

Wikipedia

Waste is unwanted or useless material.

My definition

Waste is a useless or dangerous material derived from the production or use of a product, taking into account future sustainability of the source.

Examples: The original source is more valuable than the prime product and bi-products using its waste materials, i.e., natural forests for carbon capture and storage, rain, oxygen, water storage, soil and biodiversity. Is there an alternative, i.e. plantations, other fibres and recycling for the timber and fibre industries?

The prime source of a product must be renewable in a reasonable time frame for the waste stream bi-product to be classified "renewable".

Waste materials are not necessary for the sustainability of the production of prime product, i.e., nutrients for organic systems.

The method of production produces more waste than other methods, e.g. industrial-scale logging verses selective logging.

Waste materials driving the production of the prime product, i.e. woodchips and in future: biomass and biofuels

Government policies distort markets for waste products, e.g. under-pricing of native forest chip logs, industry subsidies, and credits such as Renewable Energy Credits