



## Consumers and Producers

Our ecosystem needs both producers and consumers, and both help each other survive. Producers can produce their own food from the energy of the sun. Plants are producers. Plants use chlorophyll to use water, sunlight and carbon dioxide to produce food.

A consumer is an animal that eats (or consumes) plants or other animals. Consumers can not produce their own food. Consumers depend on producers for the food which gives them energy. When an animal eats a plant, the energy from the plant transfers to the animal. Consumers need producers.

Producers also need consumers. Often, consumers help producers reproduce. Some plants need pollen from other plants to produce seeds. Animals help plants reproduce by carrying pollen from one plant to another. Sometimes, small insects and birds carry seeds or pollen to other plants. Sometimes, eating the seeds helps the plant produce new plants. Some larger animals help producers spread by carrying their seeds in their animal fur, or by eating the fruit from the plant. Animals carry the seeds to new places, where the seeds are deposited and grow into new plants.