

Session 6

Public and Interagency Participation Principles of Public Participation

Listen – **Public participation is two-way communication.**

Be Honest – **Public participation without integrity is worse than no public participation at all.**

Attitude Is Everything – **Believe in involving the public and treat everyone with respect – no matter what.**

Build Ownership - **“I became a team player because I was on the team.”**

Use an Interdisciplinary Team – **Expertise and resources tailored to project needs.**

Core Values for the Practice of Public Participation

The public should have a say in decisions about actions that could affect their lives.

Public participation includes the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision.

The public participation promotes sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers.

The public participation process seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.

The public participation process seeks input from participants in designing how they participate.

The public participation process provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.

The public participation process communicates to participants how their input affected the decision.

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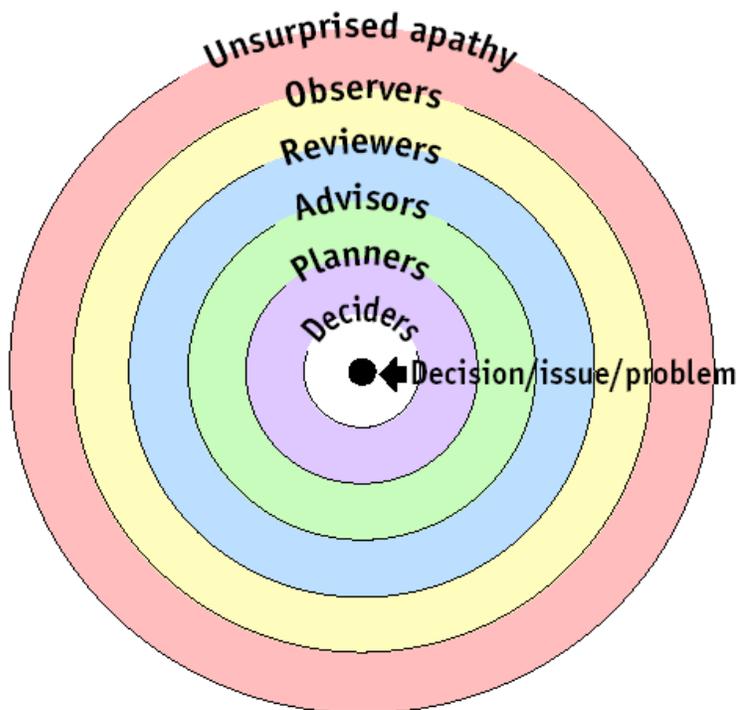
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Public and Interagency Participation

Orbits of Participation

This concept is represented by the Orbits of Participation, a model developed by Lorenz Aggens of INVOLVE in Wilmette, Illinois. This model helps visualize the need for opportunities to be engaged at varying levels at different steps of the process. Some people may be willing to work collaboratively with you, but others just want to give input or be informed. People and organizations may move from one orbit to another throughout your project as their interest, awareness, availability, and priorities change.

Orbits of Participation
by Lorenz Aggens



The model shows a decision-making center surrounded by “orbits” of activity. The closer to the center, the greater the activity and energy within it. If you are in a closer orbit, you may have more influence, but you will need to devote more energy to the process and your involvement.

This model clarifies there is no single public, but different levels of public based on differing levels of interest and ability to participate, even within a single interest group. The design of a public involvement plan must take into account multiple levels of the public. Your public process needs to provide for the needs of those in all orbits.

People may move from orbit to orbit. The outermost orbit includes people who know of your project, but choose not to participate. People uninformed of the project or decision are outside all the orbits.

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IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum

Developed by the International Association for Public Participation

INCREASING LEVEL OF PUBLIC IMPACT

INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
Public Participation Goal:	Public Participation Goal:	Public Participation Goal:	Public Participation Goal:	Public Participation Goal:
To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.
Promise to the Public:	Promise to the Public:	Promise to the Public:	Promise to the Public:	Promise to the Public:
We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for direct advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.
Example Techniques to Consider:	Example Techniques to Consider:	Example Techniques to Consider:	Example Techniques to Consider:	Example Techniques to Consider:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fact sheets ● Web sites ● Open houses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public comment ● Focus groups ● Surveys ● Public meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Workshops ● Deliberate polling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Citizen Advisory Committees ● Consensus-building ● Participatory decision-making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Citizen juries ● Ballots ● Delegated decisions

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	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
E-mail Progress Report					
Media Release					
Council Presentation					
Calls to Decision-Makers					
Citizen Advisory Committee					
Website					
Design Charette					
Binding Referendum					
Public Open House					

INFORM – To impart information or knowledge; to make one aware of something; to **notify**

INVOLVE – To engage as a participant; to **include**

CONSULT – To **ask** the advice or **opinion**; to deliberate together or confer; to consider

COLLABORATE – To labor together; to **work jointly** with others

EMPOWER – To **give** official **authority** or legal power; to promote the influence of