

Concept 36.3

Chemicals cycle in ecosystems.

The Basic Pattern of Chemical Cycling:

Chemical cycles typically involve three general steps.

1. Producers incorporate chemicals from the nonliving environment into organic compounds.
2. Consumers feed on the producers, incorporating some chemicals and releasing some back to the environment.
3. As organisms die, decomposers break them down, supplying the soil, water, and air with chemicals in inorganic form.

The Carbon and Oxygen Cycle:

The Nitrogen Cycle:

The Water Cycle: