

Glossary

WASTE

B

biodegradable material a material that can be broken down by biological processes

C

compost a mixture of decomposing organic matter, such as manure and rotting plants, that is used as fertilizer and soil conditioner

D

deep-well injection deep-well disposal of hazardous waste

H

hazardous wastes wastes that are a risk to the health of humans or other living organisms

L

landfill an area of land or an excavation where wastes are placed for permanent disposal

leachate a liquid that has passed through solid waste and has extracted dissolved or suspended materials from that waste, such as pesticides in the soil

M

municipal solid waste waste produced by households and businesses

R

recycling the process of recovering valuable or useful materials from waste or scrap; the process of reusing some items

S

solid waste a discarded solid material, such as garbage, refuse, or sludges

source reduction any change in the design, manufacture, purchase, or use of materials or products to reduce their amount or toxicity before they become municipal solid waste; also the reuse of products or materials

surface impoundment a natural depression or a human-made excavation that serves as a disposal facility that holds an accumulation of wastes