

## Food for Thought Glossary 2007-2008

Sustainability	Cultural practices that do not degrade the ability of natural systems to renew themselves, thus being available for future generations
Globalization	The effort to standardize consumer habits, values, and ways of thinking that contributes to the development of global markets—the extension of economic activities without restriction on a worldwide scale
Localization	The effort to maintain cultural and environmental variety and diversity by relying on resources that do not have to travel great distances
Monoculture	A loss of cultural and/or biological diversity due to the forces of globalization
Subsidy	Government support in the form of payments or privileges given to private companies and individuals
Free Trade	International trade that is set up to eliminate restrictions on large producers' abilities to maximize profit. It often increases regulation on small local producers and forces them to compete "evenly" with gigantic corporations
Trophic Level	The level within a food pyramid at which an organism gets its nutrition
Eltonian Pyramid	An ecological model that shows trophic relationships within an ecosystem
Producer	An organism that synthesizes its own food found on the first level of a food pyramid; e.g. plants
Primary Consumer	An organism that obtains nutrition from a producer
Secondary Consumer	An organism that obtains nutrition from a primary consumer
Tertiary Consumer	An organism that obtains nutrition from a secondary consumer
Herbivore	An organism that feeds only on producers; a primary consumer



Environmental Commons	Natural systems (air, water, soil, forests, oceans, etc.) that are shared and accessed without cost by all members of the community
Cultural Commons	The cultural patterns and traditions (intergenerational knowledge such as growing food, medicinal practices, arts/crafts, ceremonies, etc.) that are shared without cost by all members of the community
Enclosure	The process of limiting access, use, and democratic decisions about what can be freely shared by members of the community; privatization (the privatization of what were previously public services, e.g.)
Ideology	A shared system of belief that may serve the interests of some more than others; often perceived as “natural” or “just the way things are”
Individualism	The belief that humans are independent autonomous units, that pursuit of self-interest leads to the greatest good, and that competition is natural (this is different from <i>individuality</i> , which recognizes each person’s unique attributes and contributions)
Anthropocentrism	The idea that humans are superior to all other life forms; it often manifests itself in ways thinking of a) the natural world as a resource to be exploited for human purposes, b) the fate of the environment as separate from the fate of humans, c) humans as “rational” while the environment is viewed as “wild” and in need of being brought under rational control
Progress	In Western thought, a linear notion of change as good and inevitable used to legitimize new technologies and ideas without considering their unintended consequences-- the developmental activity in science, technology, etc., especially with reference to the commercial opportunities created or to the promotion of the material well-being of the public through the goods, technologies, or facilities created
Anthropogenic	Of or having human origin
Commodity	something useful that can be turned into something commercial; an economic good: as a product of agriculture or mining or an article of commerce

## Commodification

The process through which something (a name, a good, an idea, even a person) that previously was not regarded as such becomes an object that can be bought, sold, and traded in the world market