

# Vocabulary List for *The Energy Detective*

The following words are listed in the order in which they are used in *The Energy Detective*.

**Carbon footprint:** a measurement of how much carbon gas a person, place, or thing releases into the atmosphere.

**Sustainable:** something that will last a long time and be available when you need it.

**Kinetic Energy:** motion energy.

**Generator:** a device that changes kinetic energy into electrical energy.

**Perpetrator:** the person responsible for doing something; the bad guy!

**Turbine:** a machine that uses blades to change kinetic energy into mechanical energy.

**Alternative energy:** an energy source other than fossil fuels or nuclear energy.

**Renewable resources:** things that regenerate and can be used again, i.e. the sun or trees.

**Synthetic trees:** devices that use filters to pull carbon gases out of the air.

**Sequestration:** to safely store out of sight.

**Decapitate:** to cut off the head.

**Nucleus (nuclei):** the center, or core, of an atom (nuclei is plural for nucleus).

**Potential energy:** stored energy, energy waiting to happen.

**Fission:** splitting apart the nucleus of an atom.

**Radiation:** the dangerous energy waves and particles released during nuclear fission.

**Trident:** a three pronged spear.

**Perpetual:** something that goes on forever.

**Pelamis:** named after a sea snake, this electric generator rides on top of the waves.

**Hydroelectricity:** electricity that is generated by moving water.

**Solar cell:** a silicon chip that generates electricity directly from the sun.