

Planning for Climate Wise Islands

Tools for Community Engagement

Traditional

TOOL DESCRIPTION	WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?	WHAT ARE THE DRAWBACKS?	WHAT COSTS ARE INVOLVED?
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PUBLIC MEETING

A structured public meeting. Consists of a formal presentation, followed by question and comment period. If group is large, participants can be divided into discussion groups after the opening presentation.

Participants presented with relevant information in a clear and organized way.

Participants have opportunity to ask questions, comment, and receive responses.

Participants learn more by hearing others' questions and comments.

Tested meeting format that most participants are familiar and comfortable with.

Dialogue can escalate out of control if contentious issue.

Facilitator may not be able to establish open and neutral environment for all views to be shared.

Some participants may not feel comfortable contributing in large-group setting.

Not conducive to collaborative, problem solving dialogue.

Rental of space.

Set up time.

Advertising and promotion.

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

An informal public meeting. Begins with presentations and ends with focused small-group discussion guided by facilitators.

Participants presented with relevant information in a clear and organized way.

Participants learn more by engaging in direct dialogue with others.

Small group setting may be less intimidating and encourage broader participation.

More conducive to collaborative, problem solving dialogue.

Increases sense of ownership over proposed solutions.

Individual participants may dominate discussion group.

Less hands-on than other techniques.

Participants engage only with a single small group and do not hear perspectives of other groups.

Rental of space.

Small-group facilitators.

Set up time.

Advertising and promotion.

Traditional

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OPEN HOUSE

An informal event (often all-day) that allows people to drop in and obtain information. Typically include hand-outs, display presentations, and presence of resource people to answer questions.

Participants receive resource materials and printed information.

Allows for one-on-one dialogue between with resource people.

Drop-in format accommodates those with young children or unusual working hours.

Tested meeting format that most participants are familiar with.

No opportunity to participate in group discussion or hear others' views.

Does not facilitate active engagement with issues and solutions.

Rental of space.
Printed materials.
Set-up time.
Advertising and promotion.

INFORMAL GATHERINGS

Public input sessions using informal venues, including coffee shops, local restaurants/pubs, outdoor parks (e.g. picnic, barbeque). The increasingly popular 'Green Drinks' is a good example of this type of gathering.

Casual and relaxed small group setting encourages open dialogue and comment.

Participants have opportunity to engage in direct dialogue with other residents and resource people.

Can be logistically challenging to arrange suitable venue and coordinate event.

Venue may not be perceived as neutral.

Can be confusion over whether and how comments should be recorded.

Time needed to find suitable venue.
Set up time.
Advertising and promotion.

COMMUNITY GROUP OUTREACH

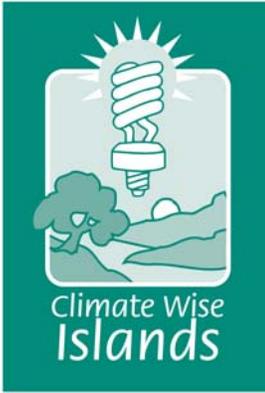
Make presentation and take comments at regular meetings/ events of interest groups (e.g. schools, conservation groups, business associations, seniors' groups, etc.)

Leverage off existing events.

May reach groups of people who are unlikely to otherwise participate.

Can be time-consuming to coordinate and make presentations.

Coordination time.



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Inter-Active

TOOL DESCRIPTION	WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?	WHAT ARE THE DRAWBACKS?	WHAT COSTS ARE INVOLVED?
WORLD CAFE			

