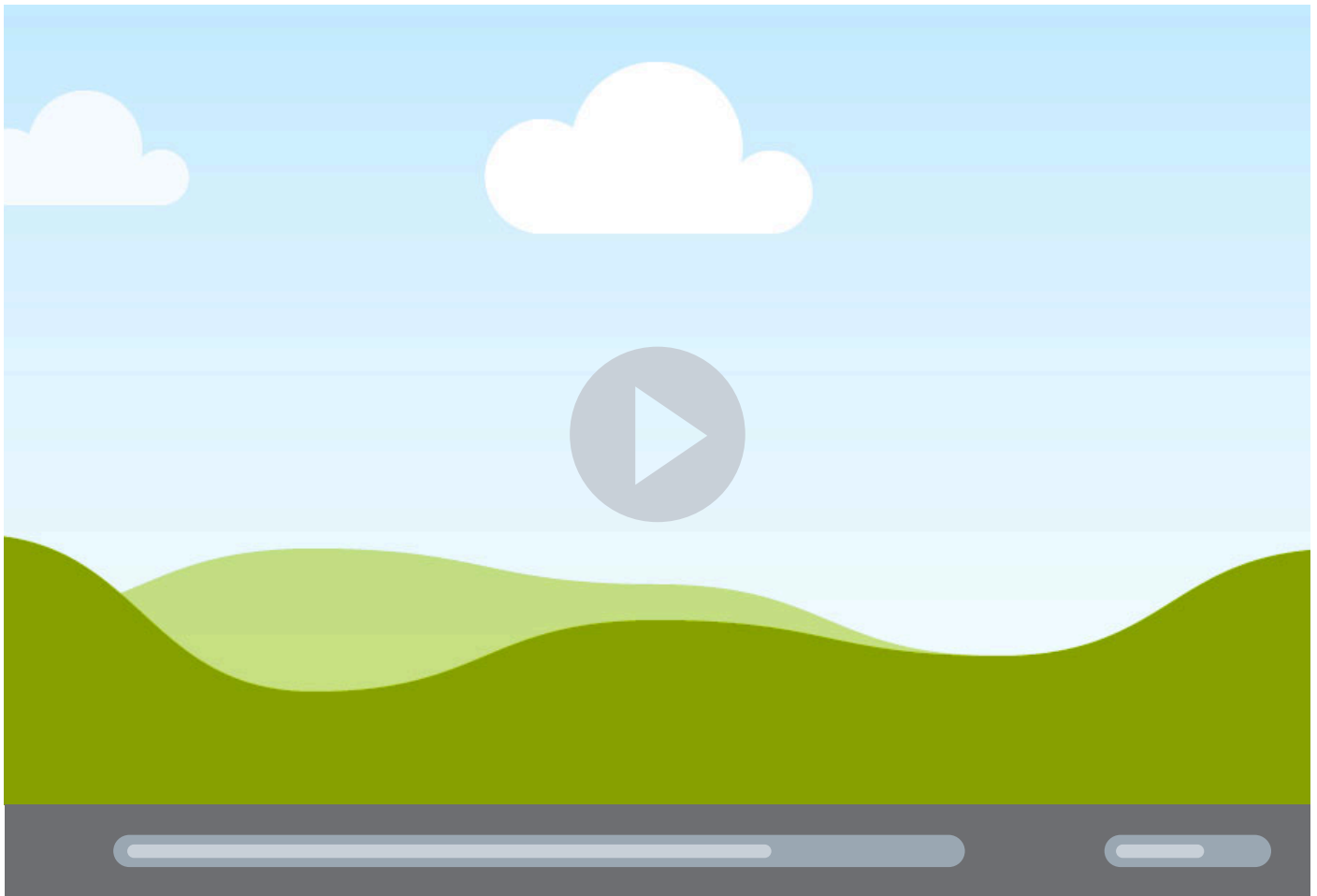
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

Soil pollution happens when harmful chemicals, often from factories, farming, or trash, make the soil unhealthy. For example, pesticides used on crops can stay in the soil and harm plants and animals.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://study.com/academy/lesson/video/soil-pollution-lesson-for-kids.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iIHw8gf6LqY>



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WATER POLLUTION

CATEGORY: EDER POLLUTION REGISTER

Short Scientific Definition

Water pollution refers to the contamination of water bodies—such as rivers, lakes, oceans, and groundwater—with harmful substances, including chemicals, waste, or toxins. These pollutants often originate from industrial, agricultural, or domestic sources, and their presence in water can negatively impact aquatic ecosystems and pose significant risks to human health.

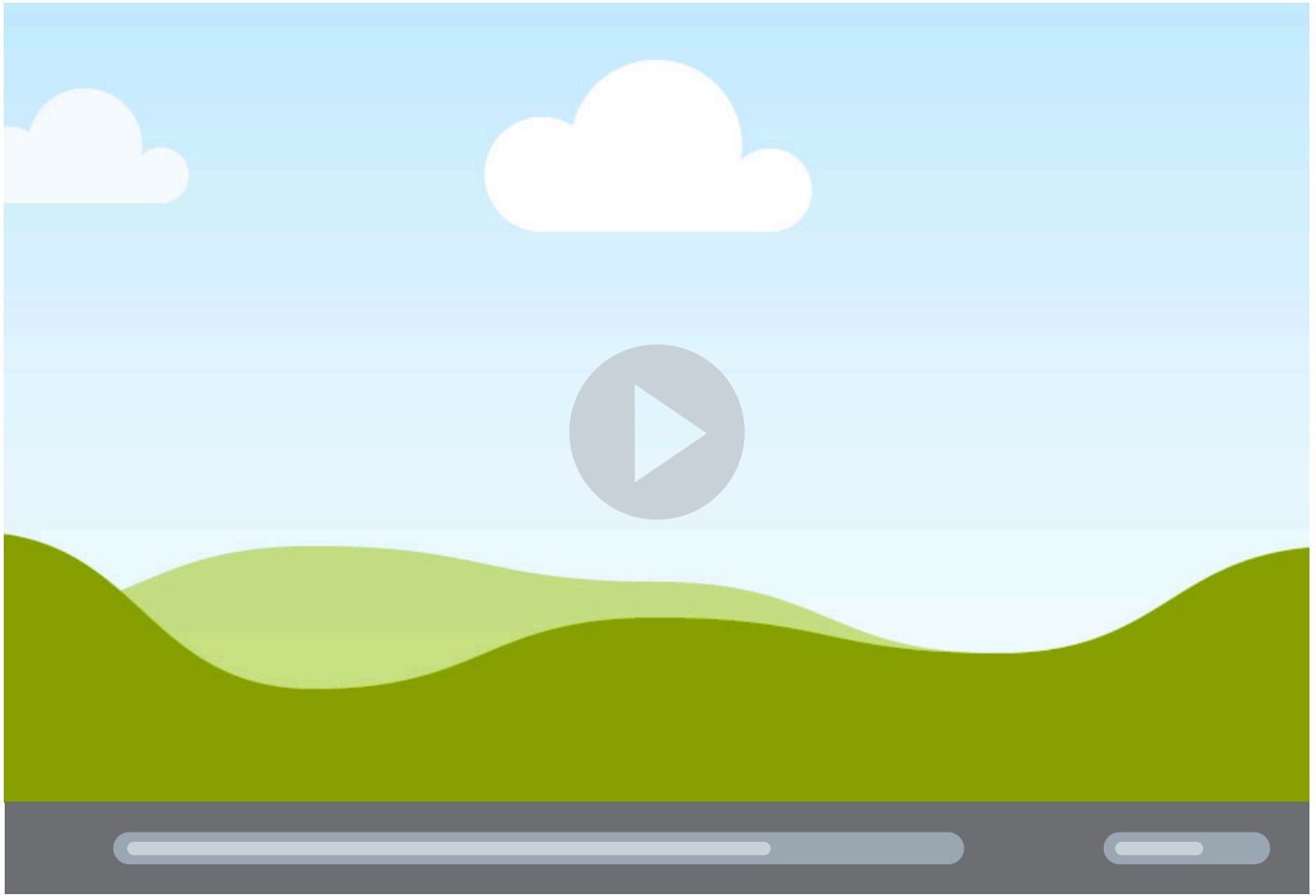
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

Water pollution is when harmful things like chemicals or waste get into water, such as rivers, lakes, or oceans. This can come from places like factories, farms, or sewage. It can harm animals in the water and be bad for people's health.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MEb7nnMLcaA>



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OZONE DEPLETION

CATEGORY: EDER POLLUTION REGISTER

Short Scientific Definition

Ozone depletion refers to the thinning or reduction of the ozone layer in the Earth's atmosphere. The ozone layer protects us from harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun. When the ozone layer becomes thinner, more UV radiation reaches the Earth, which can harm human health, wildlife, and the environment. This depletion is mainly caused by chemicals like chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) used in products like air conditioners and aerosol sprays.

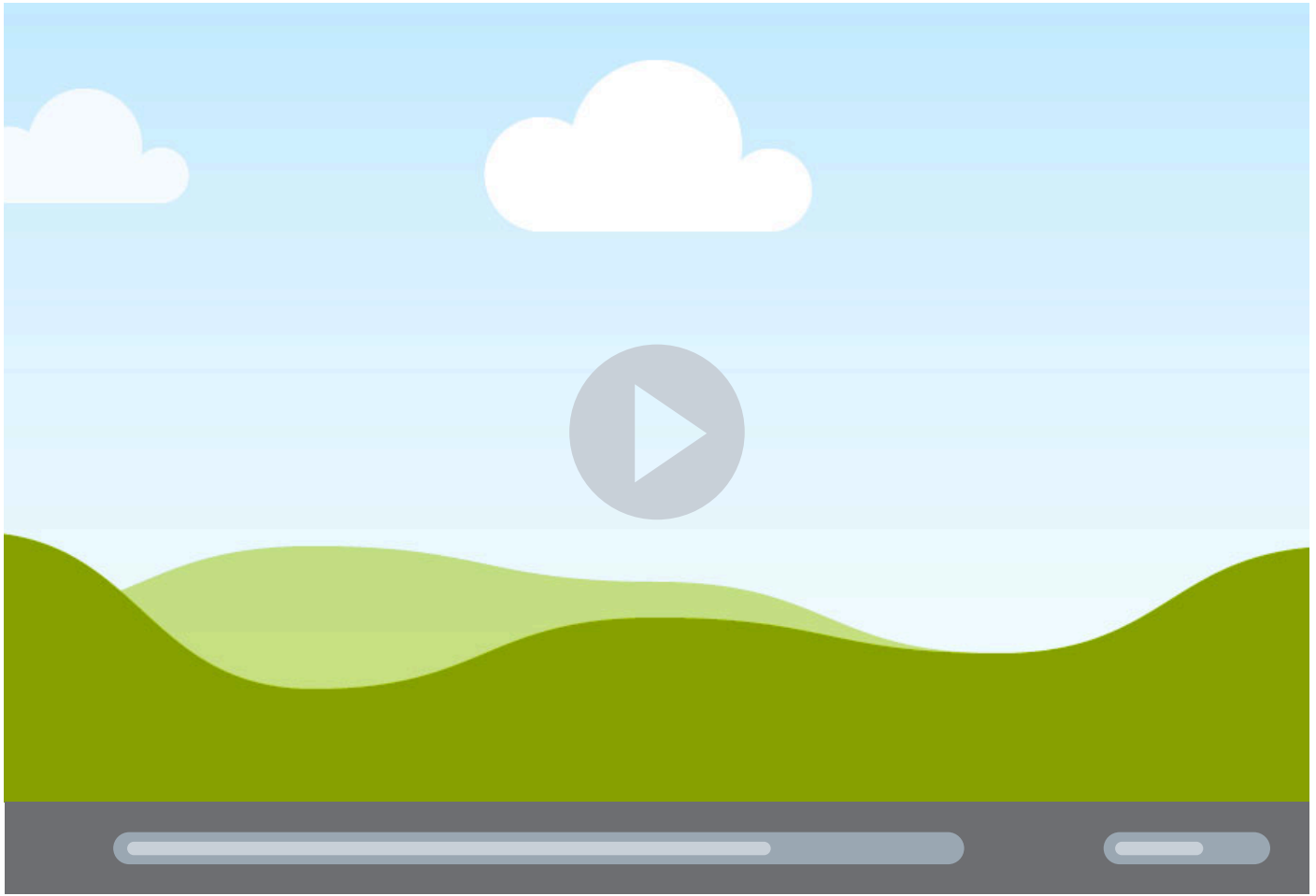
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

Ozone depletion is when the ozone layer gets thinner. The ozone layer helps protect us from the sun's harmful rays. When it gets weaker, more of those rays can reach the Earth, which can be bad for people, animals, and plants. This happens because of chemicals in things like air conditioners and spray cans.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ckULkfv3Hb0>



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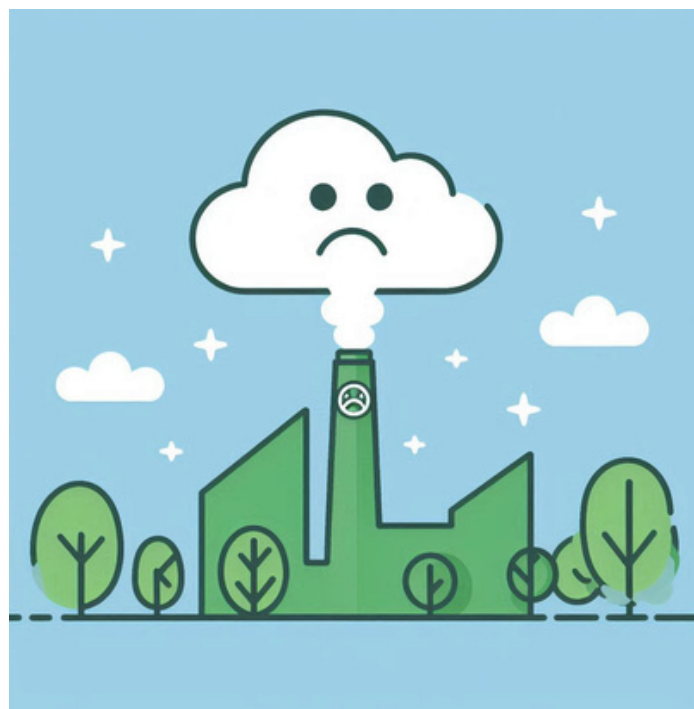
AIR POLLUTION

CATEGORY: ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS TERMS

Short Scientific Definition

Air Pollution - change in air quality through chemical, biological or physical contaminants, which may have negative effects on human and animal health, climate and material assets.

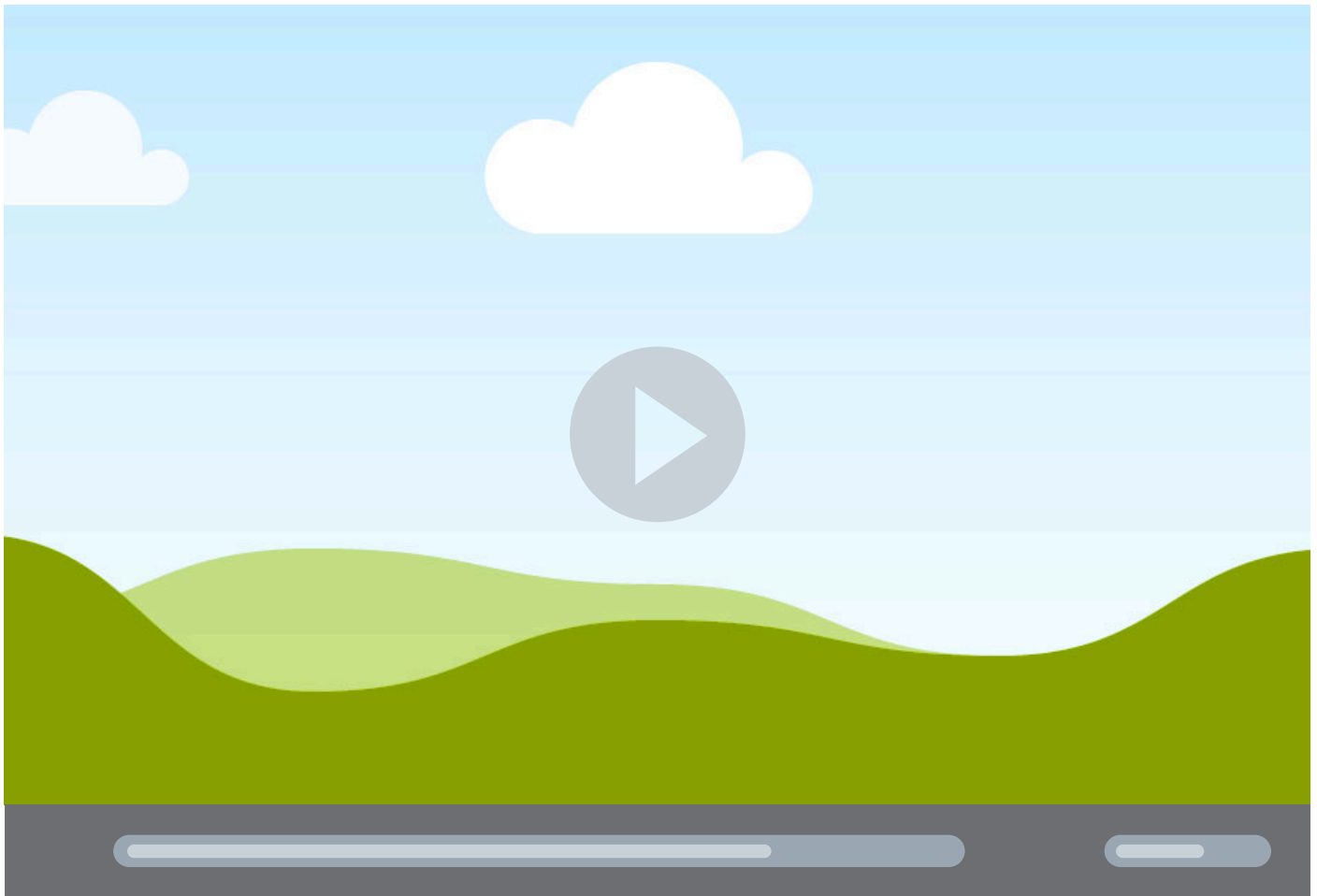
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

The air we breathe is dirty due to certain substances: gas, dust, smoke. These substances come from cars, factories, burning wood or garbage. Air pollution can affect people's health, especially breathing and can damage the heart.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_o2DzYRPO6Q



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AIRBORNE CONTAMINANTS

CATEGORY: ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS TERMS

Short Scientific Definition

Airborne contaminants – a mixture of natural and artificial substances in the air we breathe that interfere with human health and quality of life. There are three categories of contaminants: physical (including noise pollution and radioactive pollution), chemical (various substances released into the environment in gaseous, liquid or solid particle form), biological (with pathogenic germs, putrefactive organic substances, etc.).

