

Triple Bottom Line Worksheet

Do you know how your technology solution could contribute to positive or negative changes to the environment, economy and/or society (i.e. triple bottom line impact)?

What is this tool?

This tool consists of a template with three parts which focus on each of the Triple Bottom Line themes (social, economic, environment). The worksheet will prompt you to reflect upon the broad challenges that your technology solution could address and how it may also contribute to sustainable development outcomes in your city, region or country.



Note

A common understanding of sustainable development impact is ...

An effect on, change, or benefit to the economy, society and environment, beyond contributions to academic knowledge.

Why use this tool?

Use this tool to help you think about the potential benefits and value (beyond financial gains) that your technology solution could realise if it is launched into the market.

By identifying these potential impacts early in the commercialisation process, you can begin to test and validate your assumptions with value chain actors about the broad potential value and benefits of your technology.

What is the “Triple Bottom Line”?

The Triple Bottom Line is a sustainability-based concept that encourages individuals and businesses to pay equal attention to economic, social and environmental impacts, which include the following:



Economic impacts:

Changes to an economic system at a local, national or global level, such as changes in revenue, operating costs, profitability, gross domestic product, employment or investment returns.



Social impacts:

Changes to the well-being of the surrounding and wider community. Social impacts include effects on health, equality, living standards, cohesion, resilience, security and safety practices. They are often non-monetary and include economic and environmental elements.



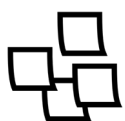
Environmental impacts:

Changes to living and non-living natural systems, including ecosystems, land, air and water.

Tool

This brainstorming tool can be completed by an individual or in a group/team setting.

To complete, follow the steps below:



Step 1.

[Click here](#) for the brainstorming template.



Step 2.

Brainstorm answers to the question above each column.

Use the virtual “post-it” notes on the side to keep a record of these ideas.



Note

[Click here](#) for example impacts.



Step 3.

Once you have some ideas, then consider both potential positive (+) and negative (-) impacts that may occur as a result and indicate this using a + or – symbol next to the post-it note.

What do I do with the results of my brainstorm?

The information developed in this tool can be used to help you to identify different value chain actors who could benefit from or who are impacted by your technology solution.

Examples of Triple Bottom Line (TBL) Impact Categories

Social Impacts	Economic Impacts	Environmental Impacts
Health and wellbeing	National economic performance	Air quality
Access to resources, services and opportunities (equity and participation)	Trade and competitiveness	Ecosystem health and integrity (natural capital)
Quality of life (material security and livelihoods)	Productivity and efficiency	Climate
Safety	Management of risk and uncertainty	Natural hazards mitigation
Security (e.g. cyber, biological, civil and military)	New policies and programs	Energy generation and consumption
Resilience	New services, products, experiences and market niches	Land quality
Indigenous culture and heritage	Animal health and prosperity	Aquatic environments
Innovation and human capital (creativity and invention)	Securing and protecting existing markets	Built environments
Social cohesion (social inclusion, social capital and social mobility)		

Descriptions and observations of Social impacts

Social Impacts	Descriptions and observations
Health and wellbeing	The capability to be alive and healthy.
Access to resources, services and opportunities (equity and participation)	Access to new or improved knowledge, and improved knowledge management and participation in social and economic life.
Quality of life (material security and livelihoods)	The degree of wealth and material comfort available.
Safety	Protection from dangerous materials, products or processes.
Security (e.g. cyber, biological, civil and military)	Physical and psychological protection against an external threat. Protection from an actual or perceived threat from an internal or external combatant that will affect the greater society. Information security as applied to computers and networks.
Resilience	The capacity to withstand or recover from loss or adversity including societal, national, regional and individual levels.
Indigenous culture and heritage	Indigenous tradition, the history of an Indigenous party in an area and/or evidence, of archaeological or historic significance, of Indigenous occupation.
Innovation and human capital (creativity and invention)	The capacity to contribute to a society in terms of the production of inventions, design and cultural programmes as well as embodying knowledge, inspirations, aesthetics and symbolic. Human capital is productive wealth embodied in labour, skills and knowledge.
Social cohesion (social inclusion, social capital and social mobility)	OECD defines a cohesive society as one which “works towards the well-being of all its members, fights exclusion and marginalisation, creates a sense of belonging, promotes trust, and offers its members the opportunity of upward social mobility”.

Descriptions and observations of Economic impacts

Economic Impacts	Descriptions and observations
National economic performance	The capability to influence or change at the macroeconomic level, i.e. economy-wide impacts, such as changes in unemployment, national income, rate of growth, gross domestic product, inflation and price levels.
Trade and competitiveness	The capability of trade-exposed firms to succeed in international competition against leading global competitors.
Productivity and efficiency	The capability to influence or change the production of products and services such as risk, profitability and productivity aspects, and sustainability of the production and consumption system. This also includes the capability to influence or change the performance measures related to the supply chain members.
Management of risk and uncertainty	The capacity for rapid innovation at scale to reduce risk of damage or lost opportunity (in the form of early warnings or early identification of opportunities).
New policies and programs	The capability to influence or change the coordination and governance of social, economic and environmental policies and programs, for example, better return on investment and reduction in green and red tape.
New services, products, experiences and market niches	The capability to develop new products and services, through technological and organisational innovations, including in the following areas: Food, Soil and Water, Transport, Cybersecurity, Energy and Resources Manufacturing, Environmental Change and Health.
Animal health and prosperity	The capacity to reduce the likelihood of invasive animal diseases that have the potential to cause significant harm to the economy from entering, emerging, establishing or spreading within a country.
Securing and protecting existing markets	The capacity to maintain and/or increase returns from existing market access.

Descriptions and observations of Environmental impacts

Environmental Impacts	Descriptions and observations
Air quality	The degree to which the air quality in a particular place has changed.
Ecosystem health and integrity (natural capital)	The variety and connections between plant and animal life in the world or in a particular habitat. Focus on the plants and animals within an area and how they interact with each other as well as with other elements such as climate, water and soil. Also the ecosystem services provided to protect ecosystems and biodiversity.
Climate	Focus on atmospheric, land and ocean patterns and the changes in these over time.
Natural hazards mitigation	Steps taken to contain or reduce the effects of an anticipated or already occurred disastrous events (such as drought, flood, fire, lightning, various levels and types of storms, tornado, storm surge, tsunamis, volcanic eruption, earthquake, landslides).
Energy generation and consumption	The creation of energy using various technologies and processes and its effect on the environment. The effect of the use of created energy and the benefits of efficiency measures.
Land quality	Land use and management with effects on soil and the surrounding environment. Actions taken to rehabilitate the land after production processes.
Aquatic environments	Changes in quality and abundance of marine and freshwater resources. Water systems, availability, quality, access and management.
Built environments	The human-made surroundings in which people live, work, and recreate on a day-to-day basis ranging from buildings and parks to supporting infrastructure, such as water supply or energy networks.