

This is the **Foundation Combined** version — Higher Tier and Separate-only content removed.

Matter is recycled continuously through ecosystems. The same atoms cycle through organisms and the environment indefinitely.

- Carbon cycle: photosynthesis removes CO₂; respiration, decomposition and combustion return it
- Only photosynthesis removes CO₂ from atmosphere
- Water cycle: evaporation → condensation → precipitation → runoff
- Decomposers (bacteria and fungi): essential for releasing mineral ions from dead matter
- Eutrophication: fertiliser run-off → algal bloom → O₂ depletion → aquatic life dies

Key Terms

Decomposer	Organism breaking down dead matter — releases nutrients
Eutrophication	Nutrient enrichment of water → algal bloom → O ₂ depletion