Term Icon

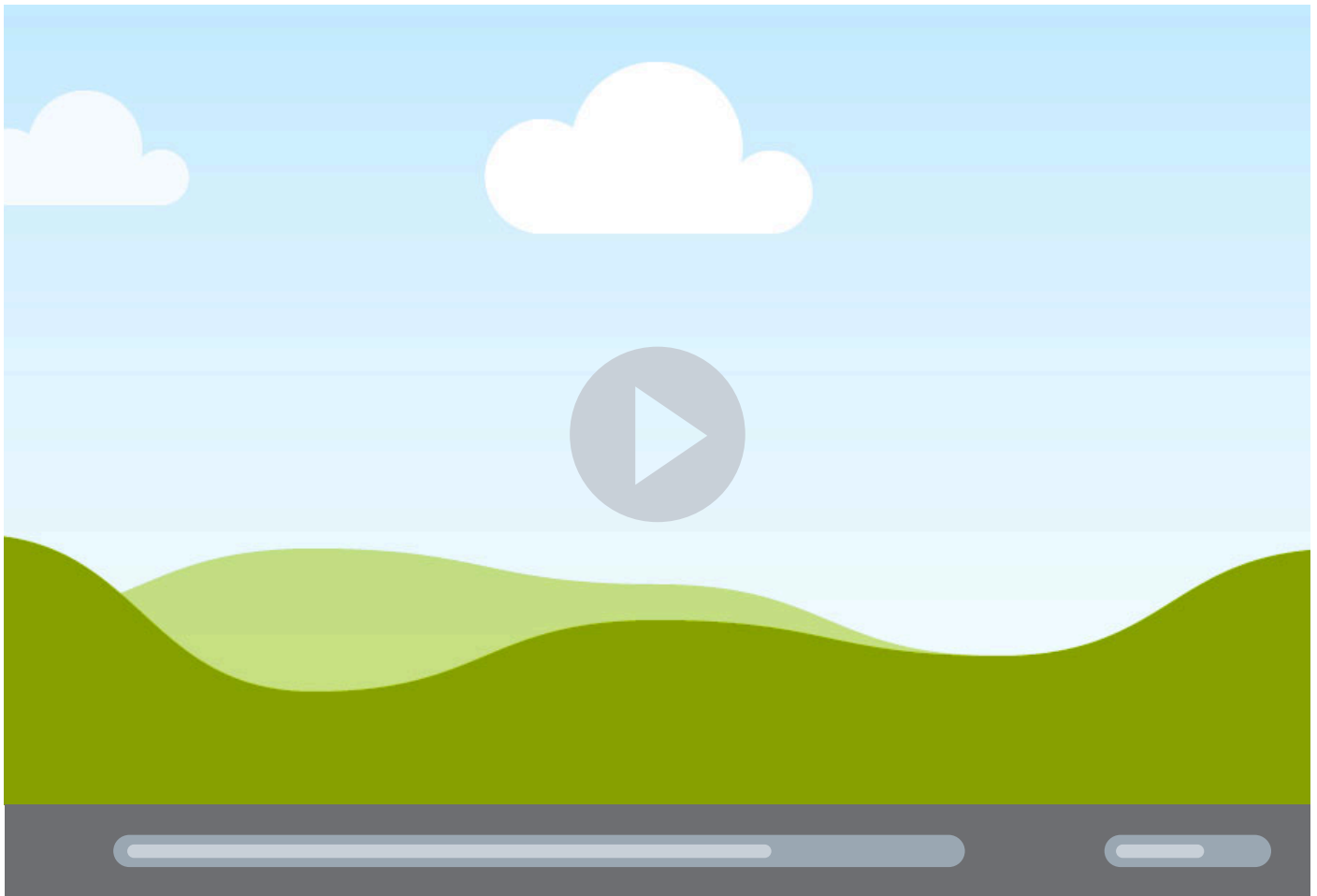


Detailed Simple language explanation

Harmful substances found in the air: gas, dust, smoke, chemicals..., which come from cars, factories or other sources. Pollutants can make the air unhealthy for people, animals, plants.

Air contaminants exist both in open environments (outdoors) and in closed environments (indoors).

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://ehs.utexas.edu/design-construction/construction/airborne-contaminants>



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DEFORESTATION

CATEGORY: ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS TERMS

Short Scientific Definition

Deforestation represents the totality of actions by which forests are completely removed from certain areas, both due to natural and especially anthropogenic causes

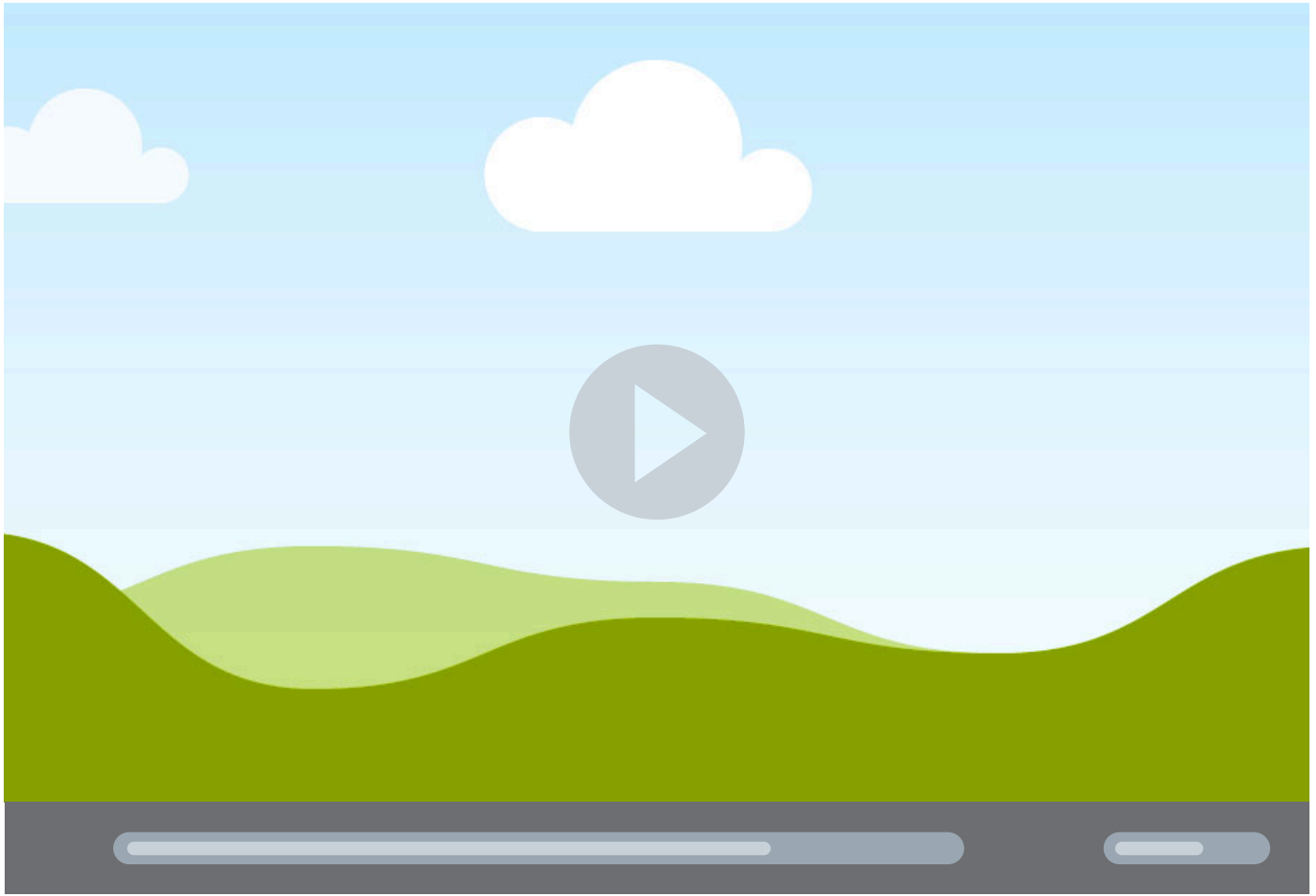
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

Cutting down or destroying forests for various reasons. Without forests, animals lose their homes, and the air becomes less clean, as trees help clean the air.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W5jFqBthJRc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ic-J6hcSKa8>



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DROUGHT

CATEGORY: ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS TERMS

Short Scientific Definition

Drought - Drought is a complex phenomenon that occurs due to the lack of precipitation and the reduction of the moisture reserve in the soil, with negative effects on plants, water areas and society as a whole.

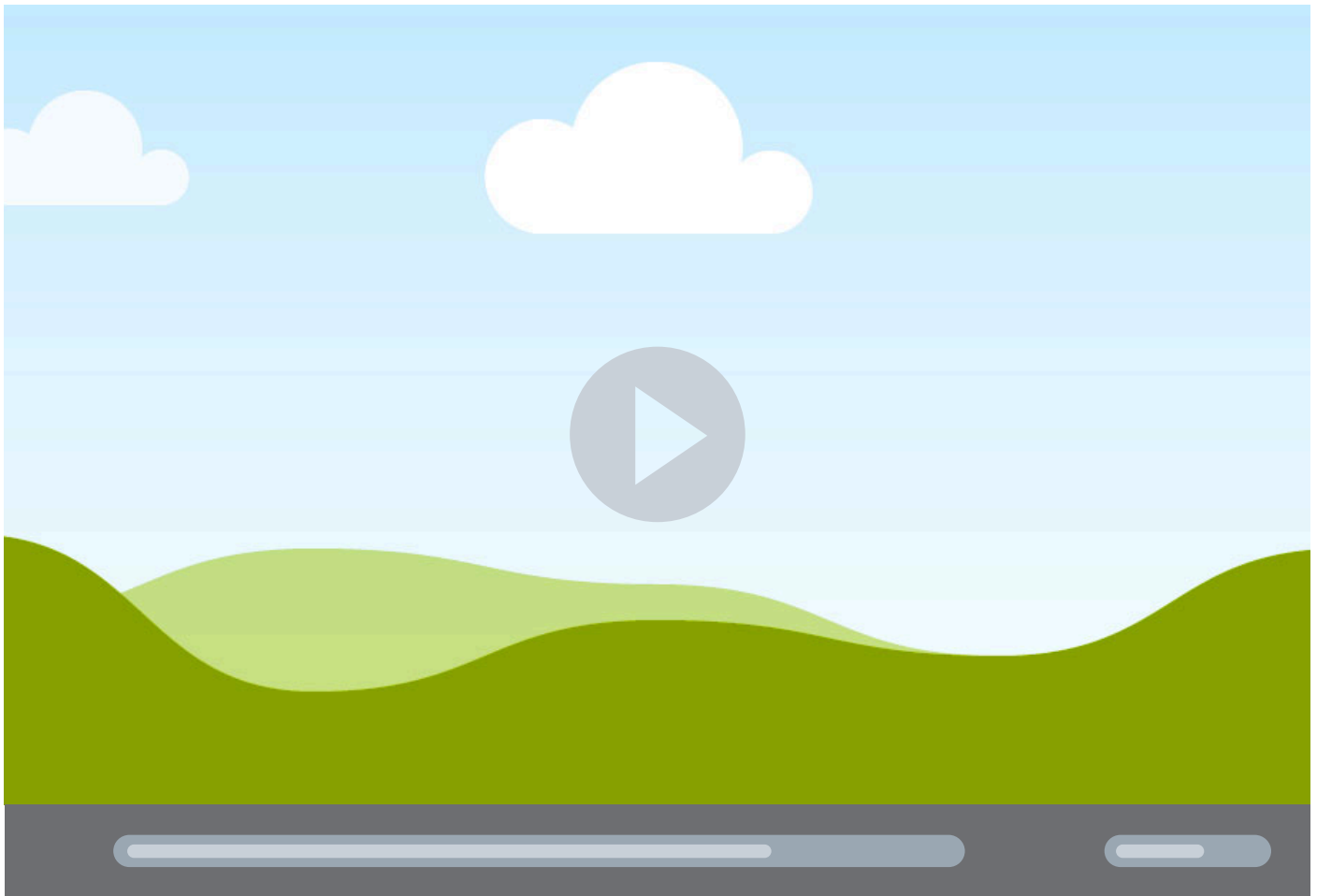
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

Drought is a long period without rain when the earth becomes very dry. Due to the drought, plants, animals and people can remain without water and sufficient food.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VtXDZEB3AmU>



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ECOCIDE

CATEGORY: ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS TERMS

Short Scientific Definition

- Ecocide: intentional environmental destruction

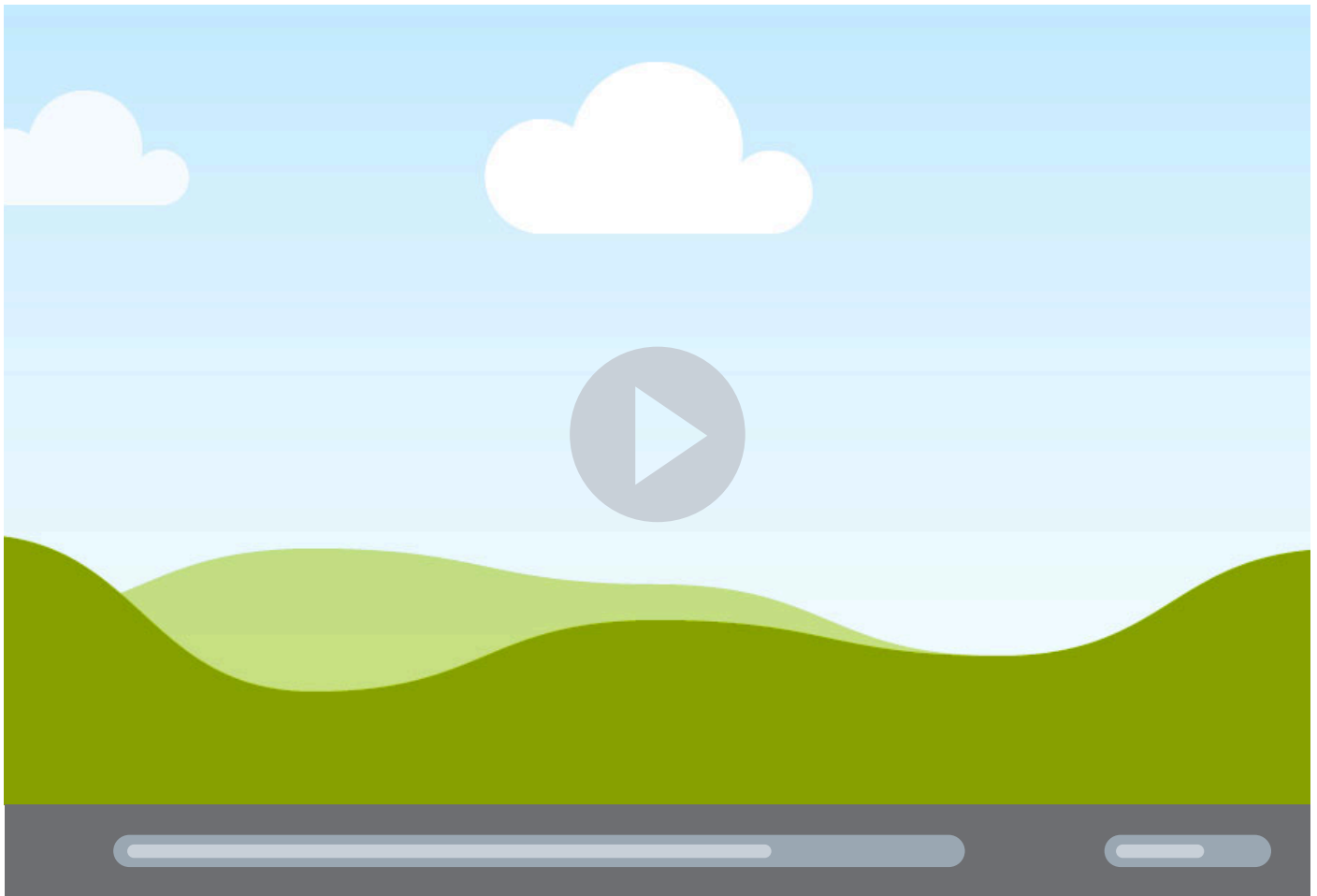
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

Ecocide is the serious destruction of nature, such as massive pollution, deforestation, or the large-scale killing of animals and plants. It is an action that negatively affects life on Earth and destroys the balance of nature.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=idSYMrBDPWI>



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GLOBAL WARMING

CATEGORY: ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS TERMS

Short Scientific Definition

Global warming - Global warming refers to the steady increase in the Earth's average temperature, caused mainly by human activities. The phenomenon is the result of the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, which prevent heat dissipation in space.

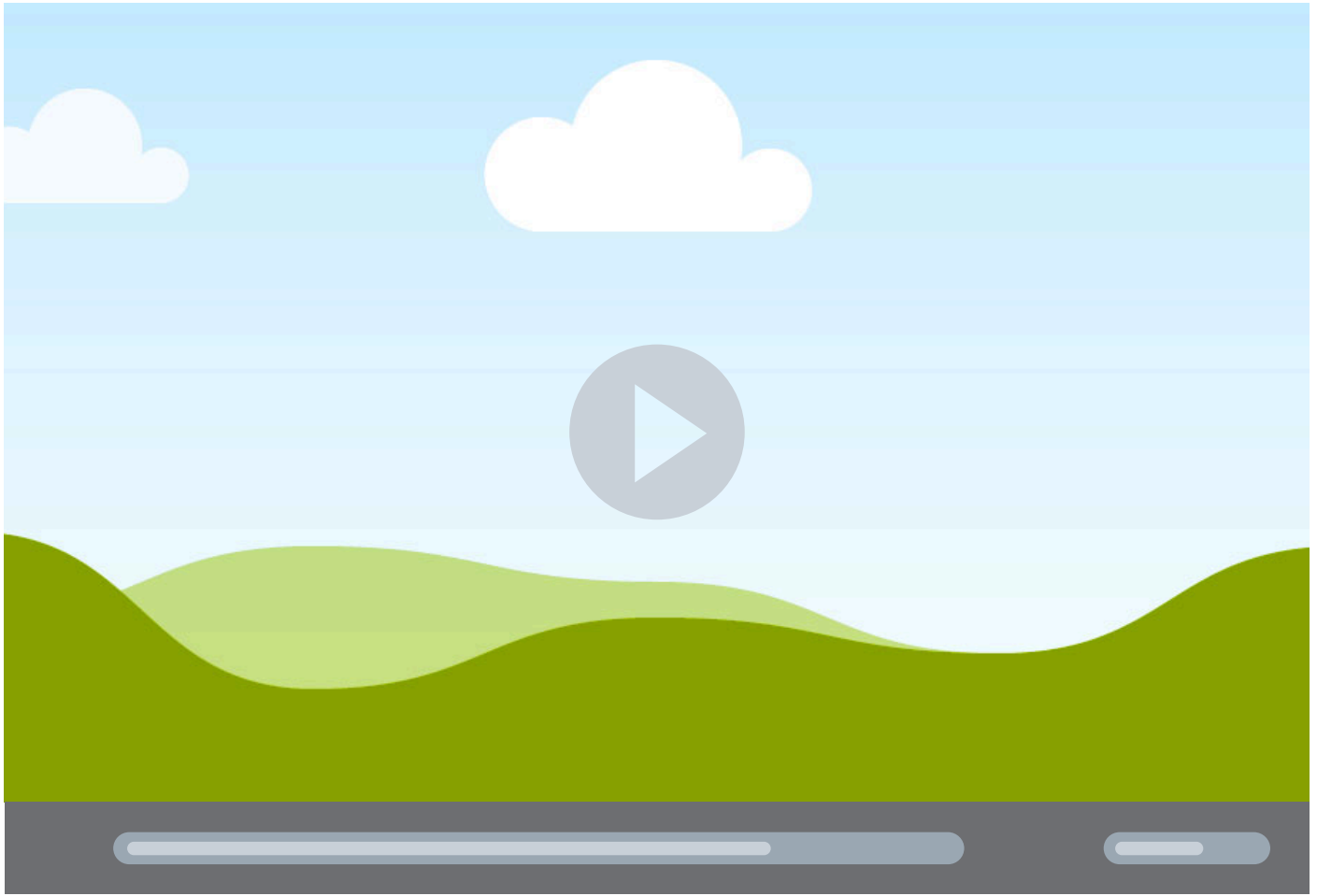
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

Global warming means the increase in the Earth's temperature due to pollution. Gases produced by cars, factories, and other activities remain in the atmosphere/air and heat the planet. This leads to melting glaciers, rising sea levels, and dangerous weather changes.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.nrdc.org/stories/global-warming-101#warming>



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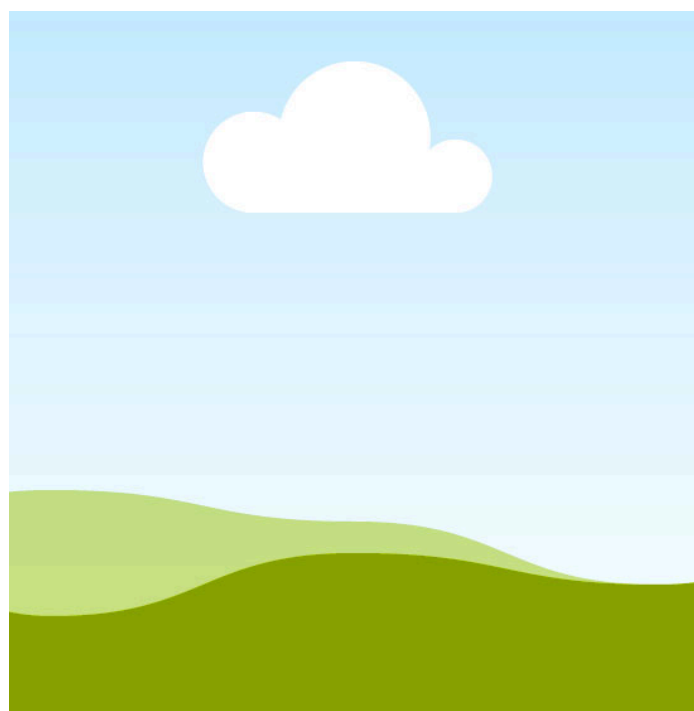
INDUSTRIAL DISCHARGES

CATEGORY: ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS TERMS

Short Scientific Definition

Industrial discharges - wastewater from the process but not those discharged by institutions such as schools, offices, etc. because they are of "housekeeping" provenance.

