

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

## IDENTIFYING ASPECTS AND IMPACTS

**Environmental Aspect** is defined as an element of a community's activities or services that can interact with the environment.

**Environment Impact** is any change to the environment, whether adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from a community's activities or services.

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1. To identify environmental aspects, first select a municipal operation or department. For example:

Operation or Department: Solid Waste Management

2. Next, identify the activities and services that occur within that particular operation. For example:

Activities or Services of Solid Waste Management: Curbside collection; Drop-off collection; Storage; Disposal; Recycling; Composting; Household Hazardous Waste Collection

3. Then, identify the associated aspects of each activity or service. In other words, how does curbside collection, drop-off collection, storage, and so on interact with the environment? For example:

- Aspects of Curbside Collection: exhaust, fuel use, oil use, oil filters, tires
- Aspects of Storage until disposal: leaks

4. Finally, identify the environmental impacts resulting from these interactions, or aspects.

Impacts: air pollution, natural resource depletion, landfilling, contamination of surface and ground water, odor

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In order to best identify the aspects and impacts associated with each activity and service, consider the following questions:

- Does the activity or service emit, discharge, or release anything to the air, water, or land?
- Does the activity or service create any change (positive or negative) to or in the environment?
- Does the activity or service produce any waste?
- Does the activity or service use, store, produce or transport chemicals, biological, or other materials that may have an impact on the environment?
- Does the community's location require special environmental considerations because it is located in an especially sensitive area?

Aspect → Impact	
Vapor emissions into the air	Diminished air quality
Discharges to natural waterways	Diminished water quality
Solid and other wastes	Increased landfills
Use of electrical energy	Diminished natural resources
Outdoor lighting	Diminished night viewing
Discharge of bad odor	Diminished air quality
Use of raw materials	Depleting natural resources

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### IDENTIFYING ASPECTS AND IMPACTS WORKSHEET

Choose one operation from the “Operations” list. Next, list the activities and services within the operation. Then, list the aspects of each activity. Finally, list the impacts resulting from aspect.

**Operations:** Department of Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Police Department, Wastewater Treatment Facility, City Hall

1. Activity/Service:

- Aspects:
- Impacts:

2. Activity/Service:

- Aspects:
- Impacts:

3. Activity/Service:

- Aspects:
- Impacts:

4. Activity/Service:

- Aspects:
- Impacts:

5. Activity/Service:

- Aspects:
- Impacts:

6. Activity/Service:

- Aspects:
- Impacts: