

About iap²

Founded in 1990 by a group of dedicated P2 practitioners, the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) has grown into an international federation of more than 6,000 professionals in 26 countries working to advance the practice of P2. National affiliates and their members benefit from research, training and networking opportunities with IAP2 peers.

IAP2's mission is to provide public participation practitioners around the world with the tools, skills, networking and training opportunities to advance and extend the practice of public participation.

Training Today's Practitioners for Tomorrow's Challenges

IAP2 works with international licensed trainers. To find one in your area, visit www.iap2.org.

Become a Member

The IAP2 Federation is composed of regional and national affiliates including Australasia, Canada, Italy, Indonesia, Southern Africa and the United States. To become a member, contact your local affiliate. If you reside outside the geographic areas served by an IAP2 Affiliate, you are eligible for the IAP2 International Associates program. To become a member, contact your local affiliate or iap2hq@iap2.org.

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Public Participation Pillars



Internationally Recognized Principles for Making Better Decisions Together

3 Pillars for Effective Public Participation

As an international leader in public participation (P2), IAP2 developed three pillars for effective P2 processes. Developed with broad international input, these pillars cross national, cultural and religious boundaries, and they form the foundation of P2 processes that reflect the interests and concerns of all stakeholders.



IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation



IAP2 Core Values



IAP2 Code of Ethics

IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation

IAP2 developed The Spectrum of Public Participation to help groups define the public's role in any public engagement process. The Spectrum is quickly becoming an international standard.

		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 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	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 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.

IAP2 Core Values

IAP2 Core Values define the expectations and participation process. P2 processes based on the Core Values have proved to be the most successful and respected.

- Public participation is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process.
- Public participation includes the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision.
- Public participation promotes sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers.
- Public participation seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.
- Public participation seeks input from participants in designing how they participate.
- Public participation provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.
- Public participation communicates to participants how their input affected the decision.

IAP2 Code of Ethics

IAP2 Code of Ethics is a set of principles that guides the actions of P2 practitioners and enhances the integrity of the P2 process.

Purpose: We support public participation as a process to make better decisions that incorporate the interests and concerns of all affected stakeholders and meet the needs of the decision making body.

Role of Practitioner: We will enhance the public's participation in the decision making process and assist decision makers in being responsive to the public's concerns and suggestions.

Trust: We will undertake and encourage actions that build trust and credibility for the process among all the participants.

Defining the Public's Role: We will carefully consider and accurately portray the public's role in the decision making process.

Openness: We will encourage the disclosure of all information relevant to the public's understanding and evaluation of a decision.

Access to the Process: We will ensure that stakeholders have fair and equal access to the public participation process and the opportunity to influence decisions.

Respect for Communities: We will avoid strategies that risk polarizing community interests or that appear to "divide and conquer."

Advocacy: We will advocate for the public participation process and will not advocate for interest, party, or project outcome.

Commitments: We ensure that all commitments made to the public, including those by the decision maker, are made in good faith.

Support of the Practice: We will mentor new practitioners in the field and educate decision makers and the public about the value and use of public participation.