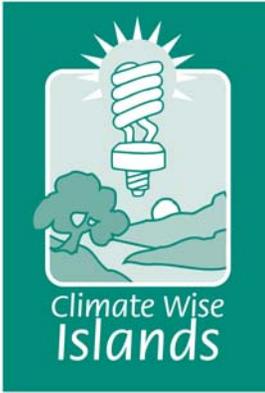
<p>Participants discuss issues related to the central theme/ question at small roundtables, moving to a new table at intervals of 20-30 minutes. One person stays at each table to brief the next group. Ideas are recorded on large sheet of paper. Moving between tables allows cross fertilization of ideas.</p>	<p>Switching between tables fosters cross-fertilization of ideas and helps build common understanding.</p> <p>Good discussion questions help people move from raising concerns to hearing new views and creating solutions.</p> <p>Participants feel stronger connection to full group because they have talked to people at different tables.</p> <p>Effective for complex, controversial issues that require immediate action.</p>	<p>Accurate recording of conversation and most important ideas can be difficult.</p> <p>Participants may be unfamiliar with process and require coaching/explanation.</p> <p>Participants may resist moving from table to table.</p> <p>Reporting results at end can be tedious for large group.</p>	<p>Rental of space.</p> <p>Small-group facilitators with basic training in techniques.</p> <p>Materials (large sheets of paper, pens, etc.)</p> <p>Set up time.</p> <p>Advertising and promotion.</p>
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OPEN SPACE			
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<p>Participants start out sitting in a circle or in concentric circles. A facilitator explains methods. Participants identify issues related to the theme, and then break out into the discussions of interest to them – switching sessions at any time. Person who identified the topic records dialogue. At end, discussions are summarized in single document and presented to group.</p>	<p>Allows participants to choose aspects of issue of specific interest to them – encouraging more active participation.</p> <p>Switching between tables fosters cross-fertilization of ideas and helps build common understanding.</p> <p>Participants feel stronger connection to full group because they have talked to people at different tables.</p> <p>Effective for complex, controversial issues that require immediate action.</p>	<p>Accurate recording of conversation and most important ideas can be difficult.</p> <p>Participants may be unfamiliar with process and require coaching/explanation.</p> <p>Reporting results at end can be tedious for large group.</p>	<p>Rental of space.</p> <p>Small-group facilitators with basic training in techniques.</p> <p>Materials (large sheets of paper, pens, etc.)</p> <p>Set up time.</p> <p>Advertising and promotion.</p>
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Inter-Active

TOOL DESCRIPTION	WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?	WHAT ARE THE DRAWBACKS?	WHAT COSTS ARE INVOLVED?
SAMOAN CIRCLE OR FISHBOWL			
<p>Participants are seated in a circle within a circle. Those seated in the inner circle are chosen to represent the various viewpoints on issue. All other participants are seated in outside circle. Inner circle engages in dialogue; outer circle observes, and can voice opinion by joining inner circle temporarily or moving about the room to indicate preference – or the conversation can be periodically broken to ask audience to contribute. Alternately, decision-makers can be seated in the inner circle, and do their work in a ‘fishbowl’ so that the public can openly view their deliberations.</p>	<p>Works for small to large group sizes.</p> <p>Effective for complex, controversial issues. Increase understanding by listening to and participating in dialogue of inner circle.</p> <p>Focusing on inner circle of selected participants allows conversation to be more balanced and focused, while still including broader group of people.</p> <p>If trustees make up inner circle, creates transparent decision making and allows trustees to gauge public reaction during deliberation.</p>	<p>Dialogue can stall or be dominated.</p> <p>Those in exterior circle may not feel they have adequate opportunity to voice opinion.</p> <p>Some participants may not feel comfortable contributing if group is large.</p> <p>Unfamiliar to most participants; may require more explanation.</p>	<p>Rental of space.</p> <p>Set up time.</p> <p>Advertising and promotion.</p>



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Tools for Community Engagement

Hands-On

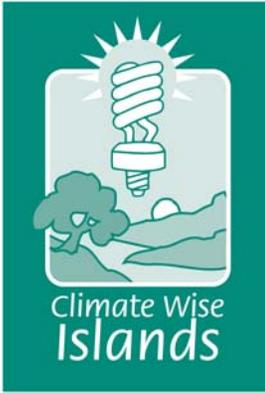
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DESIGN CHARRETTE

<p>An intensive, hands-on design workshop that brings together a selected group of diverse stakeholders to collaboratively explore and select design options for an area. Discussions are guided by facilitators. The goal is to capture the vision, values, and ideas of the community -- with designers sketching to create alternatives and ideas as fast as they can be generated by the participants.</p>	<p>Facilitates creative thinking and collaborative problem-solving.</p> <p>Promotes active, hands-on engagement.</p> <p>Help participants visually imagine and understand implications of various solutions.</p> <p>Effective for complex, controversial issues that require immediate action.</p>	<p>Participation is limited; while drawings and results are shared with the public, event is not open to all community residents.</p> <p>Not applicable to policies that are not land use and design-focused.</p>	<p>Rental of space.</p> <p>Small-group facilitators.</p> <p>Skilled 'drawing hands'/artists.</p> <p>Materials (may be provided by artists).</p> <p>Set up time.</p> <p>Advertising and promotion.</p>
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CO-DESIGN WORKSHOP

