**Key Terms**

*Ethical Choices*, Third Edition

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Chapter 17: Environmental Ethics – Pollution and Resource Use

**adaptation** These are attempts to handle climate change effects like flooding. Adaptation is done mainly at regional and local levels in an attempt to reduce losses in life and property.

**anthropocentrism** Holds that only humans and human interests have foundational value; everything else has instrumental value.

**Celsius** Temperature measurement scale (C), where 1°C = 1.8° Fahrenheit (F).

**climate change** The changes in climate caused mainly by global warming—changing storm routes and intensities, plant, animal, and disease migrations, unusual cold and warm spells, expanding drylands, etc.

**common property** Property or resources held by all within a given society (e.g., air, water, parks).

**commons** Common property.

**discretionary human wants** Human interests that are not necessary but are considered desirable.

**ecocentrism** Holds that both humans and non-humans have foundational value.

**emission pathways** Describe the trajectory GMSTs could take, each depending on how the world plans to manage greenhouse gases.

**externality** Unpaid costs that arise when people use and damage a commons. Those costs later get distributed to everyone who uses the commons.

**global mean surface temperature (GMST)** The GMST is the global average of air temperatures measured just above stretches of land, ice, and water.

**global warming** The increase in Global Mean Surface Temperature (GMST) averaged over a thirty-year period compared to pre-industrial levels.

**greenhouse gases** The atmospheric gases that warm the earth by reflecting heat energy back down—especially carbon dioxide (CO2), methane, and nitrous oxide.

**human needs** Basic human interests that are necessary for survival.

**mitigation** Includes all attempts to slow climate change by reducing the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. This includes both removing what is already present and reducing what is still being put into the atmosphere.

**optimization** Baxter’s goal of balancing our production of pollution and our use of resources to best serve economic and other human needs.

**overshoot** The part of some emission pathways where the GMST temporarily spikes beyond a given goal before settling down to a final stable temperature.

**Paris Agreement** The landmark 2016 agreement made by all nations to work against global warming.

**tragedy of the commons** The tendency of people to exploit common property to their own advantage, making it of less value to all.

**zoonotic diseases** Human diseases that are contracted from animals.