

# The *Lotus Live* Glossary

(Updated January 14, 2007)

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## **Introduction**

- This guide is your source for definitions - defining all of the terms you may not know about
- As Lotus Live's knowledge base increases, and as new resources are created, this guide will be updated. The most recent version of this guide can be found [here](#).

## **Terms by Subject Area**

### ***Buildings***

- [Coolth](#), [Insolation](#), [Insulation](#), [Forced Air System](#), [HVAC](#), [R-Value](#), [TMY Data](#), [U-Value](#), [Underfloor Radiation](#)

### ***Dining***

- [Organic](#),

### ***Energy***

- [Carbon Sequestration](#), [Efficiency \(Energy\)](#), [Insolation](#), [Negawatts](#), [Photovoltaics \(PVs\)](#), [Solar Hot Water](#),

### ***Economy***

- [Efficiency \(Economics\)](#)

### ***People***

- [Survival](#), [Thrival](#)

### ***Products***

- [Affluenza](#),

### ***Transport***

- [PHEV](#),

## ***Units***

- See the [Lotus Live Guide to Units](#).

## ***Waste***

- [MSW](#),

## ***Water***

- [Black Water](#), [Grey Water](#), [Grey Water Recycling](#), [Rain Water Collection](#), [Solar How Water](#)

## All Terms Alphabetically

- **Affluenza:** “a painful, contagious, socially transmitted condition of overload, debt, anxiety, and waste resulting from the dogged pursuit of more.”<sup>1</sup>
- **Black Water:** toilet water, or water otherwise unsuitable for any reuse until treated.
- **Carbon Sequestration:** capturing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and storing them underground
- **Coolth:** the opposite of warmth
- **Efficiency (Economics):** getting a better return for your investment.
- **Efficiency (Energy):** using less energy to achieve the same (or a better) result.
- **Forced Air System:** uses ducts to transmit hot and cold air.
- **Grey Water:** water cleaner than black water, yet not fully clean. For example, shower or sink water that contains residual soap. Can be recycled.
- **Grey Water Recycling:** system where grey water is reused. Potable water is used as drinking water and shower water, then soapy shower water is cleaned and used to water plants or flush toilets.
- **HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning):** the mechanical systems that provide heating, ventilation, and cooling
- **Insolation:** the amount of sunlight that reaches a given area. In English units, it is usually measured in Btu/hr-ft<sup>2</sup>
- **Insulation:** material used to raise the R-value and to maintain temperature stability in a building
- **Municipal Solid Waste (MSW):** waste from residential and commercial sources
- **Negawatts:** negawatts represent energy efficiency and conservation measures that negate the need for producing watts of power. The prefix nega- may also be applied to other things: nega-gallons, nega-trucks, nega-cows--you get the idea.<sup>2</sup>
- **Organic:** resembling a living organism. In dining, grown using only vegetable and animal fertilizers and pesticides.

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<sup>1</sup> From *Affluenza: The All Consuming Epidemic* by John de Graaf, David Wann, and Thomas H. Naylor (2005)

<sup>2</sup> Amory Lovins (Rocky Mountain Institute) is given credit for coining this term.

- **Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV):** a vehicle that runs on combustion fuel and battery power, for which the battery can be charged by a wall outlet, enabling electric capacity great enough to make the vehicle run all-electric for some of the time.
- **Photovoltaics (PVs):** solar panels
- **Rain Water Collection:** system in which rain water is collected, then integrated into the building's grey water system.
- **R-Value:** a measure of how insulating a material is. R-11 is more insulating than R-3. Equal to  $1/(U\text{-value})$ .
- **Solar Hot Water:** water that is heated with solar energy
- **Survival:** the state or fact of continuing to live or exist at a most basic level
- **Thrival:** the state or fact of being able to flourish<sup>3</sup>
- **TMY (Typical Meteorological Year) Data:** provides hour-by-hour information on temperature and insolation for a location during a given year.
- **Under-Floor Radiation:** heats a building by cycling hot water through pipes underneath the floor
- **U-Value:** a measure of how much heat will escape through a material over time. Equal to  $1/(R\text{-value})$ .

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<sup>3</sup> Robert E. McGinn (Stanford) is given credit for coining this term.

## About this Guide

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If you have any ideas, suggestions, or corrections you would like to contribute to this Glossary, please send us an email at [info@lotuslive.org](mailto:info@lotuslive.org).

Feel free to make use of any of the information in this guide for any purpose--we simply ask that you credit us and our predecessors, and link to us.

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