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Standard Terminology for Sustainability Relative to the Performance of Buildings¹

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1. Scope*

1.1 This terminology² consists of terms and definitions pertaining to sustainable development; and, in particular to sustainability relative to the performance of buildings.

1.2 The purpose of this terminology is to provide meanings and explanations of terms applicable to sustainable development. In the interest of common understanding and standardization, consistent word usage is encouraged to help eliminate the major barrier to effective technical communication.

1.3 It is recommended that terms used only within an individual standard, and having a meaning unique to that standard, be defined or explained in the terminology section of that individual standard.

1.4 Certain standard definitions herein are adopted from other sources. Each is an exact copy. The source is identified at the right margin following the definition, and is listed in Section 2.

1.5 Terms are listed in alphabetical sequence. Compound terms appear in the natural spoken order.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:³

D 1356 Terminology Relating to Sampling and Analysis of Atmospheres

E 631 Terminology of Building Constructions

E 833 Terminology of Building Economics

E 943 Terminology Relating to Biological Effects and Environmental Fate

2.2 ISO Standard:⁴

ISO 14040 Life Cycle Assessment—Principles and Framework

¹ This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E60 on Sustainability and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E60.01 on Buildings and Construction.

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² Boldfaced terms are defined in this terminology.

³ For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

⁴ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, http://www.ansi.org.

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

alternative agricultural products, *n*—bio-based industrial products (non-food, non-feed) manufactured from agricultural materials and animal by-products.

alternative energy, *n*—see **renewable energy**.

bioaccumulation, *n*—the net accumulation of a substance by an organism as a result of uptake from all environmental sources. (**E 943**)

biobased products, *n*—products fabricated from alternative agricultural materials and forestry materials, or both.

biodegradable, *adj*—capable of decomposing under natural conditions into elements found in nature.

biodiversity, *n*—the variability among living organisms from all sources including: terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.

biological control agents, *n*—living organisms used to eliminate or regulate the population of other living organisms.

biological diversity, *n*—see **biodiversity**.

biomagnification, *n*—the increase in tissue concentration of poorly depurated materials in organisms along a series of predator-prey associations, primarily through the mechanism of dietary accumulation. (**E 943**)

biomass, *n*—(1) All living material in a given area. (2) Any material which is or was a living organism or excreted from a microorganism.

DISCUSSION—It often refers to vegetation.

building, *n*—(1) A shelter comprising a partially or totally enclosed space(s), erected by means of planned forces of forming and combining materials. (2) The act or process of construction. (**E 631**)

building performance, *n*—the behavior in service of construction as a whole, or of the building components. (**E 631**)

building related illness, BRI, *n*—diagnosable illness of which cause and symptoms can be directly attributed to a specific pollutant source within a building (for example, Legionnaire's disease, hypersensitivity, pneumonitis). BRI differs from sick building syndrome (SBS) conditions because the



symptoms of the disease persist alter leaving the building, after leaving the building.
unlike SBS where the occupant experiences relief shortly