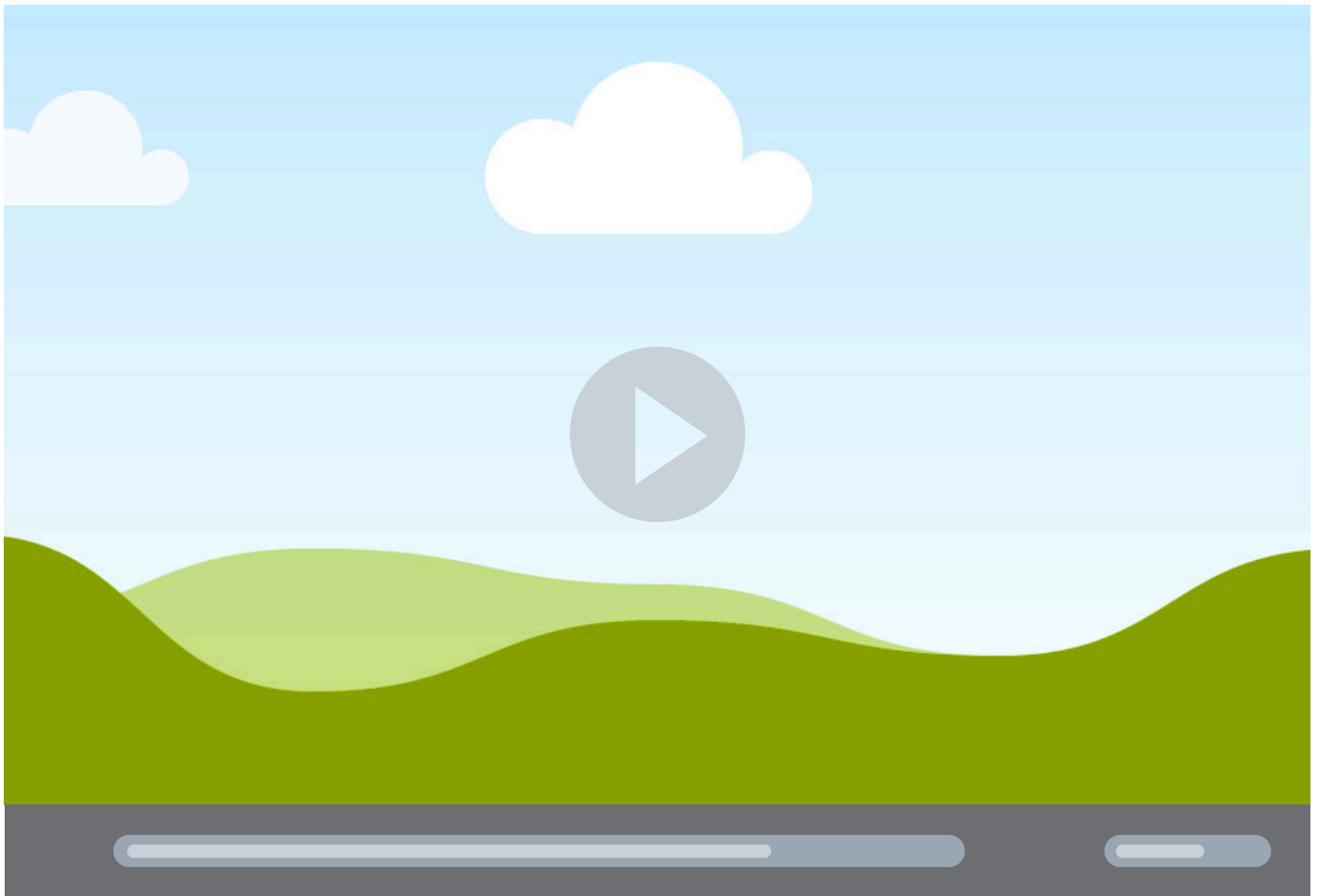
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

Industrial discharges mean when factories throw dirty water, chemicals or other waste / trash into rivers, lakes or land. These wastes can pollute water, destroy nature and endanger the health of people, plants, and animals.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FwpEFLT4WIU>



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OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

CATEGORY: ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS TERMS

Short Scientific Definition

Ocean acidification- represents the process of continuous decrease in pH levels in the Earth's oceans, caused by the continuous uptake of carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere.

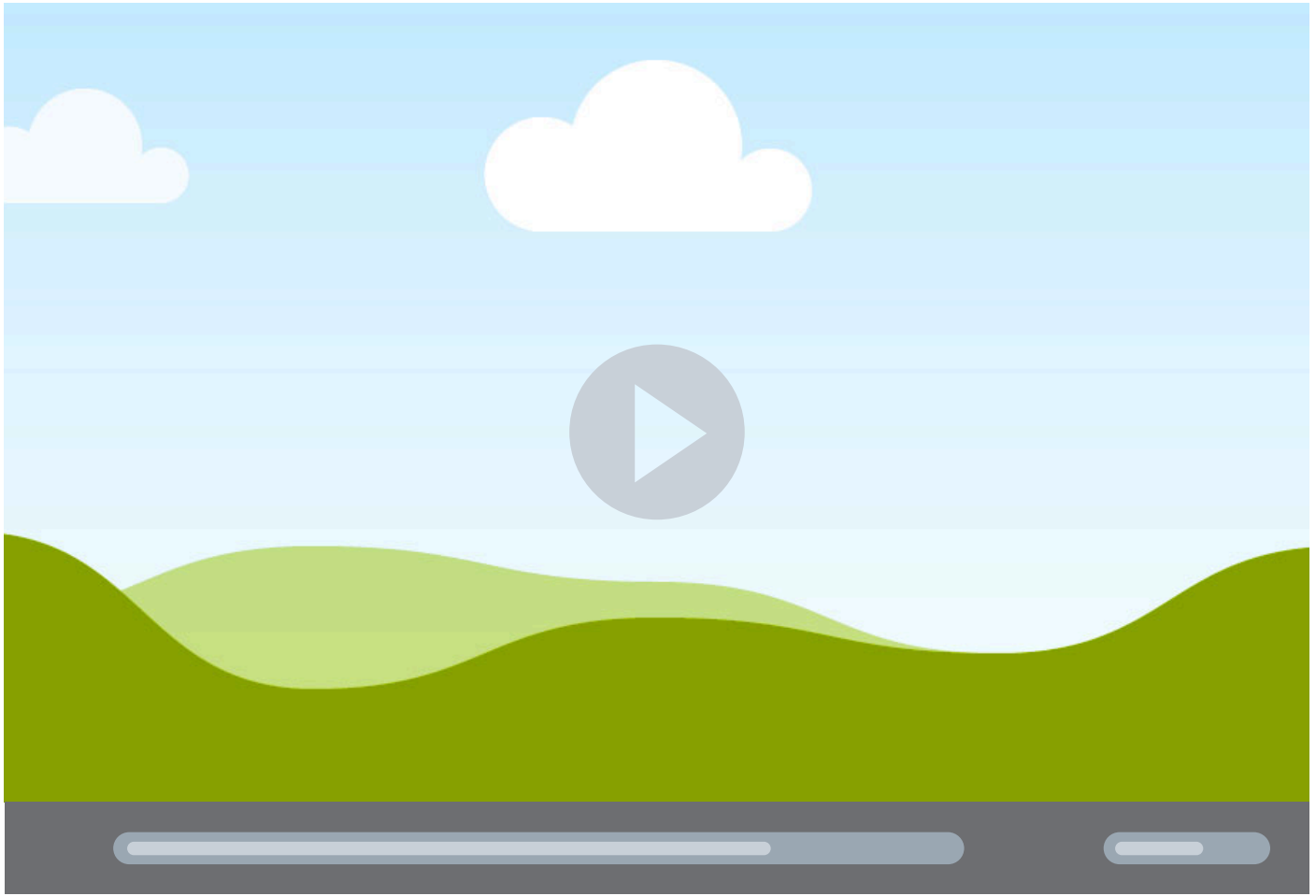
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

The water in the oceans and seas becomes more acidic because of the carbon dioxide gas that different human activities produce. This gas mixes with the ocean water and makes it more acidic, affecting the animals and plants in the oceans.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZGj0BbDT38>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L2bxwnm7JG4>



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SOIL EROSION

CATEGORY: ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS TERMS

Short Scientific Definition

Soil erosion - is the natural or anthropogenic (human-caused) process by which soil particles are removed or destroyed by natural or human factors. The phenomenon is present throughout the globe, in various environments, but most often found in agricultural areas, forests, mountainous or coastal areas.

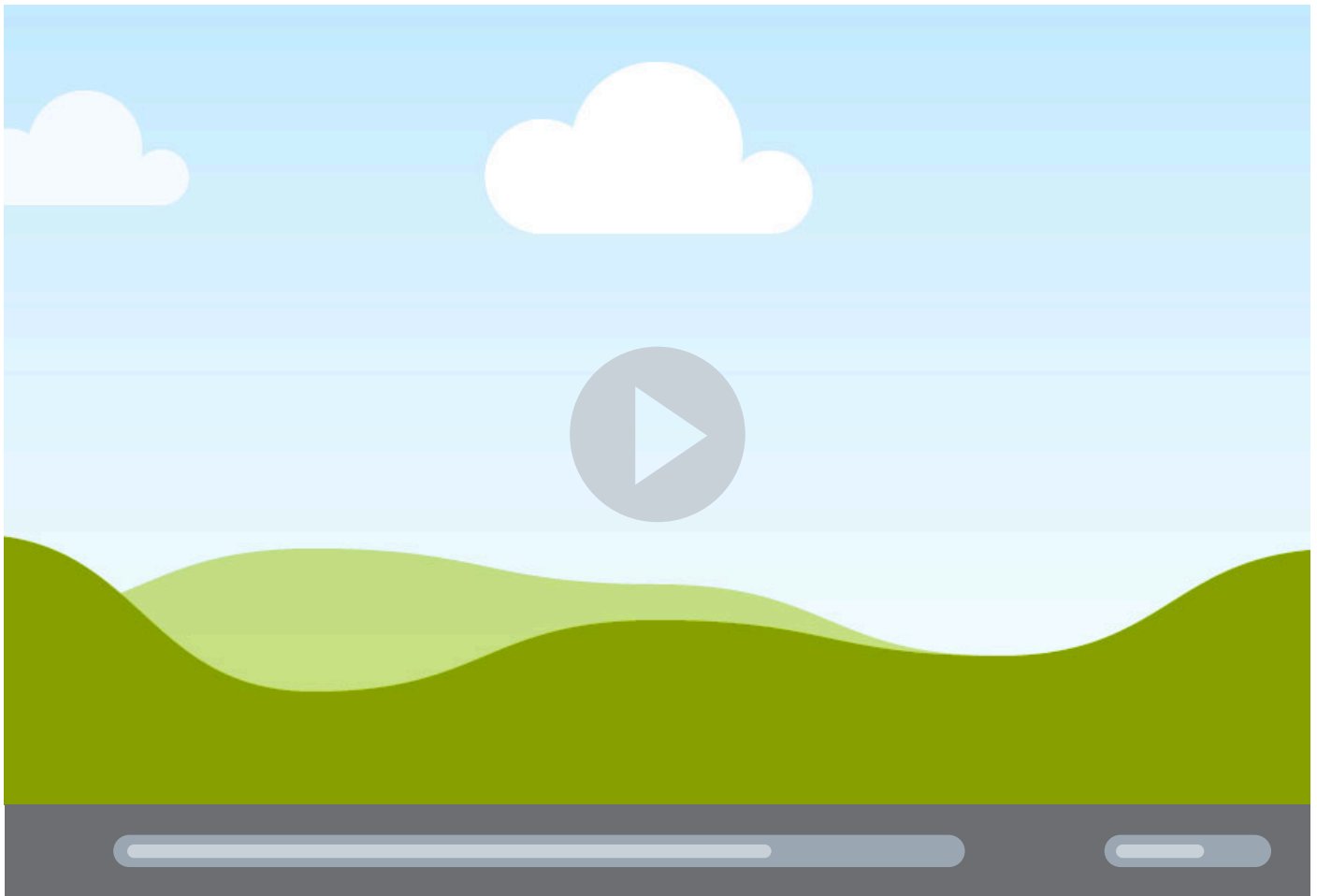
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

Soil erosion means that soil on the surface of the land is removed or lost due to wind, water or human activities, such as cutting down forests or agriculture. When the soil erodes, plants can no longer grow and the land is no longer very good for agriculture.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_YIkJZUsQTU



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TOXICITY

CATEGORY: ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS TERMS

Short Scientific Definition

Toxicity refers to the potential of a substance to cause harmful effects on living organisms. Toxicology is the science of testing chemicals, pesticides, drugs, and toxic substances for their potential to cause harmful and adverse health effects. Environmental toxicology, forensic toxicology, and economic toxicology are the three major branches of toxicology. Environmental toxicity mainly deals with occupational health and industrial hygiene.

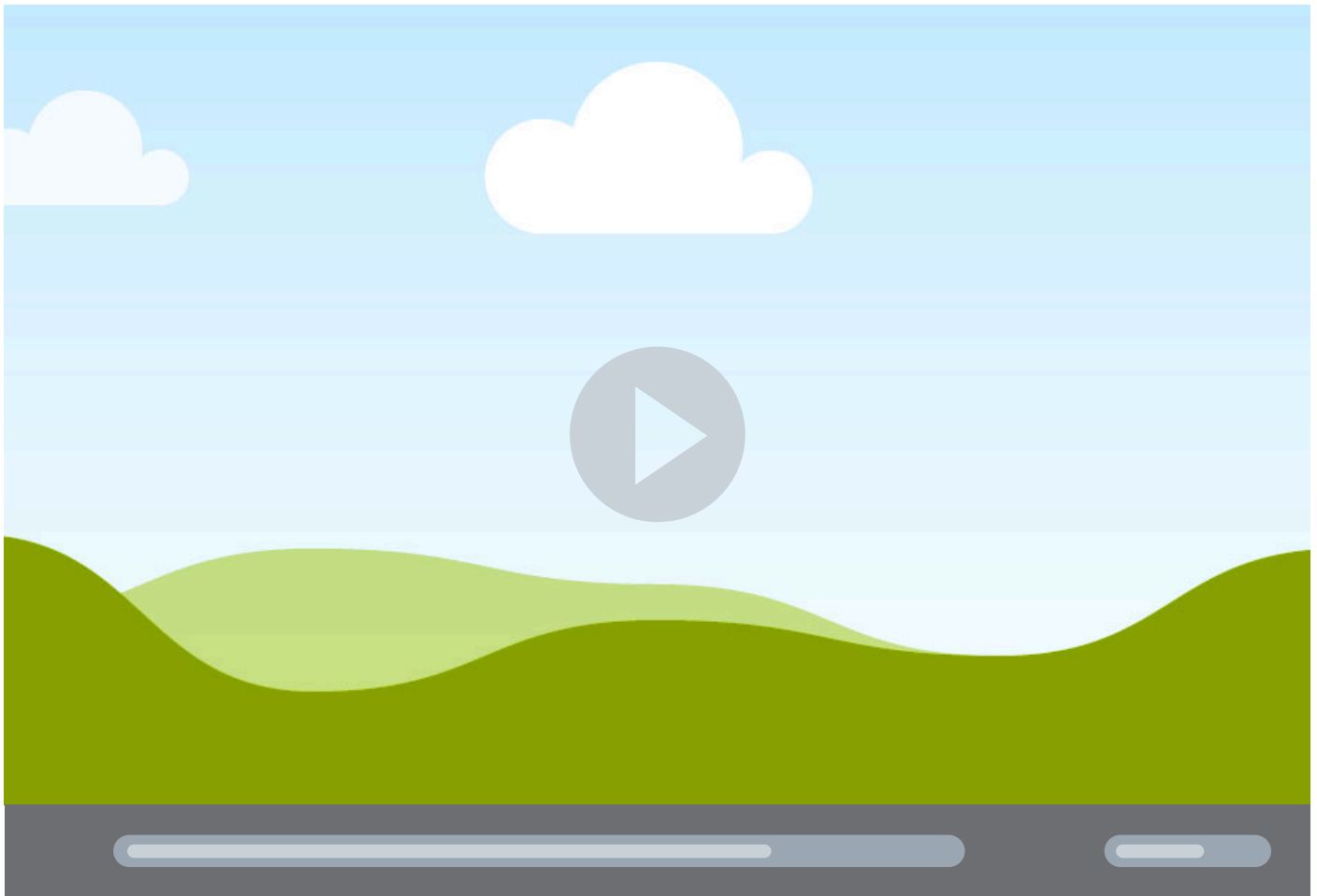
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

The danger that certain substances or chemicals have for the environment / life. These substances can harm people, animals or plants when swallowed, breathed or touched.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/pharmacology-toxicology-and-pharmaceutical-science/toxicity>



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WILDFIRES

CATEGORY: ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS TERMS

Term Icon

Short Scientific Definition

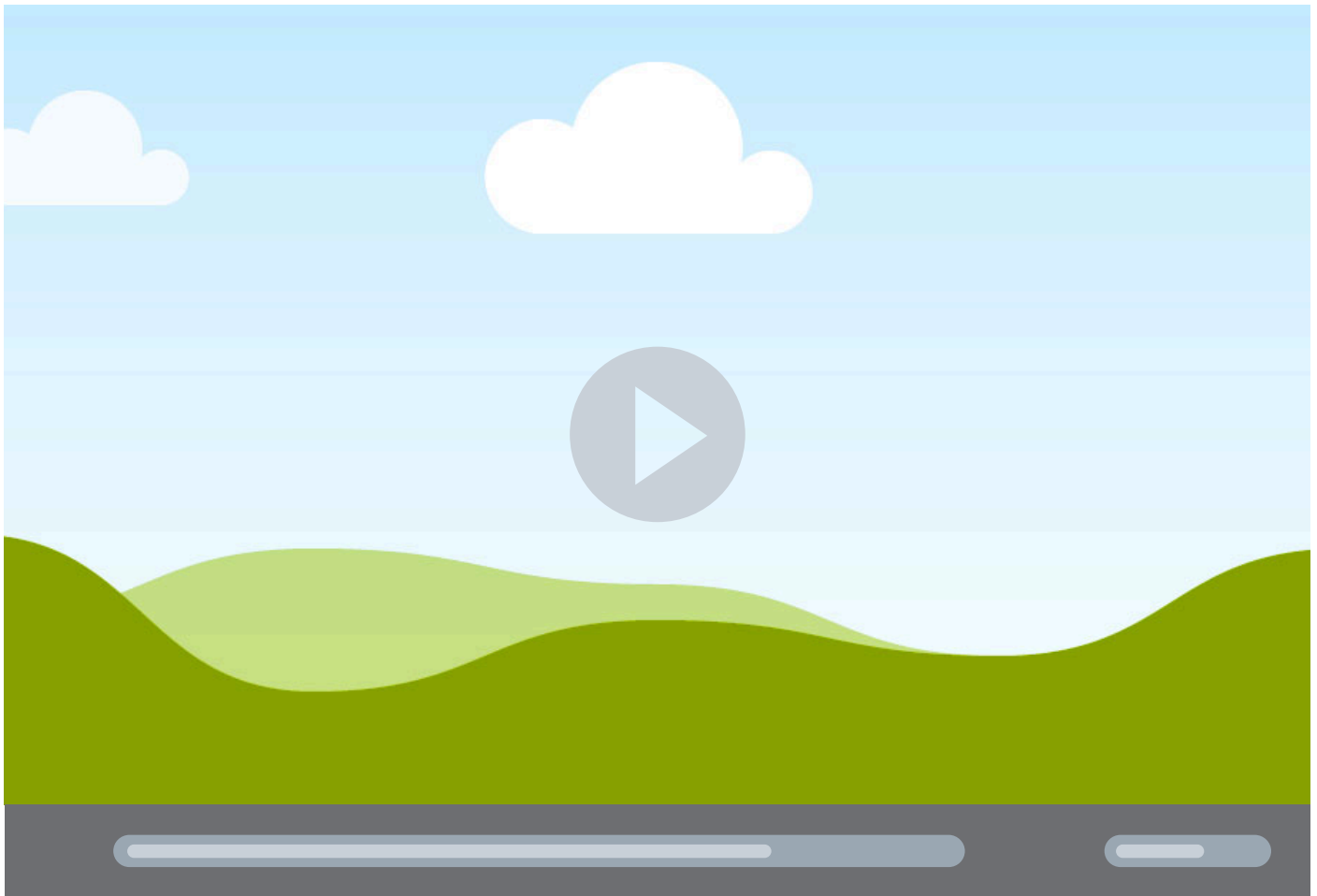
Wildfires - uncontrolled fire in an area of naturally combustible vegetation. It can burn vegetation above or below the soil surface.



