

Appendix A: Glossary

Term	Definition
Biomass	Combustible solid, liquid or gas that is derived from biological processes. Examples are trees, sewer gas, and yard clippings.
CEC	California Energy Commission
CO	Carbon Monoxide, a dangerous, colorless gas that is regulated.
CO₂	Carbon Dioxide, a non-hazardous product of combustion that is thought to be a contributor to global climate change.
CPUC	California Public Utilities Commission
Distribution line	Power line that distributes electricity in cities.
Energy	The capability of doing work. Measured in Megawatt-hours.
Geothermal	Relating to heat energy derived from the earth.
Hydroelectric	Relating to electricity derived from flowing water.
GW	Gigawatt. A unit of power equal to a thousand MW.
GWh	Gigawatt-hour. A unit of energy equal to one thousand Megawatt-hours.
kWh	Kilowatt-hour. A unit of energy worth about 12 to 15 cents.
MW	Megawatt. A unit of power. A thousand kilowatts or a million watts.
MWh	Megawatt-hour. A thousand kilowatt-hours.
Nameplate rating	The maximum power capacity of a generator as described on a plate affixed to the generator by the manufacturer.

Term	Definition
NO_x	Various nitrogen oxide gases that are precursors of smog.
Photovoltaic	A process to convert light into electrical energy within a silicon chip.
Power	The rate at which energy is used. Measured in Megawatts.
PV Photovoltaic	PV is often used to represent a photovoltaic solar cell.
RPS	Renewable portfolio standard. A regulation that requires investor owned utilities to supply a certain amount of electricity derived from renewable sources in the electricity they sell by a certain date. The California objective is 20% renewable energy by 2017.
San Diego Renewable Energy Group	The people who voluntarily collaborated to produce this report. See the title page for the names of the organizations and individuals.
SCERP	Southwest Consortium for the Environmental Research and Policy
SDREO	San Diego Regional Energy Office, a nonprofit educational office.
Transmission line	A high-voltage power line used to transport electricity long distances.
SDSU	San Diego State University
SDG&E	San Diego Gas & Electric, the local investor owned gas and electric utility.
SO_x	Various sulfur oxide gases. Can be hazardous to health. Generally associated with burning coal.
UABC	Universidad Autónoma a de Baja California, located in Mexicali.