

Wanda wonders about How our actions affect the environment.



# Environmental Messenger

Take Time to Plan



EVER WONDERED WHAT EFFECTS YOUR ACTIONS HAVE ON THE ENVIRONMENT?

## ASPECTS AND IMPACTS

Understanding how you interact with the environment gives you the knowledge you need to make improvements that support the environment.

An **Environmental Impact** is any change to the environment whether it is a positive or negative change.

Any element of your operation which can interact with the environment to cause or contribute to environmental impacts is an **Environmental Aspect**.



aspects

impacts

A few examples of Environmental aspects:

- energy use
- waste generation
- emissions to air
- use of natural resources

Environmental impacts from the use of energy could include:

- depletion of non-renewable resources
- air pollution
- greenhouse gas release

Using green energy sources or implementing energy conservation programs are also environmental aspects.

They would have positive environmental impacts:

- conserving non-renewable resources
- reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- reducing transportation impacts of foreign energy sources

Now that you understand what environmental aspects and impacts are, the next step is to look at your operation, your home or your school and assess what you do. How do you interact with the environment?

The easiest way to figure out your environmental aspects is to assess the inputs and outputs of your operation or facility.

What inputs do you use (energy, water, resources)?  
What outputs do you create (products, waste, air emissions, water discharges)?

Determine the impacts that those aspects have.  
What activities are you doing that cause the aspects and impacts?

Once you have completed the assessment, make sure everyone involved understands the aspects and impacts of your operation or facility.

You are now ready to look for opportunities to enhance the positive impacts you have on the environment and transform the negative impacts into neutral or supportive relationships with the environment.

Imagine if all your environmental impacts were positive and supportive of the environment.

*If you don't know where you are going, you might wind up someplace else.*

Yogi Berra

**OUTPUTS**  
products, waste, air emissions, water discharges, etc.

**INPUTS**  
energy, water, resources, etc.



set goals

make a plan

Take Time to Plan

check and correct

implement with care

commit ■ create ■ participate

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