Detailed Simple language explanation

Fires that destroy forests. These fires can start due to heat, lightning, or human activities such as open fires. Wildfires burn trees and plants, endangering animals and people living nearby. Forest fires release a lot of smoke and toxic gases.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hghT1W33cY>



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ECO - EQUITY

CATEGORY: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Short Scientific Definition

Eco - Equity is fairness in ecological aspect/administration. It aims to ensure all communities have equal access to environmental benefits and are equally protected from environmental harms.

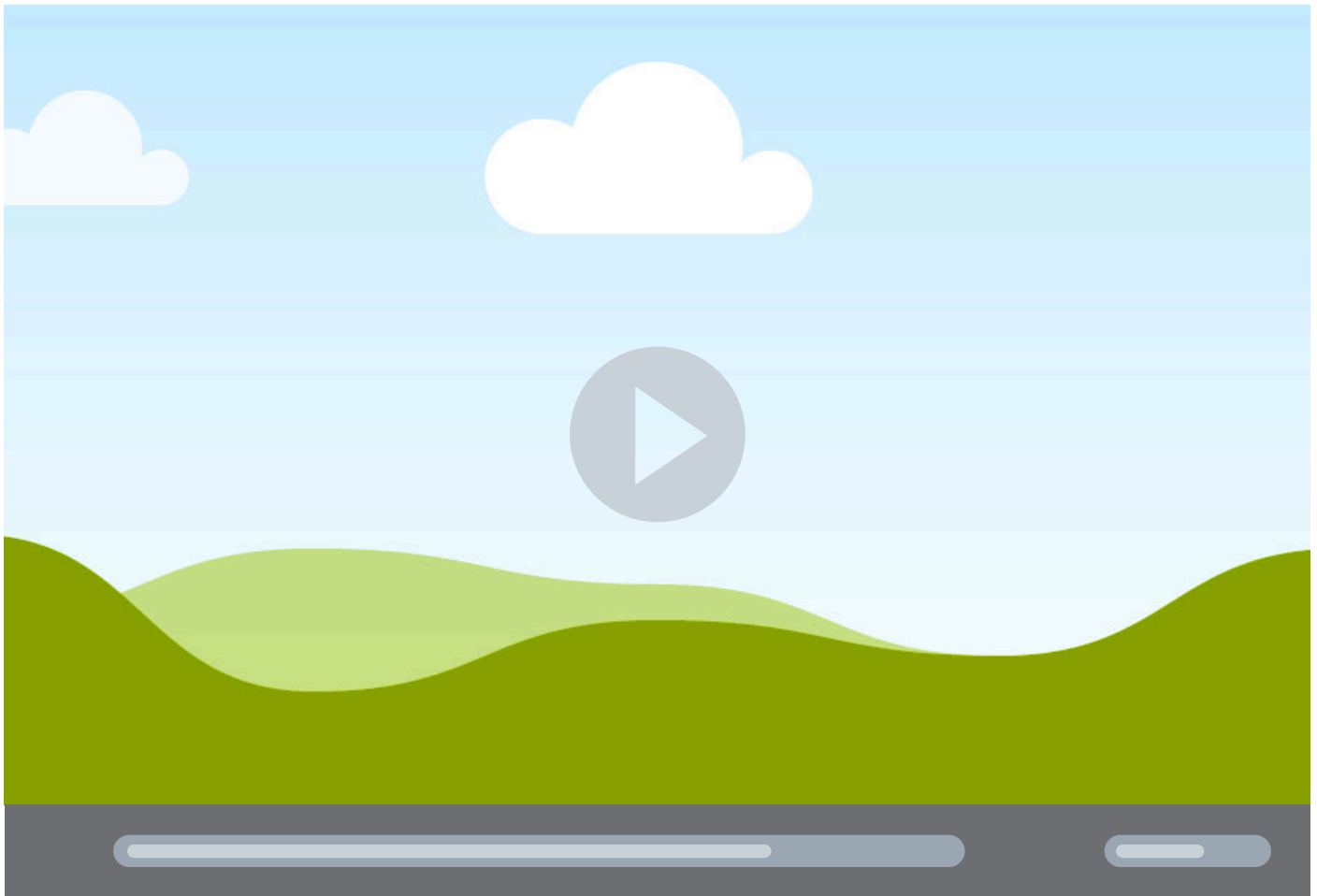
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

Eco-equity means everyone, regardless of location, race, income, shares and has the same benefits of nature (like clean air and water) and is equally protected from problems like pollution or environmental degradation.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.ecoequity.org/about/#:~:text=EcoEquity%20works%20by%20emphasizing%20the,proposals%20for%20just%20climate%20policies.>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=flu-AfQ0cBM>



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CLIMATE ACTION

CATEGORY: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Short Scientific Definition

Climate action encompasses efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance carbon sinks, and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

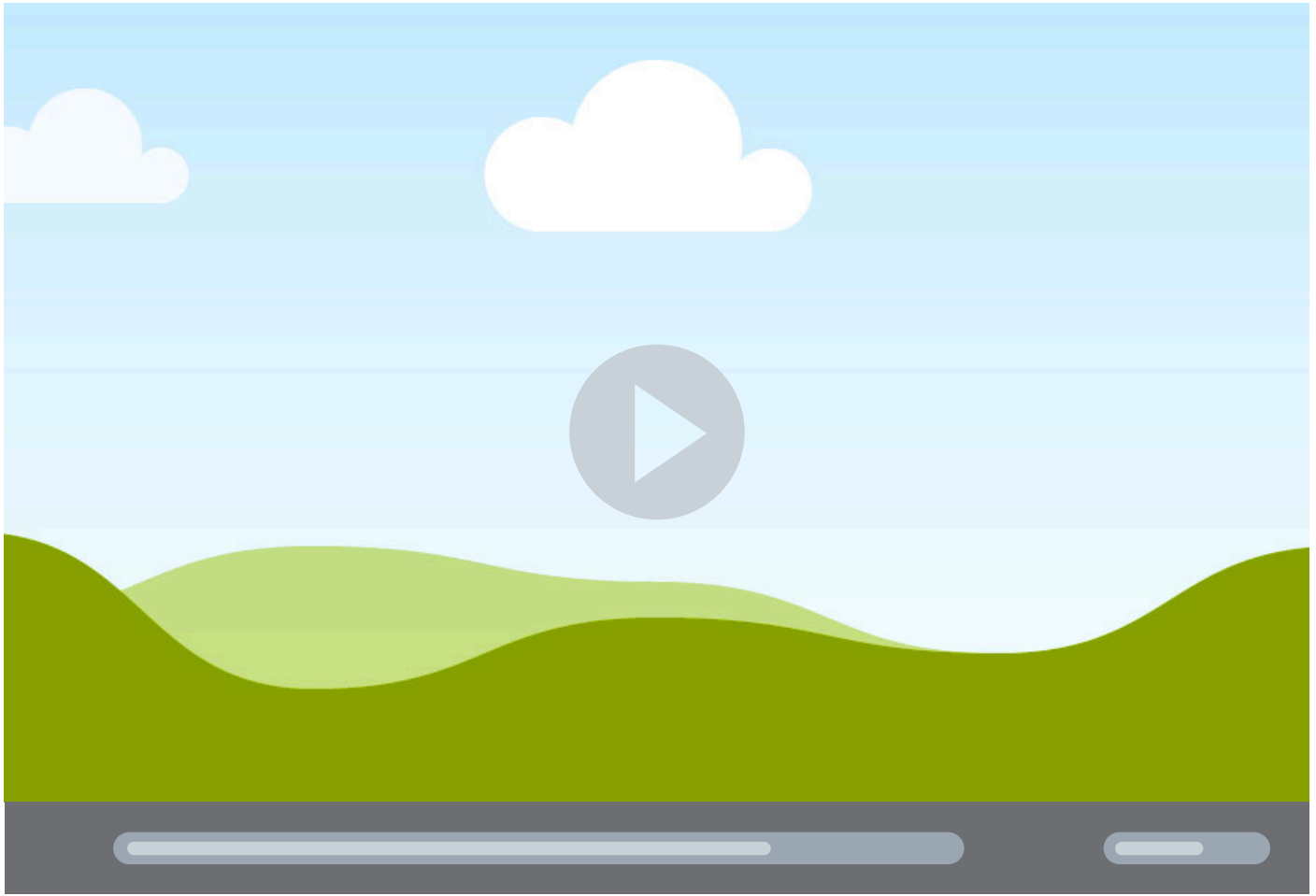
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

Climate action includes all the steps people and governments take to fight climate change—like protecting forests, switching to renewable energy or preparing cities for extreme weather.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6YqmEYlg4IY>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rqd8Hz349Fk&list=PLhanS7jySFTIf8_sKwSwE6koAXJQZ3Wnx

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-action/>



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CLIMATE JUSTICE

CATEGORY: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Short Scientific Definition

Climate Justice is an approach for addressing the uneven impact of climate change on communities with limited resources and emphasizing ethical responsibility in climate policy and solutions.

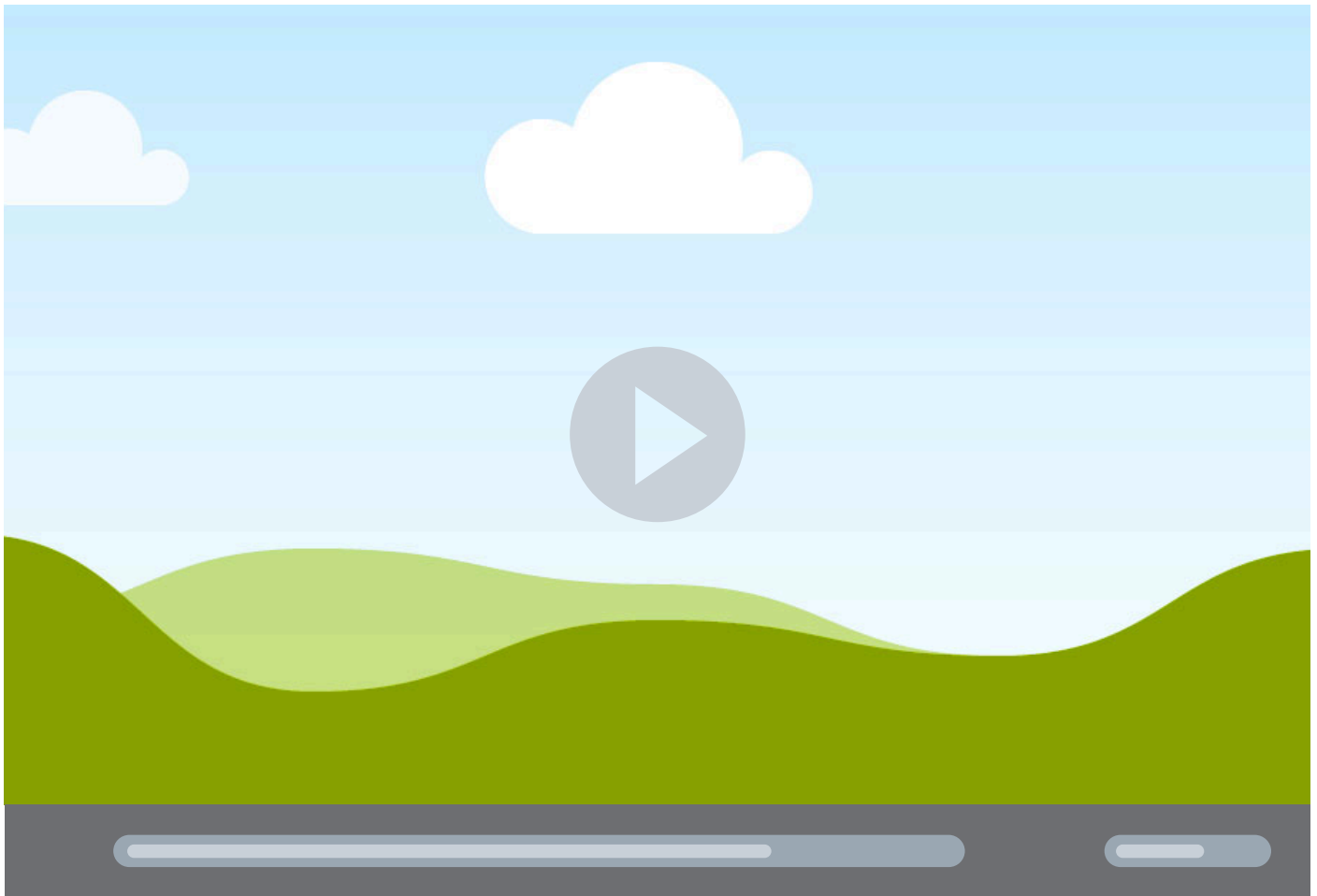
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

Climate justice wants to ensure that vulnerable groups (like low-income communities, indigenous populations, or small island nations that suffer more from climate impacts like rising sea levels or extreme weather, even though they contribute the least to global warming) are not unfairly affected and treated by climate change, and that climate policies are fair to everyone.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sucsG1Dg8XA>



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CODE OF ETHICS

CATEGORY: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Short Scientific Definition

A Code of Ethics is a set of principles designed to guide ethical behavior, established by organizations or professions to promote integrity and responsible practices.

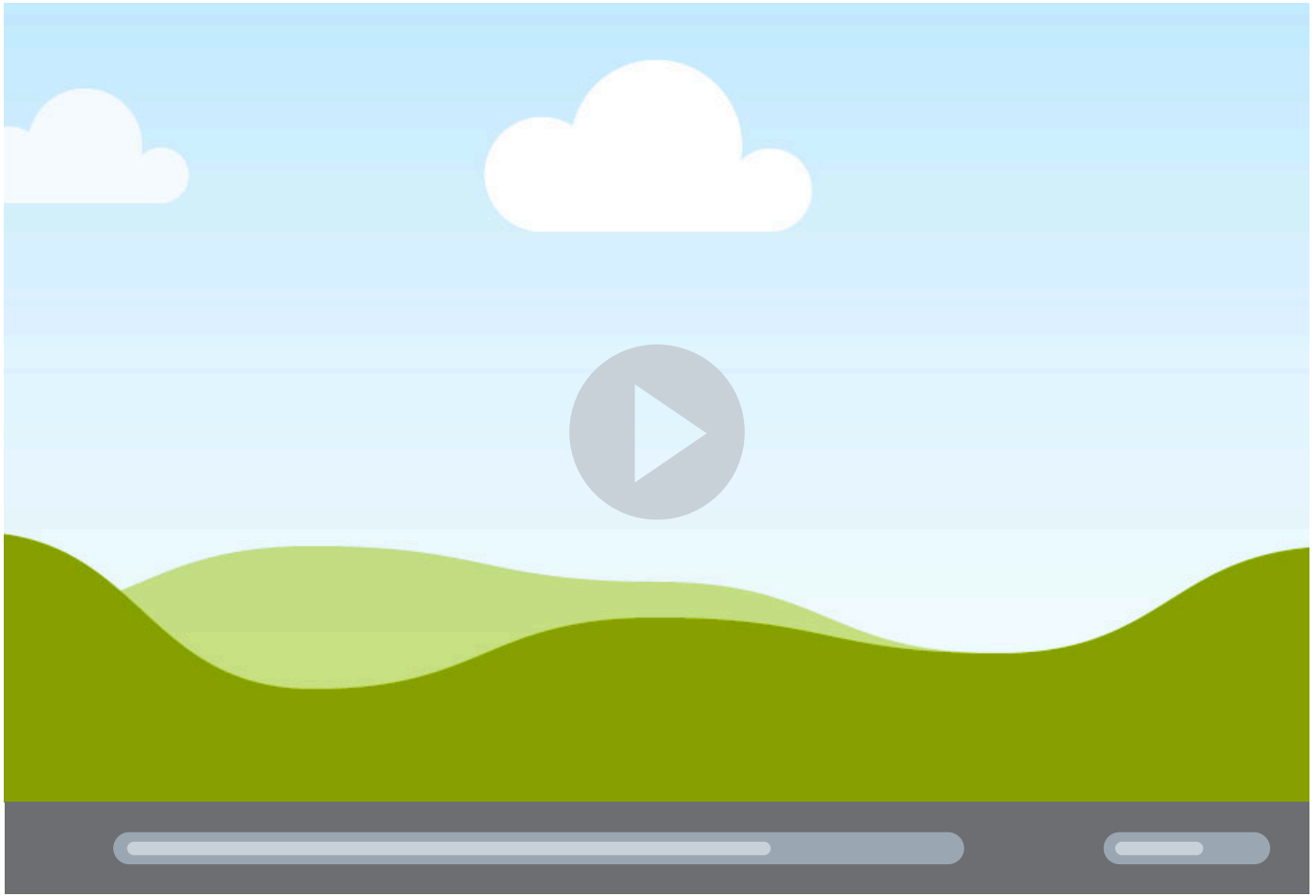
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

A code of ethics serves as a guide for doing the right thing, particularly in fields like environmental science where choices have an effect on both people and the environment.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qwVKX4FiH0>

<https://www.naep.org/code-of-ethics>



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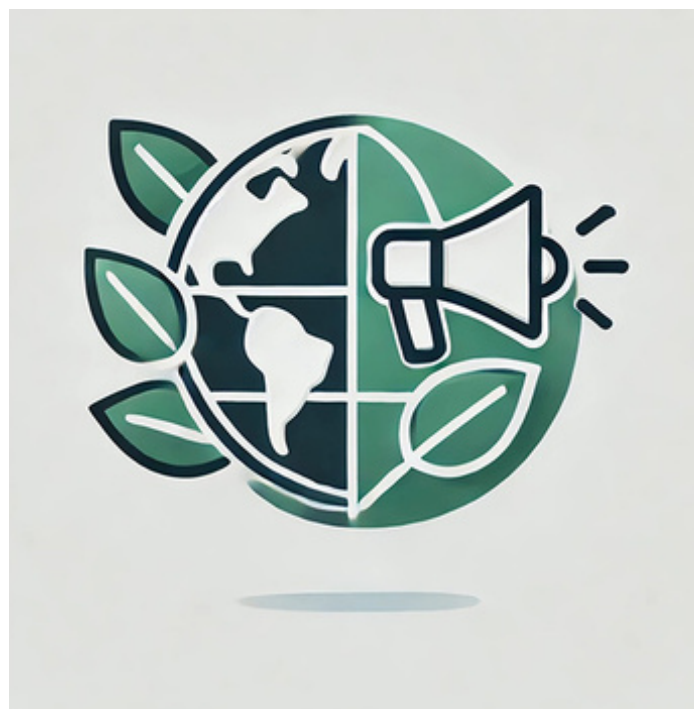
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY

CATEGORY: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Short Scientific Definition

Environmental advocacy is the active support and effort to protect the environment and promote sustainability through policy, education, and community engagement.

