

Basic Background Information

Ecosystem – an array of organisms together with their physical environment that interact through a one-way flow of energy and the cycling of vital raw materials. It is an open system that is unable to sustain itself without continual inputs of energy.

Two important things about ecosystems:

1. energy is constantly moving throughout ecosystems
2. materials in ecosystems are constantly cycling and recycling

Worms take their energy from food which consists mainly of organic waste. This means we can classify worms as heterotrophs or a primary consumer putting them in the second trophic level.