



SPECTRUM OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Spectrum of Public Participation is an internationally recognized model developed to help clarify the role of the public in planning and decision making, and how much influence the community has over planning or decision making processes.

The model identifies 5 levels of community engagement. **The further to the right on the Spectrum, the more influence the community has over decisions,** and each level can be appropriate depending on the context.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO RECOGNIZE THESE ARE LEVELS OF ENGAGEMENT, NOT STEPS.

INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
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 decisions including the development of alternatives and identification of the preferred solutions.	To place final decision-making in the hands of 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 informed and influenced decisions.	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 informed and influenced decisions.	We will co-create and co-produce solutions with you. You will be a true partner in making and implementing decisions for your community. Your advice and recommendations will be incorporated.	We will support your decisions and work to implement solutions. You are part of the solution.
Examples	Meeting participation In person visits Factsheets Websites Social Media Posts Emails Open Houses	Public comment Focus groups Surveys Public meetings Online engagement tools Pop-ups Walking tours Community mapping	Visioning workshops Deliberative polling Summits Online engagement tools	Resident advisory committees Citizen advisory committees Seats on governing boards Consensus building Participatory decision-making	Advocacy training Resident juries Resident budget-making Ballots Delegated decision