

Terminology for Impact Identification Worksheet

Positive Environmental Impact- any beneficial change to the environment, wholly or partially resulting from an organization's activities, products or services.

Negative Environmental Impact- any adverse change to the environment, wholly or partially resulting from an organization's activities, products or services.

Air Impacts

Air Pollutants - Any compound released into the air that has a potential to adversely impact the environment. (i.e. ammonia, VOCs & methane).

Odor – objectionable smell present in the ambient air.

Dust - fine particles of earth or other matter that are suspended in air.

Water Impacts

Water Pollutants- Any compound released into waters that has a potential to adversely affect the quality of the water. (i.e. suspended solids, pesticides/herbicides)

Lagoon solids loading - adding fecal matter to lagoon.

Lagoon volume loading - adding liquids to lagoon.

Lagoon balance - destruction of lagoon microorganisms (via overload of cleaning chemicals or other agent).

Groundwater Contamination - Any nutrient, pollutant, pathogen or other agent that has the potential to contaminate groundwater.

Surface Water Contamination - Any nutrient, pollutant, pathogen or other agent that has the potential to contaminate surface water.

Water Usage - usage of fresh water, well or recycled water.

Land Impacts

Soil Contamination - Any nutrient, pollutant or other agent that has the potential to contaminate surrounding soils and nearby surface water.

Soil Erosion - loss of beneficial surface soil through natural means – wind and rain – and through activities such as grading, water runoff, loss of ground cover, etc.

Resource Consumption

Non-renewable energy/natural resource - Energy derived from electricity, gasoline/oil, propane/ natural gas, etc.

Renewable energy/natural resource - energy derived from the sun, wind and water.

Waste Stream

Waste - Any item that leaves the farm and is destined for a landfill or incinerator. It may include but is not limited to: discarded packaging, recyclables, sharps, biohazards, used oils/fluids and paper.

Recyclables - Any item that leaves the farm (and is not considered a product) that is collected and sent to a facility that will remanufacture, reuse or reprocess the item. This may include cans, bottles, glass, paper, used oils/fluids, cardboard and mortalities/discards that are sent to a renderer.