

EPIC Glossary

Environmental indicators:

Measures that present scientifically based information on environmental conditions (e.g., public and ecological health), trends, and their significance. An indicator has a significance extending beyond that directly associated with the parameter measured. Examples of previously reported indicators include: ozone concentrations in air, blood lead levels in children, amount of solid waste disposed of in landfills, and pesticide residue levels in food.

Goal:

A desired result that Cal/EPA is working to achieve and are environmentally broad in scope.

Index:

A set of aggregated or weighted parameters or indicators.

Indicator suite:

A group of indicators that collectively present information on major environmental issues, such as climate change, toxic contamination, biological diversity, hazardous waste, pesticides, ecosystem health, and use of natural resources (energy, fisheries, forests, public lands, soil and water).

Integrative Indicator:

An indicator which captures multiple aspects of a given issue or system in such a way that its significance extends beyond the measure(s) from which it is derived to a greater degree than other available indicators.

Issue:

A topic of environmental concern to California, including its components or dimensions, or sub-issues, such as climate change, toxic contamination, biological diversity, hazardous waste, pesticides, ecosystem health, and use of natural resources (energy, fisheries, forests, public lands, soil and water).

Issue structure:

A framework for organizing issues relevant to an organization into issue categories, and their corresponding issues (and sub-issues).

Measure:

Raw or analyzed data obtained from monitoring, surveys and other valid data collection methods. Measures form the basis for environmental indicators.

Parameter:

A property (e.g., pollutant concentration, pollutant discharge quantities, chemical body burden, etc.) that is measured or observed.

Qualification standards:

A set of criteria that define an acceptable indicator, designed to ensure that candidate indicators are appropriate for the indicator system in question. Examples of qualification standards include relevance to the mission of an organization, geographic scope, quality of data, and type of information provided by the indicator (e.g., environmental, program performance or administrative).

Selection criteria:

A set of criteria designed to ensure the quality and consistency of indicators included in an indicator system. Examples of selection criteria include measurability, data quality, representativeness, ability to support decision-making, and cost effectiveness.

Sub-issue:

The components or dimensions of an issue. Sub-issues help in identifying potential indicators for an issue.