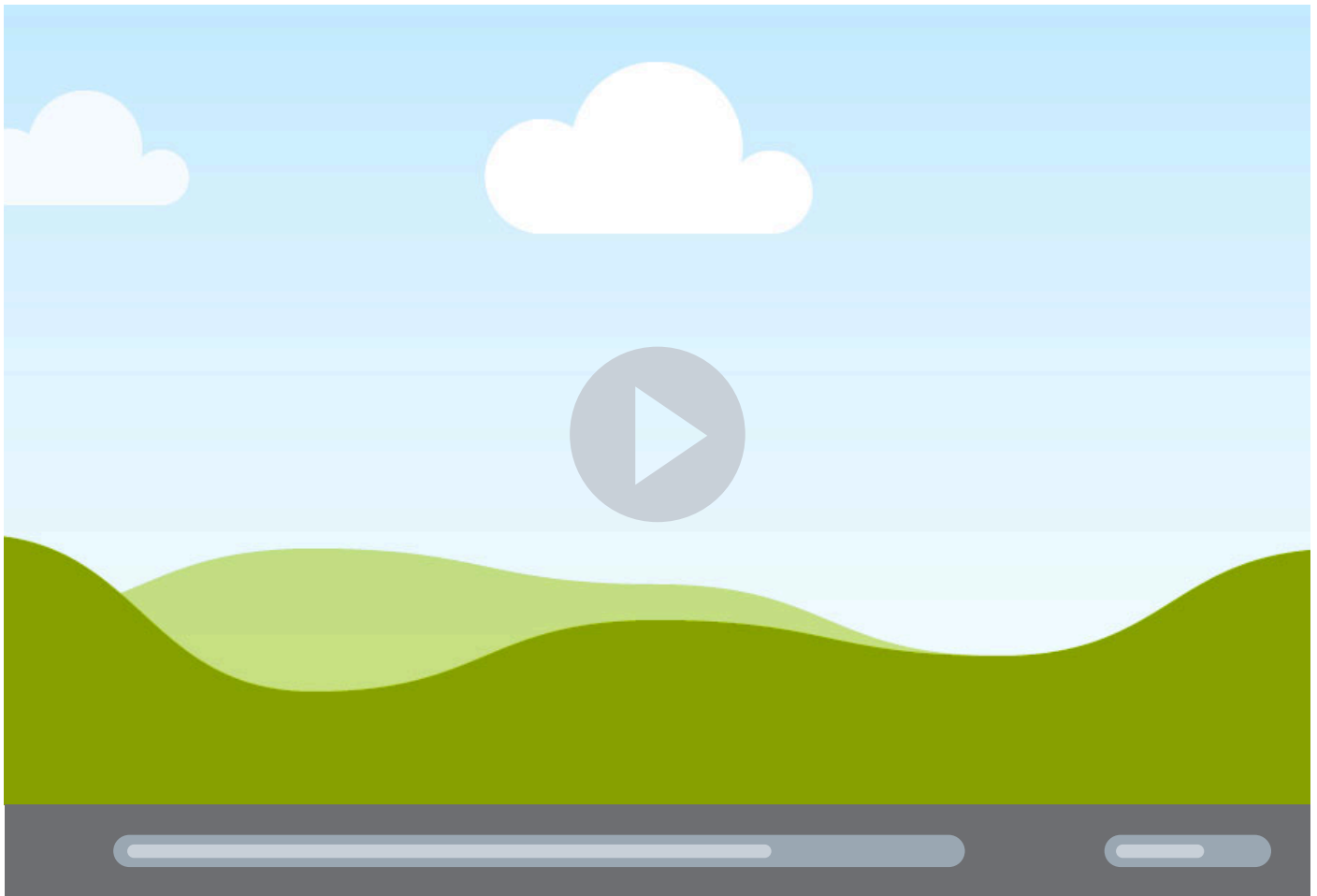
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

Environmental advocacy is speaking up and defending for nature—whether it's protecting forests, reducing pollution, or pushing for laws to stop climate change.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Z4jG3RDuNs>

<https://www.studysmarter.co.uk/explanations/environmental-science/environmental-policy/environmental-advocacy/#:~:text=Environmental%20Advocacy%3A%20A%20movement%20aimed,a%20form%20of%20environmental%20advocacy.>



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GREEN DISPARITIES

CATEGORY: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Short Scientific Definition

The term green disparities describes the unequal access to environmental benefits—such as parks, clean air, and green spaces—and disproportionate exposure to environmental hazards, often affecting disadvantaged or low-income communities due to inequalities.

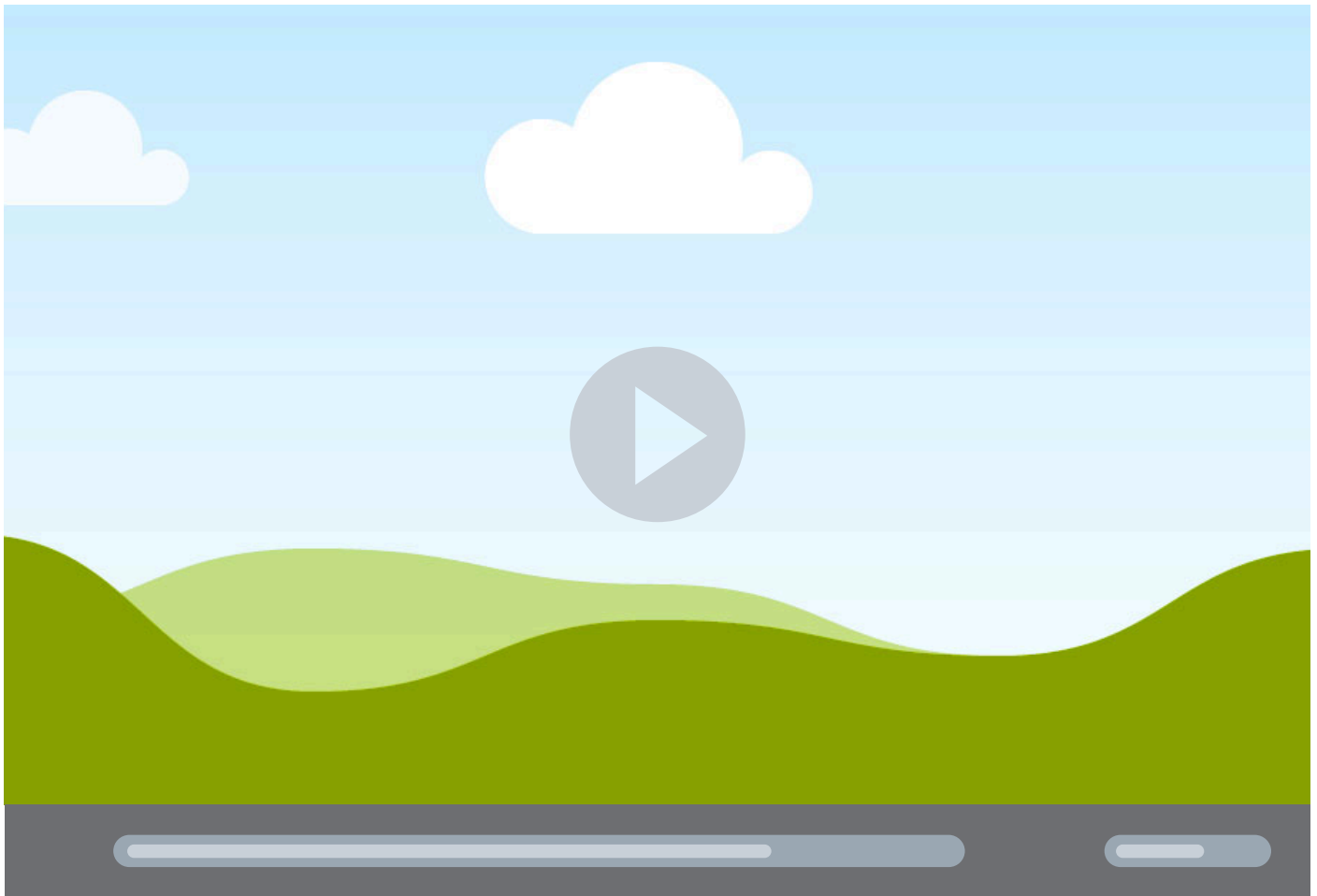
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

Green disparities happen when some neighborhoods even whole cities have lots of trees and parks, while others face pollution or lack greenery—usually because of income or race. This can results to unequal health outcomes.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7967323/>

<https://www.health.org.uk/evidence-hub/our-surroundings/green-space/inequalities-in-access-to-green-space>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mufXAbxc2QM>



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REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

CATEGORY: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Short Scientific Definition

Regulatory Framework is a collection of laws, regulations, and guidelines that control environmental activities and ensure compliance and respect with sustainable and legal standards.

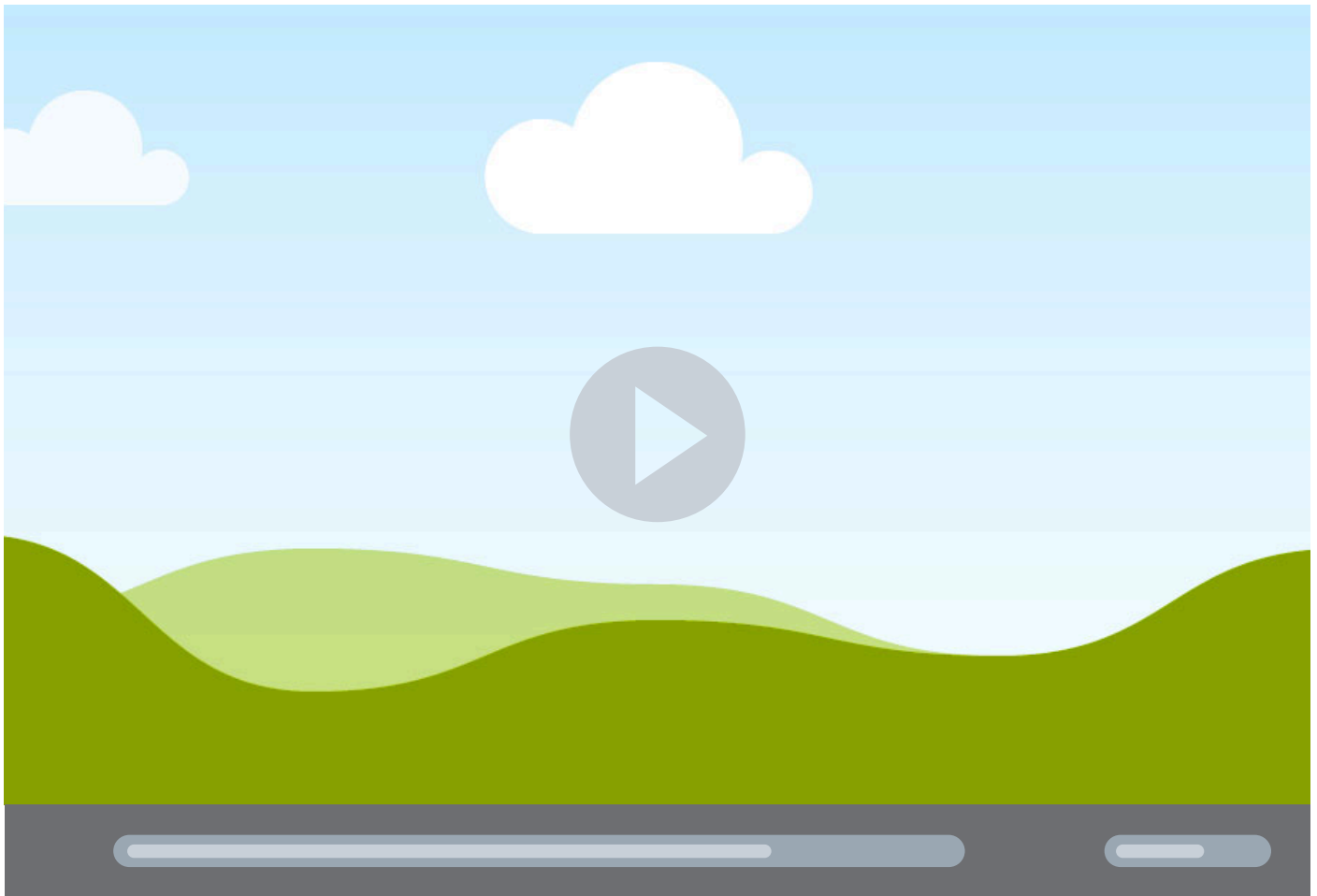
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

A regulatory framework is like a rulebook created by governments or organizations to make sure activities are done safely, ethically, and legally. For example, in the environmental sector, these rules might focus on how companies manage waste, reduce emissions, or protect wildlife.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vcaRmdXTZ2M>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U0rLAtmUZrQ>

https://citizens-initiative.europa.eu/how-it-works/regulatory-framework_en



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ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION

CATEGORY: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Short Scientific Definition

The process of identifying, containing, and restoring environments affected by contamination or pollution, aiming to reduce harm to ecosystems, human health, and the surrounding area is called environmental remediation.

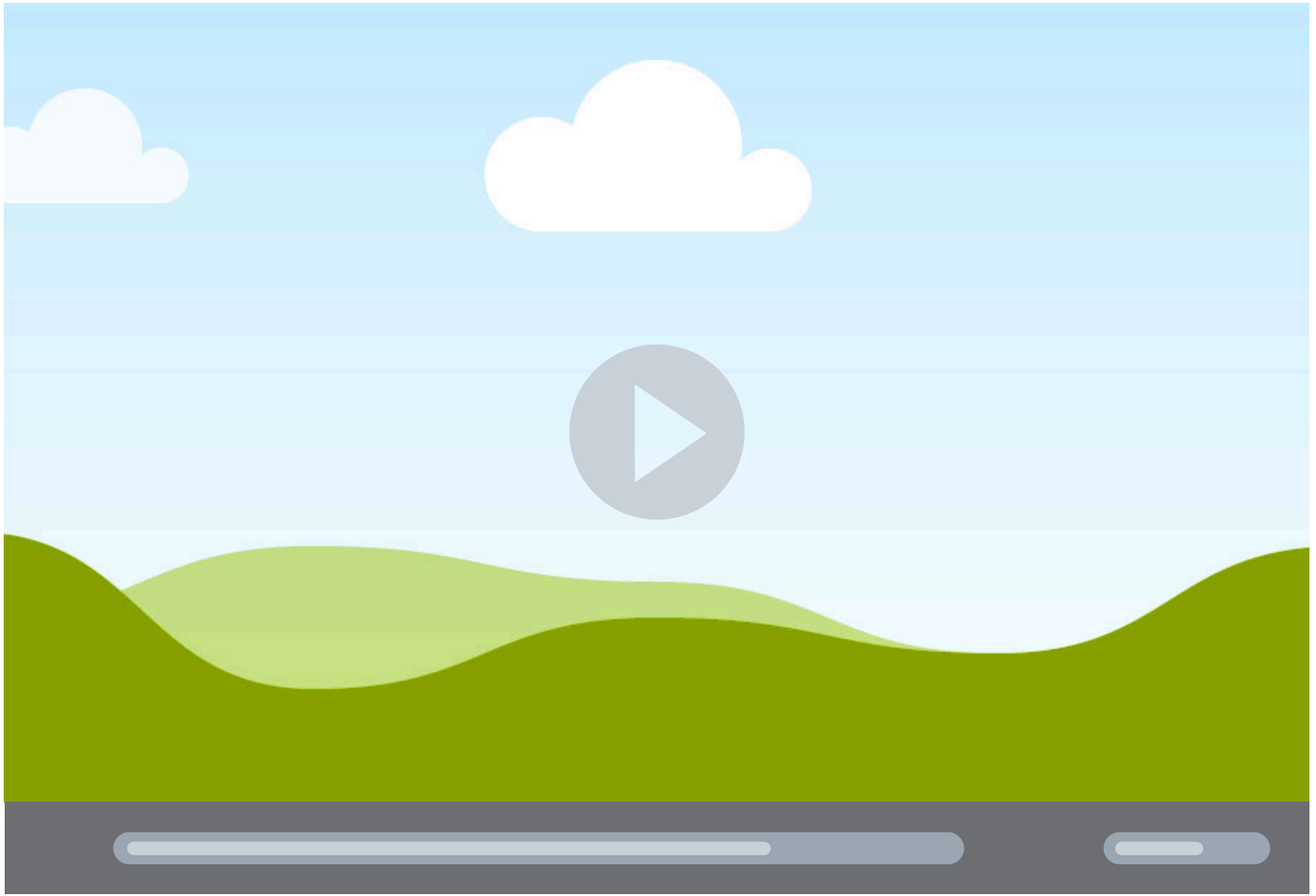
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

Remediation is all about cleaning up and fixing polluted or damaged environments to make them safe again. For example, if a factory leaks harmful chemicals into the soil, remediation could involve removing the contaminated soil, treating it, or replacing it with clean soil. It can also include cleaning polluted water, capturing harmful gases, or rehabilitating ecosystems damaged by industrial or natural disasters. The goal is to restore the environment as close as possible to its natural, healthy state.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://a-otc.com/what-is-environmental-remediation/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fUDFPasiGy0>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDZyi9_Xaal



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SUSTAINABLE ACCESS

CATEGORY: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Short Scientific Definition

Sustainable access refers to ensuring the long-term availability of natural resources or essential services, such as water, energy, healthcare, or education, in a manner that supports human well-being, minimizes environmental harm, and preserves these resources for future generations. Closely related to sustainable development, it takes a more targeted approach, focusing on meeting critical needs without depleting resources or causing ecological damage.

