

IAP2 Core Values of Public Participation



As an international leader in public participation, IAP2 has developed a set of core values to use in the development and implementation of the public participation process. These core values were developed over a two-year period with broad international participation to identify those aspects of public participation which cross national, cultural, and religious boundaries. The purpose of these core values is to help make better decisions, which reflect the interest and concerns of potentially affected people and entities.

1. The public should have a say in decisions about actions that affect their lives.
2. Public participation includes the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision.
3. The public participation process communicates the interests and meets the process needs of participants.
4. The public participation process actively seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected.
5. The public participation process involves participants in defining how they participate.
6. The public participation process provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.
7. The public participation process communicates to participants how their input affected the decision.

IAP2 Question Quilt



At IAP2, we are continuing to challenge and improve the practice of public participation. To challenge individual practitioners of public participation, IAP2 has developed the "IAP2 Question Quilt." This actual quilt is a centerpiece at each annual conference and contains an evolving set of questions to compel individuals to create their own guiding principles for the implementation of public participation programs. Currently, the questions are:

1. What is the goal of the public involvement process in the proposed project?
2. How will the participants benefit from the public involvement process?
3. What role does the public play in the decision-making process?
4. How will the effectiveness of the public involvement process be monitored and evaluated?
5. What measures will be taken to ensure that newly developed public involvement methods are considered for the project?
6. How will the public be provided with the resources necessary for meaningful participation?
7. How do you provide for ongoing public involvement throughout the project's life span?
8. How will public participation process ensure that decisions are honored and implemented by decision makers?
9. How will stakeholders be identified, selected, and included in the decision-making process?