<p>Begins with presentation, followed by facilitated smaller group discussions during which artists trained in landscape architecture and drawing create real-time hand-drawn visions reflecting participant ideas of what the future of a space or place could look like. Open to public.</p>	<p>A blend of the community workshop format and the visualization techniques of the design charrette.</p> <p>Facilitates creative thinking and collaborative problem-solving.</p> <p>Promotes active, hands-on engagement.</p> <p>Helps participants visually imagine and understand implications of various alternatives and ideas.</p> <p>Effective for complex, controversial issues that require immediate action.</p>	<p>Not applicable to policies that are not land use and design-focused.</p>	<p>Rental of space.</p> <p>Small-group facilitators.</p> <p>Skilled 'drawing hands'/artists.</p> <p>Materials (may be provided by artists).</p> <p>Set up time.</p> <p>Advertising and promotion.</p>
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Tools for Community Engagement

Community-Driven

TOOL DESCRIPTION	WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?	WHAT ARE THE DRAWBACKS?	WHAT COSTS ARE INVOLVED?
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ADVISORY GROUP

A group of appointed community representatives. Committee provides comments and advice on the planning process.

Allows for detailed and thorough analysis of an issue and alternative solutions.

Significant time commitment for group members.

Group members may not be representative of community.

Group members may not reach consensus on recommendations.

Public may not support recommendations.

Rental of space for regular meetings.

Advertising and promotion.

PLANNING CELL

A group of randomly-selected residents who work as public consultants for a period of time (e.g. one week) to develop solutions to a policy/planning issue. Supported by facilitators, group acquires information, consults stakeholders, and evaluates solutions. Final outputs compiled in report and presented to decision-makers and residents.

Allows for detailed and thorough analysis of an issue and alternative solutions.

Truly random selection can be difficult.

Some selected residents may not wish to participate.

Significant time commitment for group members.

Group members may not reach consensus on recommendations.

Public may not support cell's recommendations.

Rental of space for regular meetings.

Facilitator(s).

Advertising and promotion.

Community-Driven

TOOL DESCRIPTION	WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?	WHAT ARE THE DRAWBACKS?	WHAT COSTS ARE INVOLVED?
COMMUNITY FACILITATORS			

An approach using individuals who are experts in certain aspects of a theme to conduct project outreach and meetings and report back.

Capitalizes existing outreach networks.
Promotes community-based involvement.

Individuals' opinions on a theme are likely to be reflected in report-backs.
Networks likely capture a limited segment of population.

Advertising and promotion.



Climate Wise
Islands

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Electronic

TOOL DESCRIPTION	WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?	WHAT ARE THE DRAWBACKS?	WHAT COSTS ARE INVOLVED?
ONLINE FORUM			

An interactive online space where community members can access information, post comments, and engage in dialogue with other residents and/or trustees. Bowen Island Our-selves is good example.

May help to engage youth who are less likely to attend traditional public meetings.

Allows segments of population unable to attend scheduled events to contribute and participate.

Excludes residents without high-speed internet.

Administration may be time-consuming.

Requires moderate-high number of active users to be effective.

No face-to-face dialogue.

Monitoring and administration time.

Advertising and promotion.

ONLINE SURVEY			
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A set of questions designed to assess public opinion and gather comments. Could be conducted through the Islands Trust website or individual LTC site. Questions must be carefully phrased to be both clear and unbiased.

Avoids the paper waste and cost associated with mail-out surveys.

Results may not reflect community preferences because participants are self-selected and only participants with reliable internet access can participate.

Compilation and analysis time.

Advertising and promotion.

LISTSERV			
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An email distribution list for residents interested in receiving updates on events and processes. Can establish new listservs by collecting email addresses at events or tap existing listservs.

An inexpensive and easy way to promote events and distribute information.

May encounter reluctance to provide email addresses.

Maintenance and updating of email address database.