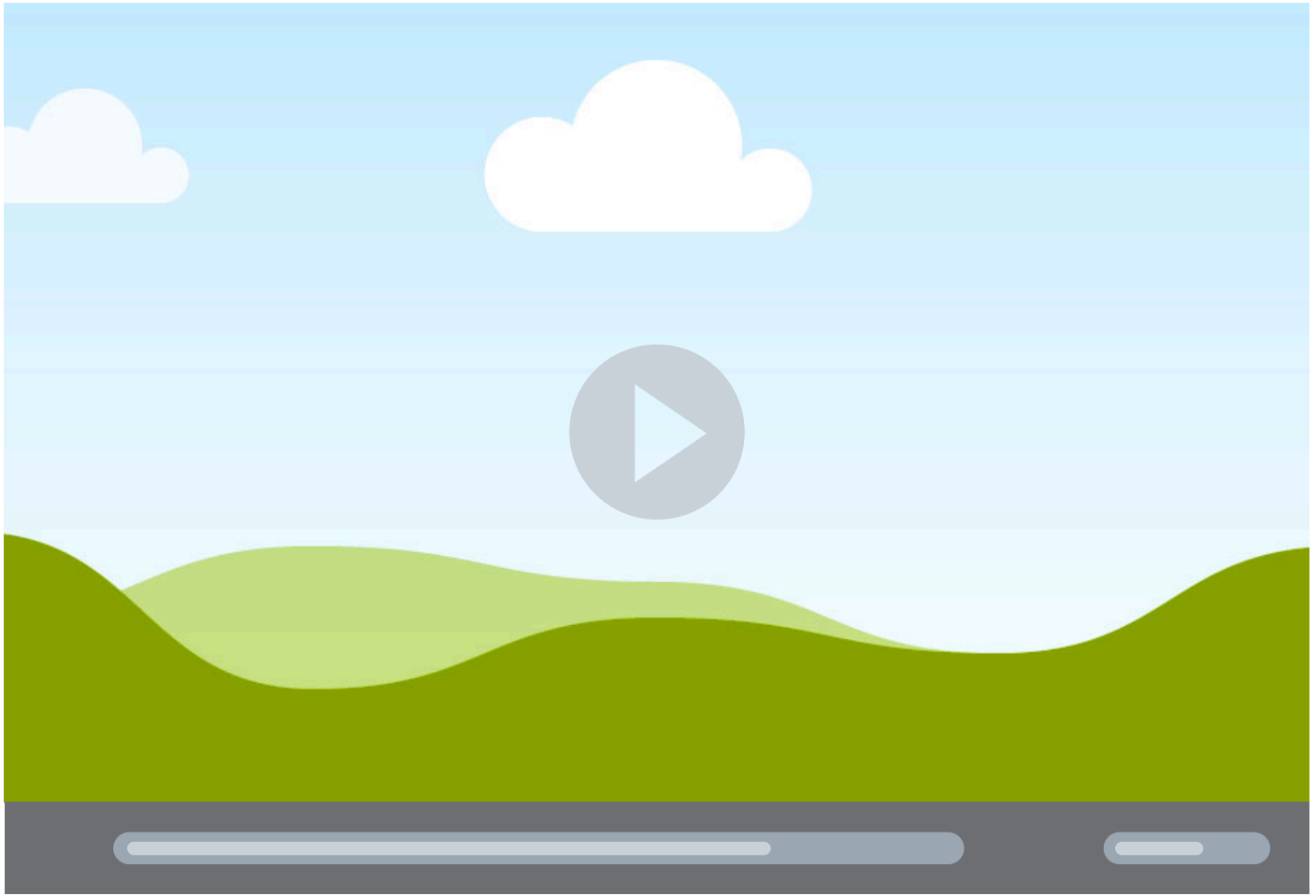
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

Sustainable access means making sure people can get essential resources like clean water, energy, healthcare, or education in a way that doesn't harm the environment or deplete resources. For example, using renewable energy like solar or wind power provides energy today without running out or polluting the planet. It's also about fairness—ensuring everyone, no matter where they live or how much money they have, can benefit from these resources now and in the future. It is a term closely related to sustainable development, and although they are similar, sustainable access is narrower and more targeted, focusing on providing essential needs without depleting resources or harming the environment.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://unece.org/sustainable-energy/sustainable-resource-management>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5bVDpmzMICE>

<https://www.itf-oecd.org/sustainable-accessibility-for-all>



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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

CATEGORY: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Short Scientific Definition

Sustainable development is the process of meeting current needs while ensuring future generations can meet theirs, achieved by balancing economic growth, environmental sustainability, and social equity. While closely related to sustainable access, which focuses on fair and enduring access to specific resources or services, sustainable development takes a broader approach, designing systems and societies that harmonize growth with ecological integrity and social justice, integrating economic, social, and environmental objectives.

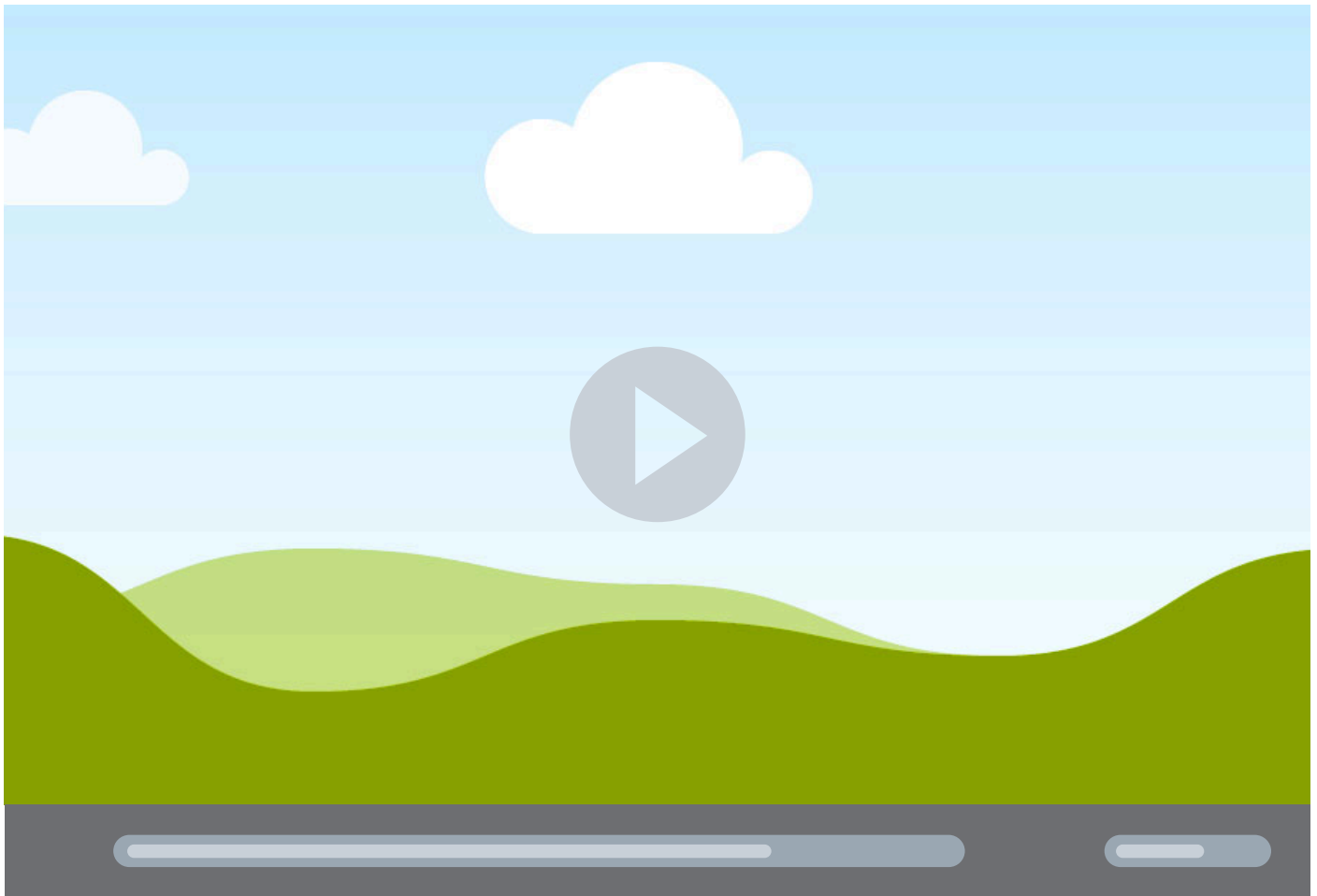
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

Sustainable development is about building a better world today—like clean energy or eco-friendly cities—while keeping the planet safe for the future. It means improving our lives today without using up resources or harming the planet, so future generations can also live well. It focuses on protecting nature, growing the economy, and ensuring fairness for everyone to solve big global problems.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3WODX8fyRHA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kC3VTg-8f0s>

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/engineering/sustainable-development#:~:text=Sustainable%20development%20is%3A%20'development%20that,and%20those%20of%20future%20generations>



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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

CATEGORY: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Short Scientific Definition

The SDGs are 17 global objectives established by the United Nations in 2015 to tackle urgent challenges the world is facing. These includes poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, and peace. The target is to achieve these 17 goals by 2030.

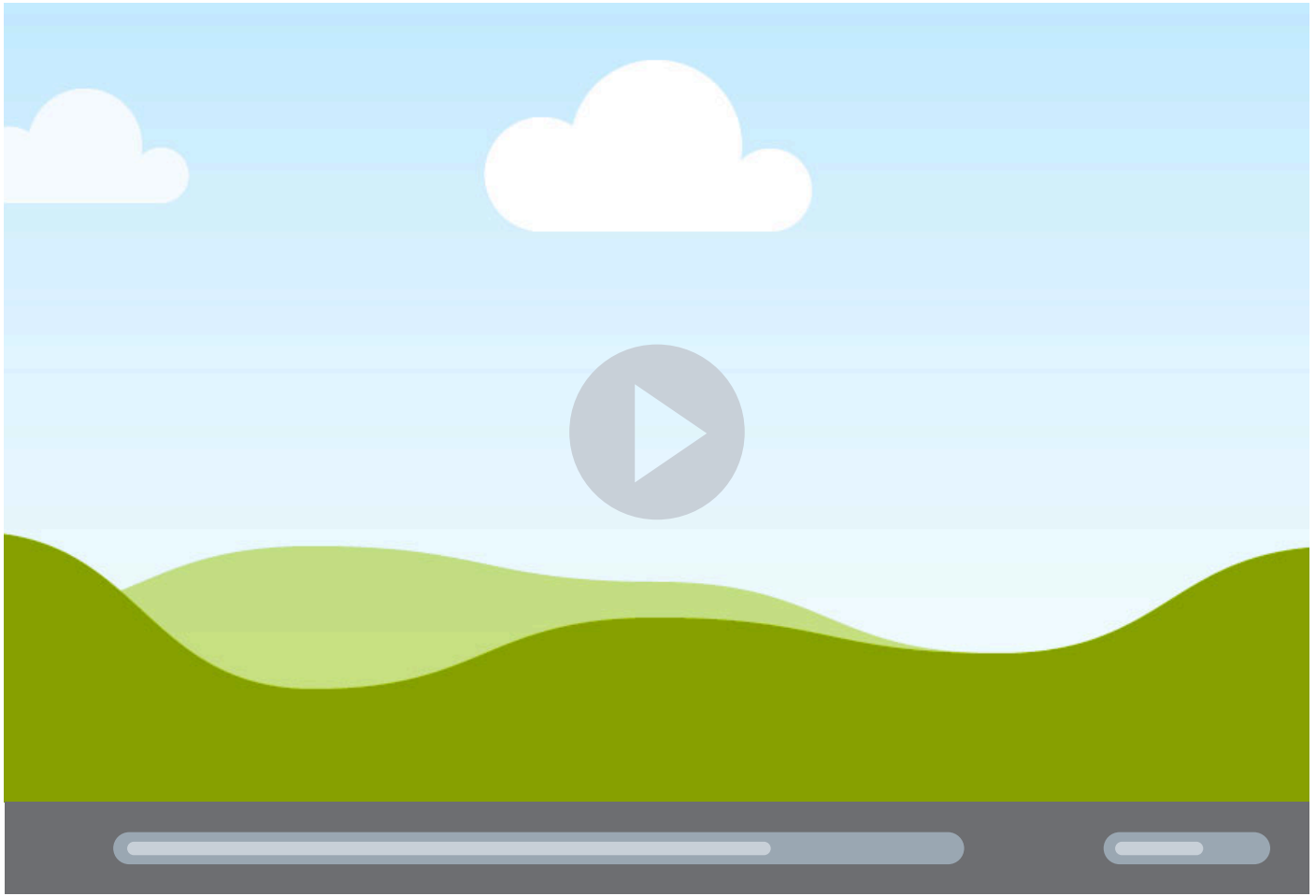
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

The SDGs are 17 goals aimed at improving the world by addressing poverty, inequality, education, clean energy, and the environment. They promote actions for a fairer, more sustainable future and are interconnected, with progress in one area benefiting others.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://sdgs.un.org/goals> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7dzFbP2AgFo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0XTBYMfZyrM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wXASRXbjR08>

<https://www.undp.org/sustainable-development-goals>



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(EU) GREEN DEAL

CATEGORY: EU GREEN DEAL

Short Scientific Definition

It is the EU's main new growth strategy to transition the EU economy to a sustainable economic model. It consists of a package of policy initiatives, which set the EU on the path to a green transition, with the ultimate goal of reaching climate neutrality by 2050. It underlines the need for all policy areas to contribute to fighting climate change. The strategy supports measures across economic sectors covering energy, transport, industry, agriculture, sustainable finance and more.

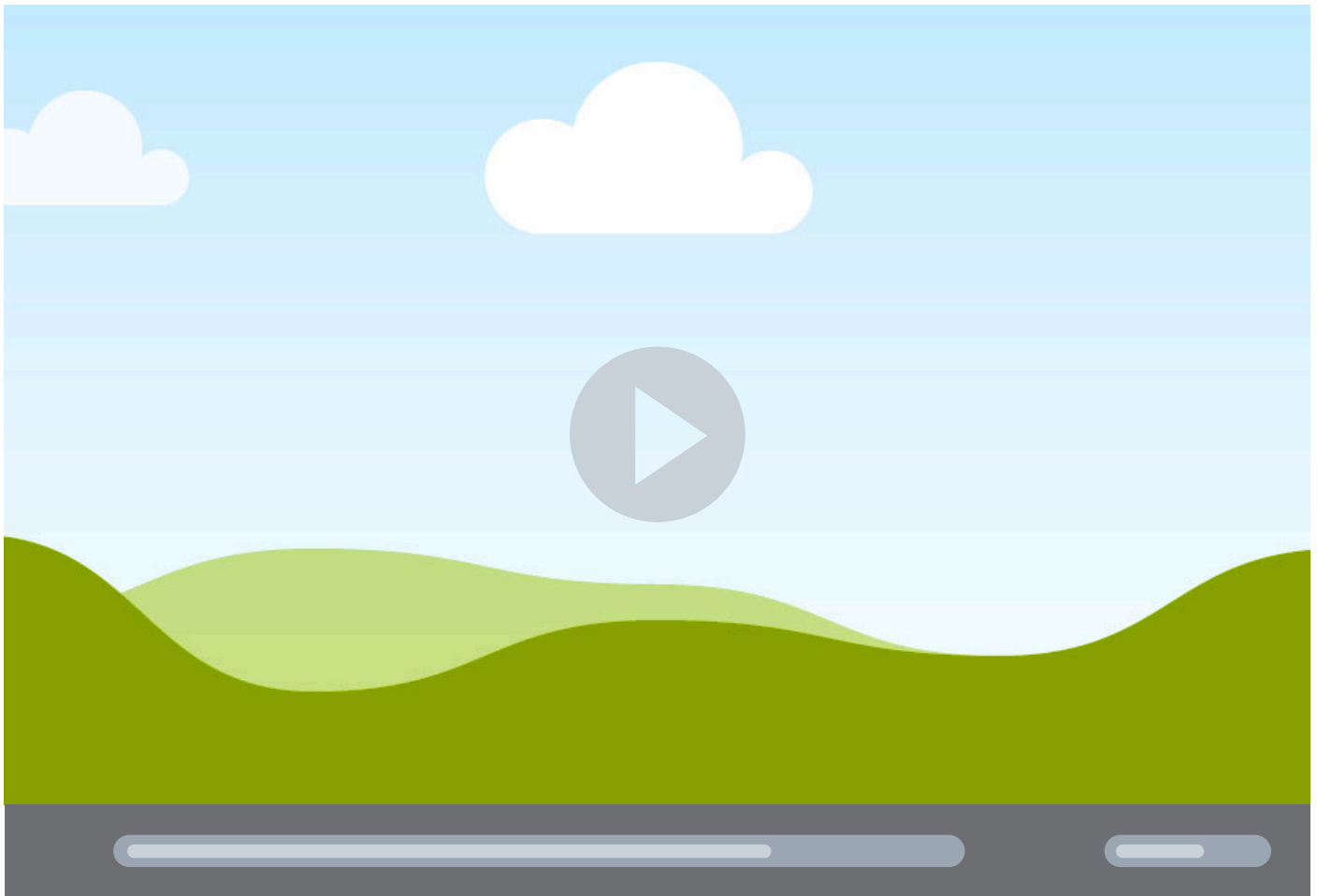
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

This is the main plan of the European Union (EU) to help create a healthy economy and to make sure we don't harm the climate by the year 2050. It includes ideas for a green change, which means making things better for the environment. Everyone needs to help, including people who work in energy, transportation, industry, farming, and finance, to fight against climate change.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/green-deal/#what>

<https://www.nortonrosefulbright.com/en-it/knowledge/publications/c50c4cd9/the-eu-green-deal-explained>

<https://ieep.eu/about-the-green-deal/>



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BIODIVERSITY

CATEGORY: EU GREEN DEAL

Short Scientific Definition

Biodiversity refers to the incredible variety of life forms found within a specific area, encompassing animals, plants, fungi, and even microscopic organisms such as bacteria. This vast diversity forms intricate ecosystems, where each species plays a vital role in maintaining ecological balance and sustaining life. Biodiversity is fundamental to our existence, providing essential resources like food, clean water, medicine, and shelter. It also supports ecosystem services such as pollination, climate regulation, and soil fertility, all of which are critical for the health of the planet and the survival of humanity.

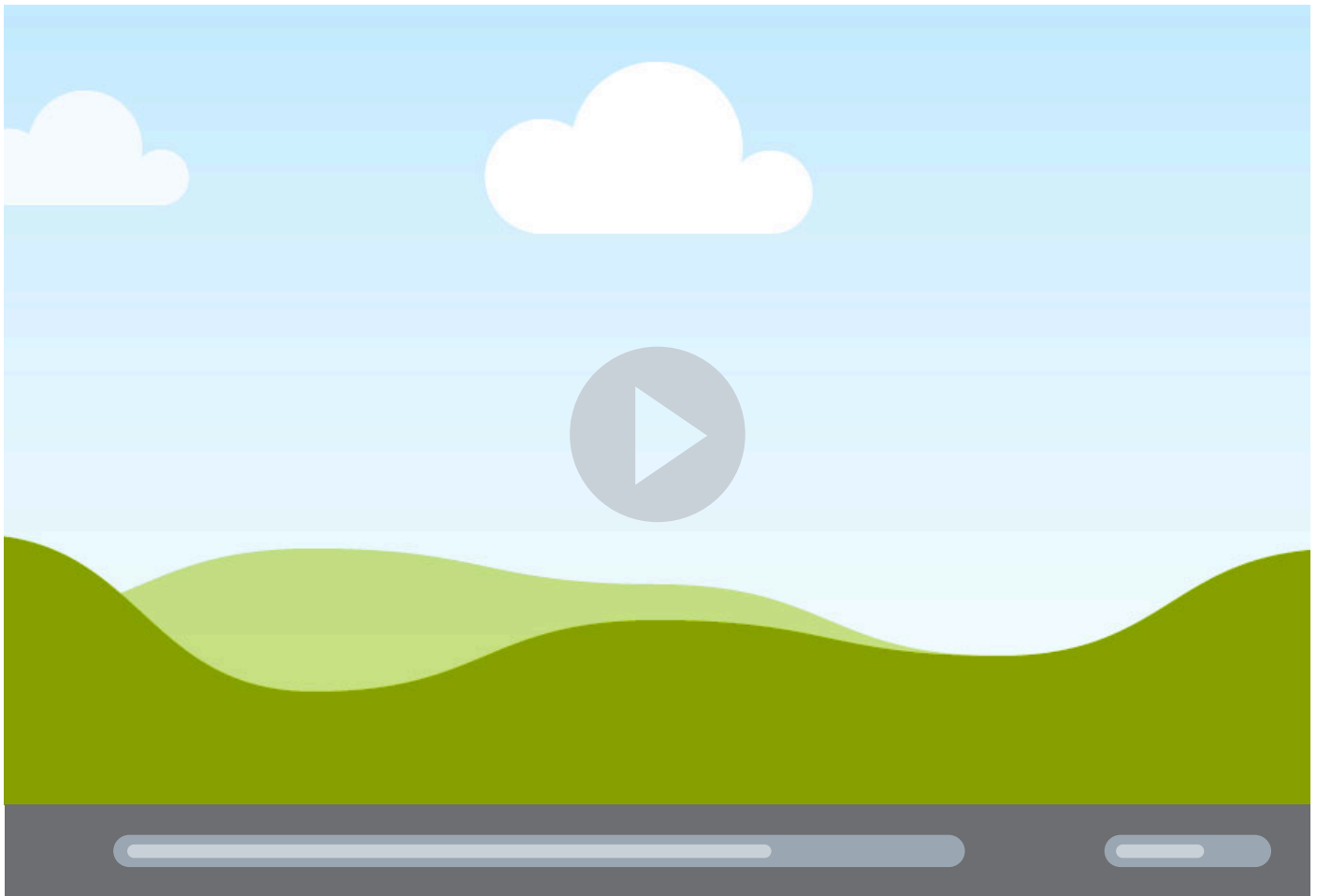
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

Biodiversity is the variety of life in an area, including animals, plants, fungi, and microorganisms. These organisms work together in ecosystems to maintain balance and support life, providing us with food, water, medicine, and shelter.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/pages/what-is-biodiversity>

<https://australian.museum/learn/science/biodiversity/what-is-biodiversity/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y18o0mACCQs>



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CARBON FOOTPRINT

CATEGORY: EU GREEN DEAL

Short Scientific Definition

A carbon footprint is the total amount of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide and methane, caused directly and indirectly by an individual, organisation, event, or product. They are generated by our actions: this includes things like driving a car, using electricity, and even the food you eat. It measures how much you contribute to climate change.

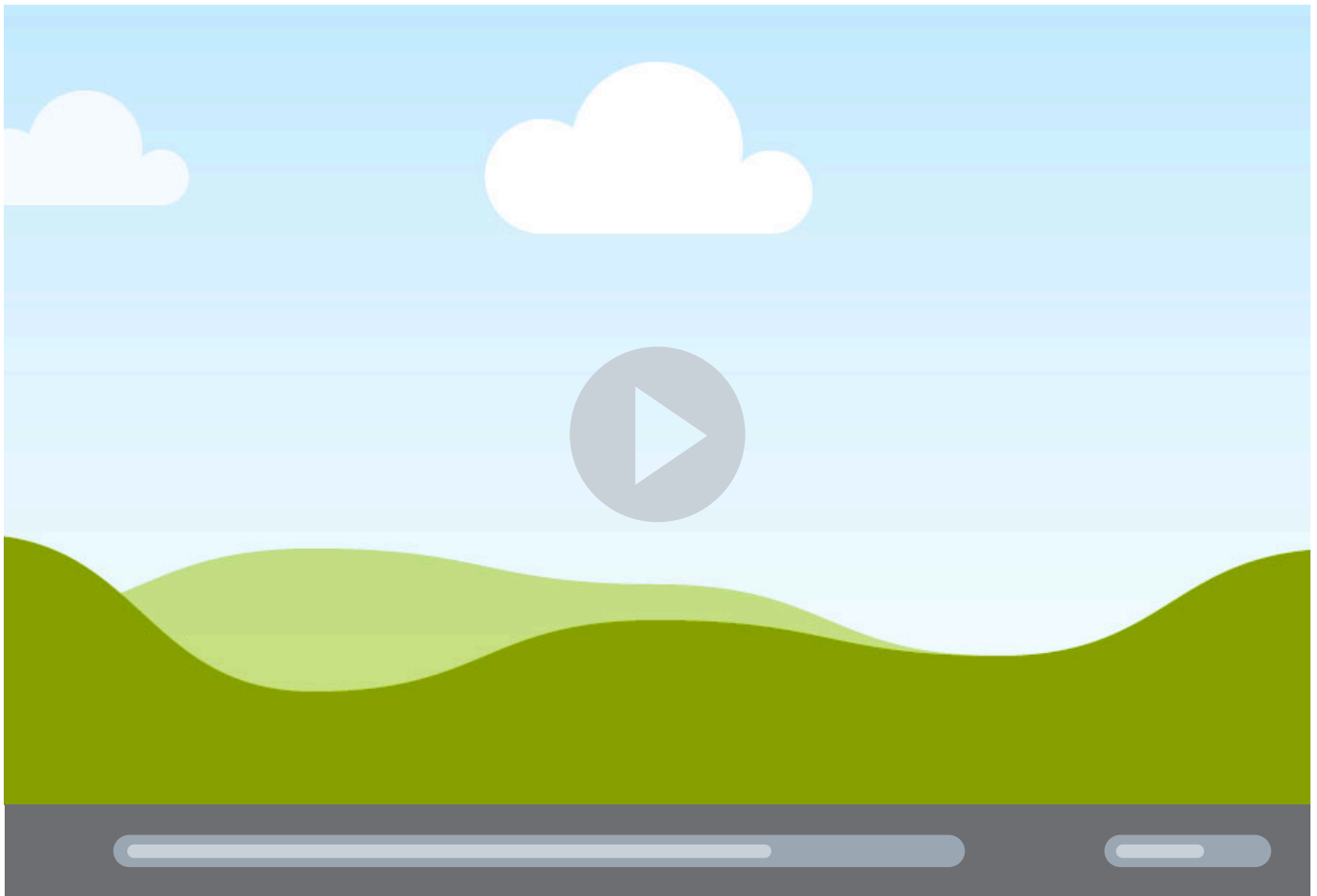
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

A carbon footprint is the total greenhouse gases, like carbon dioxide and methane, caused by activities such as driving, using electricity, or eating. It shows how much you contribute to climate change.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=di7MfYt4noE>

<https://css.umich.edu/publications/factsheets/sustainability-indicators/carbon-footprint-factsheet>



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CIRCULAR ECONOMY

CATEGORY: EU GREEN DEAL

Short Scientific Definition

The circular economy is a model of production and consumption, which involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products as long as possible. In this way, the life cycle of products is extended. It implies reducing waste to a minimum. When a product reaches the end of its life, its materials are kept within the economy wherever possible thanks to recycling. These can be productively used again and again, thereby creating further value.

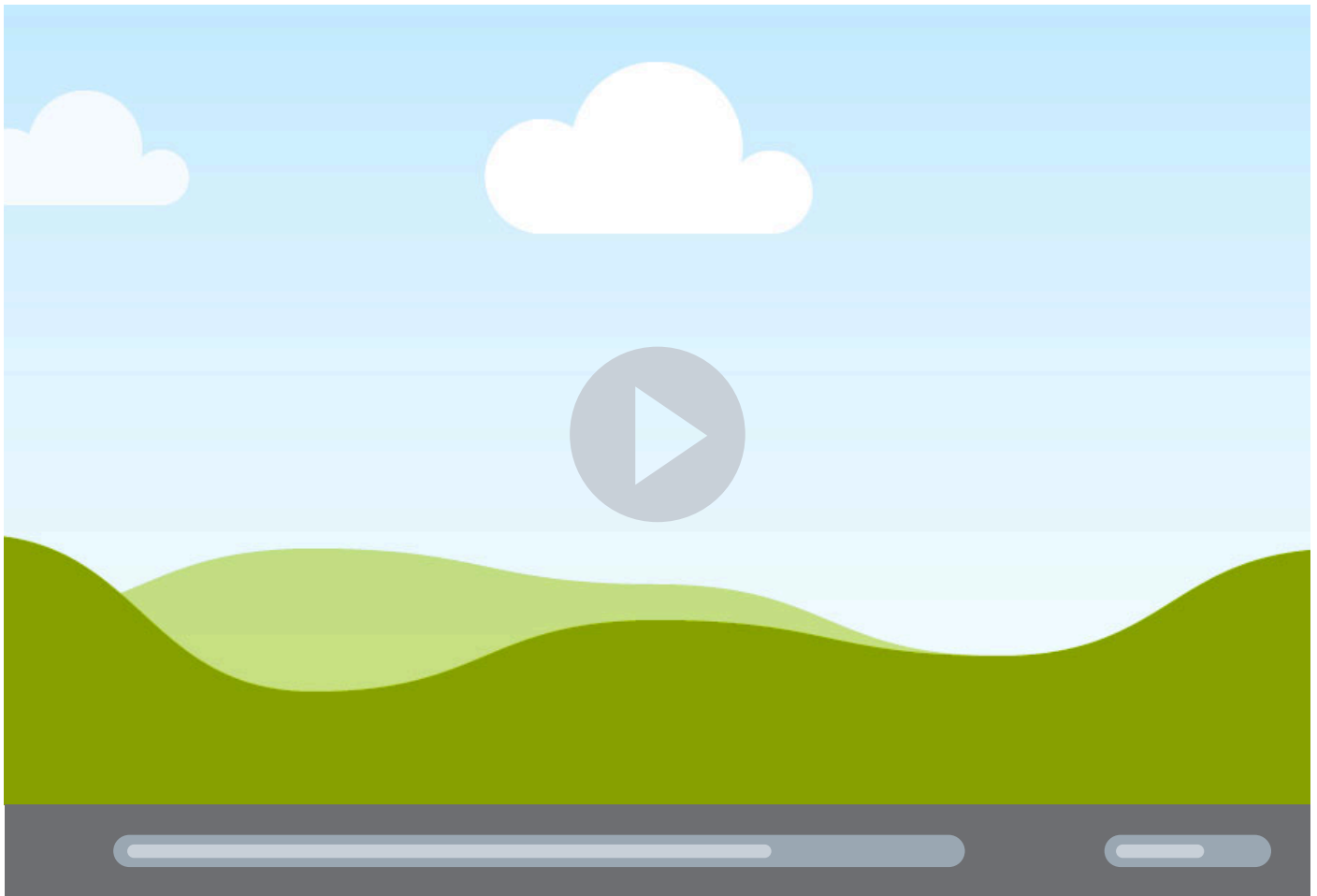
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

A circular economy focuses on sharing, reusing, repairing, and recycling materials to extend their life cycle and minimize waste. Even at the end of a product's life, its materials are recycled and reused to create new value.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lhMooyLGWkc>

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/topics/en/article/20151201STO05603/circular-economy-definition-importance-and-benefits#:~:text=What%20is%20the%20circular%20economy,cycle%20of%20products%20is%20extended>



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CLEAN ENERGY

CATEGORY: EU GREEN DEAL

Short Scientific Definition

The term “clean energy” is used to refer to the electricity that is generated by facilities that do not directly emit greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide during the generating process. Though there is some overlap between the categories, clean energy is different from “green” energy and “renewable” energy. It includes hydropower, geothermal, solar, wind, nuclear, bioenergy (at least in some circumstances).

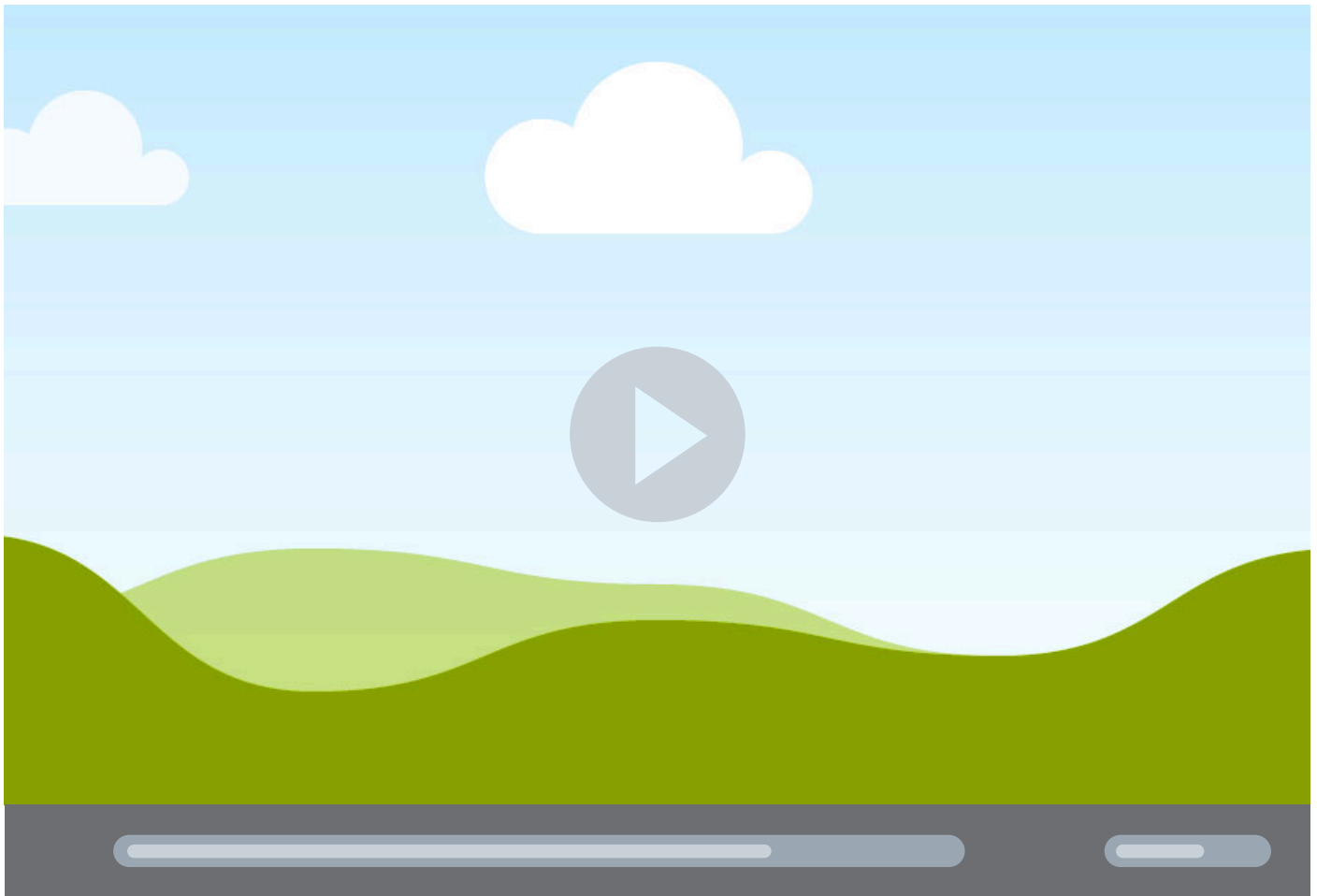
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

Clean energy refers to electricity produced without directly emitting greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide. It includes sources like hydropower, geothermal, solar, wind, nuclear, and some bioenergy.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.constellation.com/energy-101/energy-innovation/what-is-clean-energy.html#:~:text=Typically%2C%20the%20term%20%E2%80%99Cclean%E2%80%99D,dioxide%20during%20the%20generating%20process>

<https://energyinnovation.org/expert-voice/what-is-clean-energy/>



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ENERGY EFFICIENCY

CATEGORY: EU GREEN DEAL

Short Scientific Definition

Energy efficiency is the practice of using less energy to achieve the same output or perform the same tasks, whether it's heating, cooling, operating appliances, or manufacturing goods. Energy-efficient homes and buildings are designed to reduce energy consumption for heating, cooling, and running devices, while energy-efficient industrial facilities optimize processes to lower energy use without compromising productivity. By improving energy efficiency, we not only save costs but also reduce greenhouse gas emissions, making it one of the most accessible and cost-effective solutions to combat climate change and promote environmental sustainability.

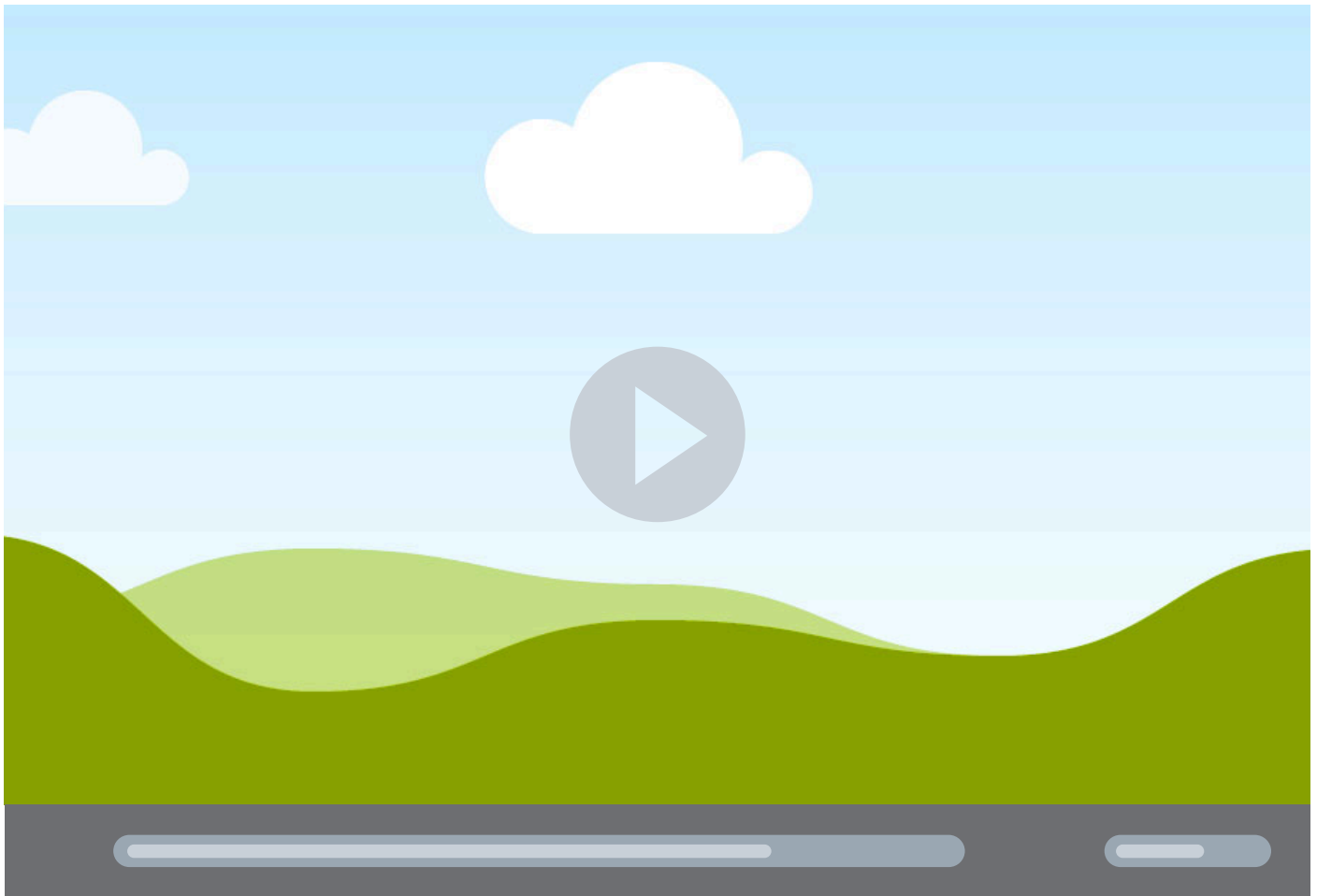
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

Energy efficiency means using less energy to achieve the same results. For example, efficient homes, buildings, and factories use less energy for heating, cooling, and production. It's a simple, cost-effective way to fight climate change.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.energy.gov/eere/energy-efficiency-buildings-and-industry>

<https://www.eesi.org/topics/energy-efficiency/description>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xjtfrJTmmil>



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GREEN INVESTMENTS

CATEGORY: EU GREEN DEAL

Short Scientific Definition

Green investing is the practice of considering the impact on the natural environment while selecting investments. It's also sometimes referred to as environmental, environmentally friendly, environmentally conscious or eco investing. The goal of green investments is to support businesses that contribute positively to the environment while generating financial returns for investors.

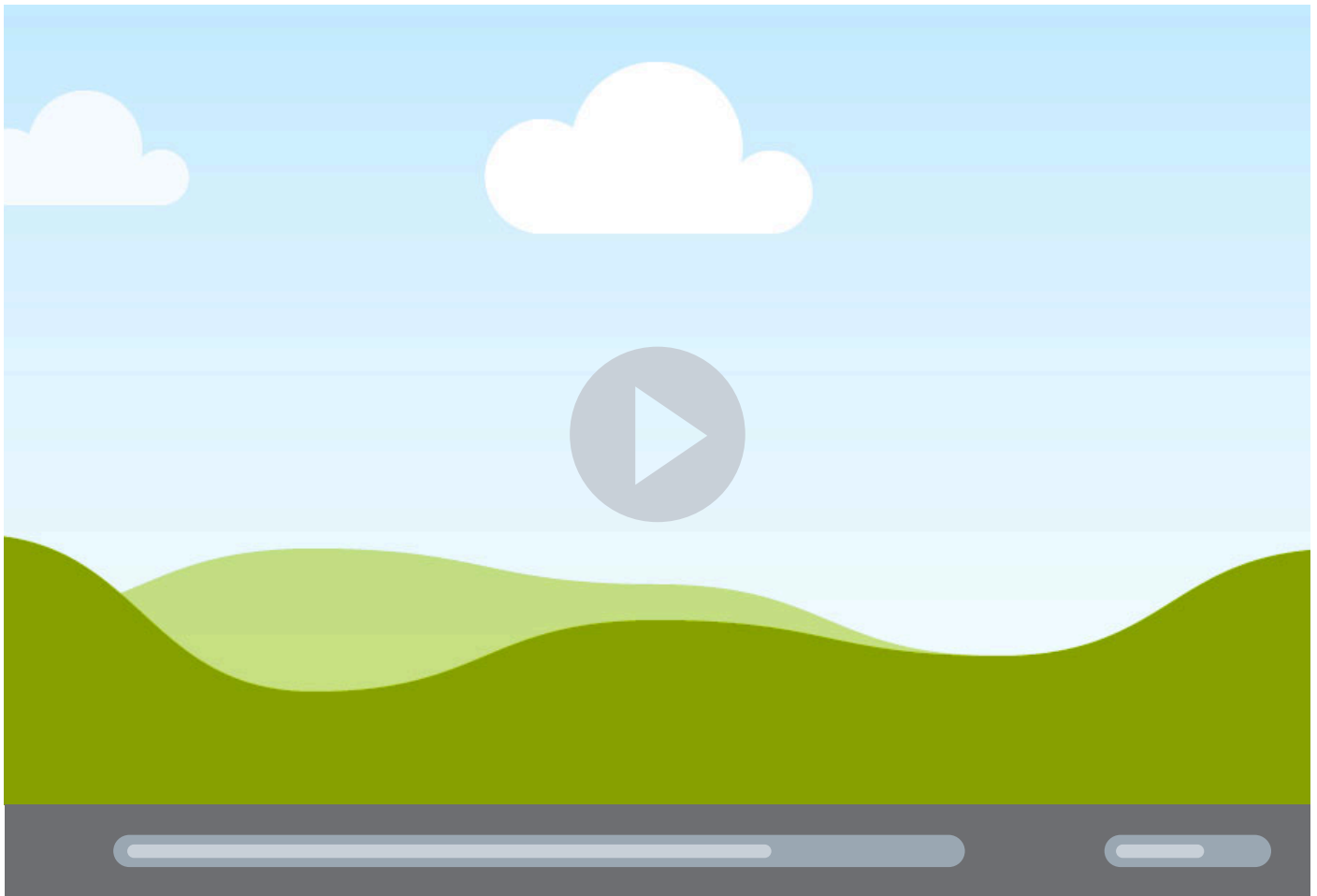
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

Green investing involves choosing investments based on their environmental impact. It focuses on supporting businesses that benefit the environment while also providing financial returns for investors.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.carboncollective.co/sustainable-investing/green-investments>



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RENEWABLE ENERGY

CATEGORY: EU GREEN DEAL

Short Scientific Definition

Renewable energy comes from unlimited, naturally replenished resources, such as the sun, tides, and wind.

Renewable energy is replenished at a higher rate than it is consumed.

Renewable energy can be used for electricity generation, space and water heating and cooling, and transportation. Non-renewable energy, in contrast, comes from finite sources, such as coal, natural gas, and oil.

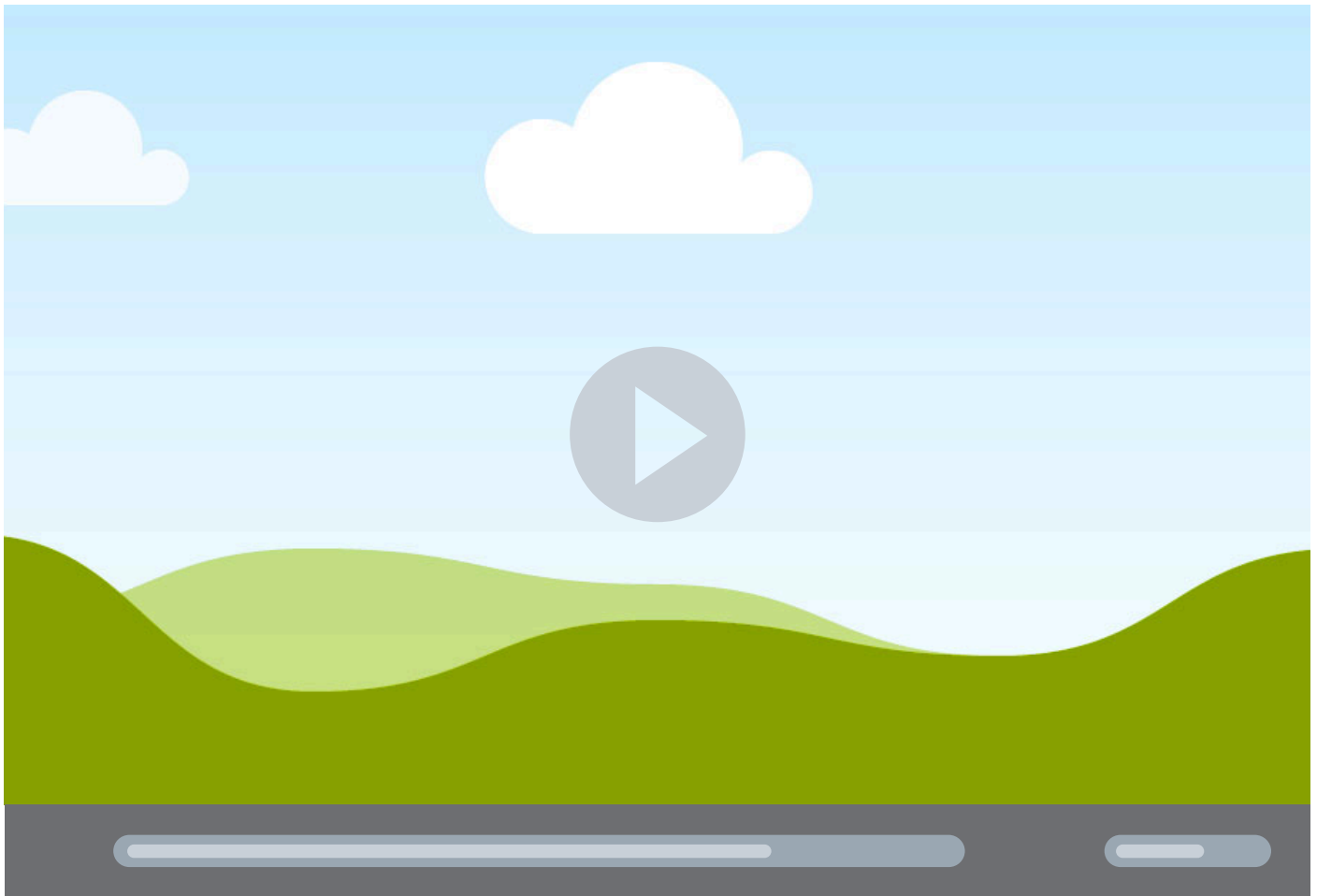
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

Renewable energy comes from unlimited, naturally replenished sources like the sun, wind, and tides. It can be used for electricity, heating, cooling, and transportation.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/what-is-renewable-energy#:~:text=Renewable%20energy%20is%20energy%20derived,that%20are%20constantly%20being%20replenished>

<https://www.energy.gov/eere/renewable-energy>



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SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

CATEGORY: EU GREEN DEAL

Short Scientific Definition

Sustainable agriculture is a farming method designed to protect the environment, conserve natural resources, and optimize the use of nonrenewable inputs. It ensures the current generation's needs are met while preserving the planet's ability to support future generations. By balancing productivity with ecological health, it promotes soil fertility, water conservation, and biodiversity, securing a resilient agricultural system for the long term.

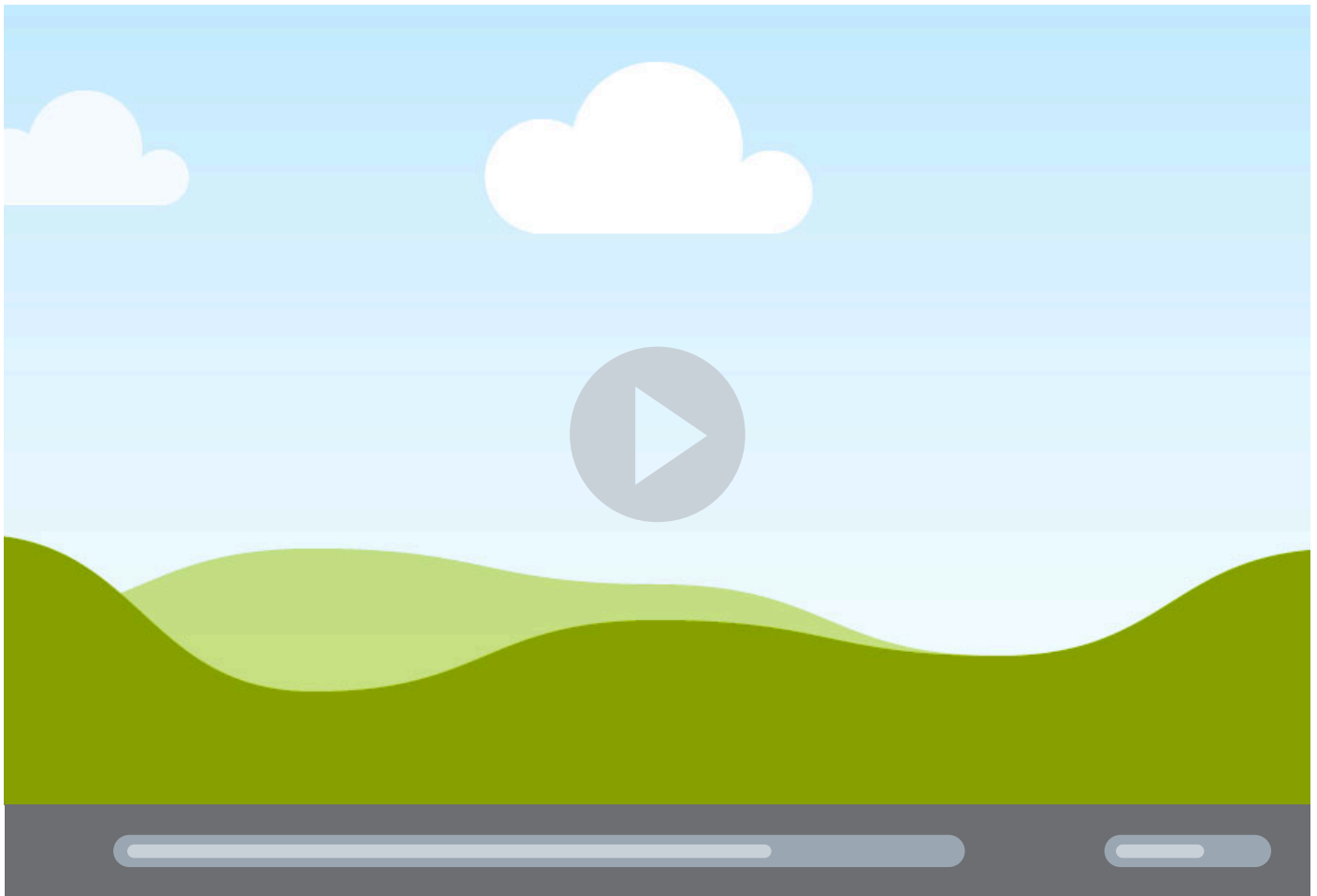
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

Sustainable agriculture is farming that protects the environment, conserves natural resources. It aims to meet the needs of current populations while ensuring the planet can support future generations.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.sare.org/resources/what-is-sustainable-agriculture/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X4DZLtdSeCM>



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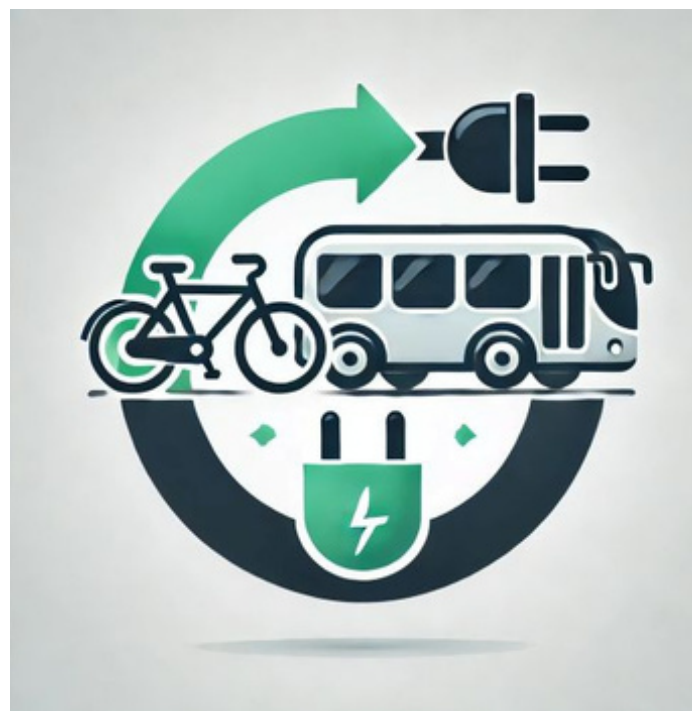
SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

CATEGORY: EU GREEN DEAL

Short Scientific Definition

Sustainable mobility involves transforming transportation to minimize ecological impact, focusing on reducing fuel consumption and emissions while allowing ecosystems to regenerate. It emphasizes environmentally conscious travel solutions such as walking, cycling, public transit, and electric vehicles, while addressing social and economic considerations to create efficient, accessible, and long-lasting systems. This approach promotes a balanced integration of ecological, societal, and practical needs in transportation planning.

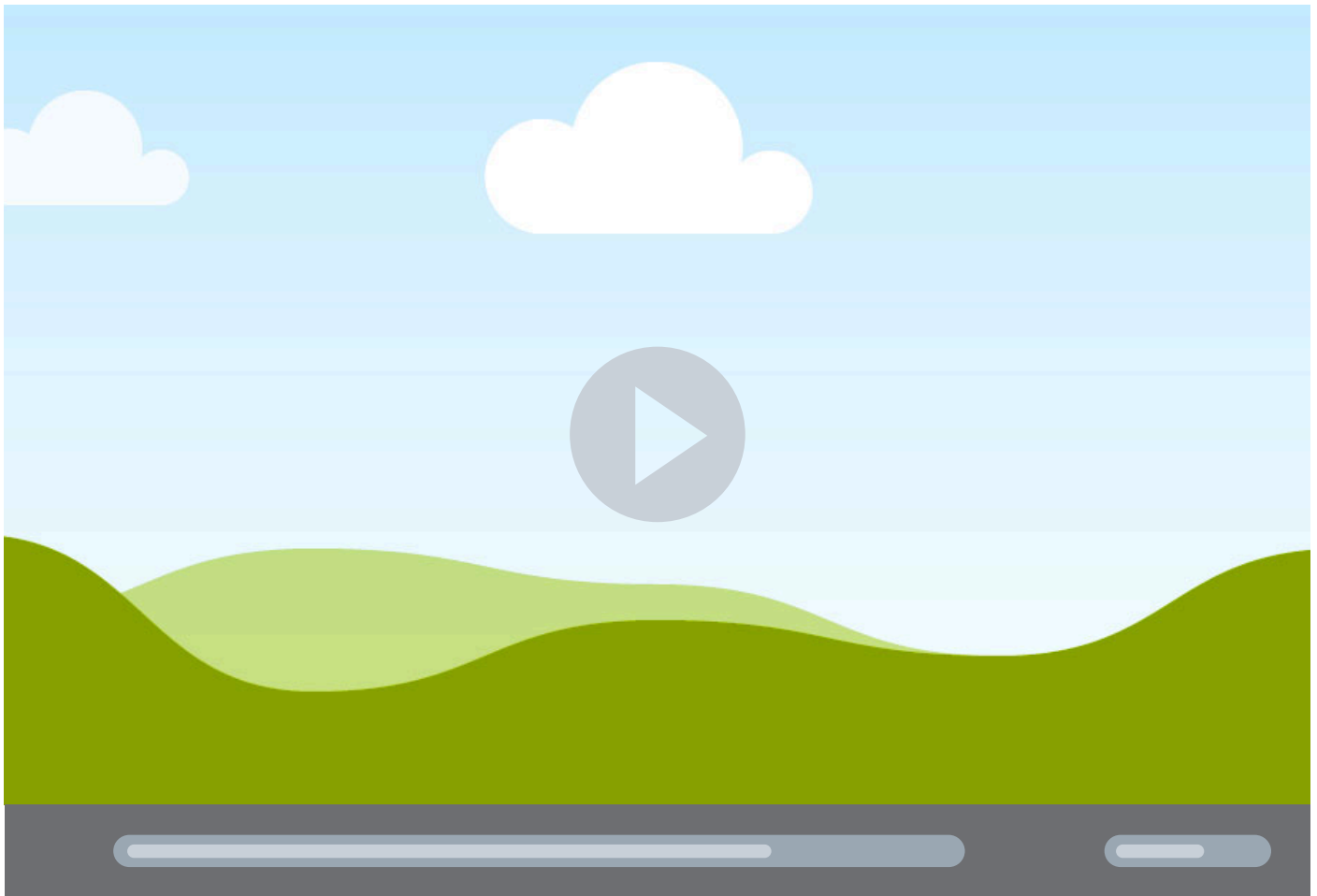
Term Icon



Detailed Simple language explanation

Sustainable mobility is about using eco-friendly, efficient, and accessible transport options, like walking, cycling, public transport, and electric vehicles, to reduce environmental impact.

TERM NAME SIGN - VIDEO ILLUSTRATION



Reference link (s) - (videos, articles, etc.)

<https://www.swarco.com/mobility-future/sustainable-mobility-examples-definition#:~:text=Sustainable%20mobility%20is%20a%20concept,that%20the%20ecosystem%20can%20regenerate.>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b93wkhn2wxM>



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Final Note

The GreenSIGNS Glossary is designed as a practical and accessible learning resource that supports the development of green skills within inclusive education and youth work contexts.

By integrating sustainability terminology with digital tools and sign language resources, the glossary promotes equal access to environmental knowledge, encourages active engagement in climate action, and strengthens the capacity of Deaf and Hard of Hearing learners to participate in green education and employment pathways.

This output contributes to the long-term objectives of the GreenSIGNS project by enhancing digital inclusion, improving learning accessibility, and fostering sustainability awareness across European learning communities.



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