

## Participation Levels Reference

Level	Purpose	Tools	Advantages	Disadvantages
<b>Information Dissemination</b>	to provide balanced and objective information to assist in understanding the issues, alternatives, opportunities and possible solutions. The commitment that government makes at this level is to keep stakeholders informed.	Briefings; Civic journalism; Displays and Exhibits; Poster Competitions; Printed Information; Public Meetings; Community Fairs; Information Contacts, Hotline, Repository; Interactive Kiosks; Media Releases; Newspaper Inserts; Open Houses; Stakeholder Analysis; Static Web Sites; Storefront; Study Circles; Technical Reports & Discussion Papers	can reach a large audience relatively quickly; can encourage both written and verbal responses and facilitates the documentation of stakeholder involvement processes	limited capability to communicate complicated concepts; no guarantee the materials will be read or the events attended
<b>Consultation</b>	to obtain stakeholder feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions. The commitment that government makes at this level is to keep stakeholders informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how stakeholder input influenced the decision	Citizen Committees; Community Fairs; Conference; Consensus Conference; Deliberative Opinion Polls; Delphi Study; Focus Groups; Information Contacts, Hotline, Repository; Interactive Kiosks; Key Stakeholder Interviews; Kitchen Table Discussion; Media Releases; Newspaper Inserts; Open Houses; Questionnaires; Stakeholder Analysis; Static Web Sites; Storefront; Study Circles; Surveys; Technical Reports & Discussion Papers	provide an opportunity to inform and educate; good control of information; opportunity to reach a wide variety of individuals; can build community good will	stakeholders may not be in audience; topic may be too technical to capture interest of audience; people may 'vote with their feet' and not attend
<b>Collaboration</b>	to work directly with stakeholders throughout the planning process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered. The commitment that government makes at this level is to work with stakeholders to ensure that their concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and to provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	Citizen Committees; Conference; Electronic Democracy; Interactive Web Sites; Kitchen Table Discussion; Scenario Testing; Static Web Sites; Technical Reports & Discussion Papers	opportunity for in-depth information exchange and obtaining feedback from stakeholders as well as the possibility of using them to evaluate potential stakeholder committee members	scheduling and logistics are challenging; very resource intensive
<b>Partnership</b>	to partner with stakeholders in each aspect of the decision including the development alternatives and the identification of preferred solutions. The commitment that government makes at this level is to look to the stakeholders for direct advice and innovation in formulating solutions and to incorporate that advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	Citizen Juries; Community Indicators; E-Democracy; Expert Panel; Interactive Web Sites; Mediation and Negotiation; Scenario Testing; Task Forces; Technical Reports & Discussion Papers	provide for detailed analyses for project issues, participants understanding of other perspectives and concerns leading towards compromise; the findings of such groups have greater credibility because of the diverse interests that are represented	very large time and resource commitments; the group may not be able to come to consensus or be willing to agree at a useful level of detail; the dialog can stall or be co-opted
<b>Empowerment</b>	to place final decision making in the hands of the stakeholders. The commitment that government makes at this level is to implement whatever the stakeholders decide.	Balloting; Boards; Citizen Juries; Delegated Decision Bodies; E-Democracy; Interactive Web Sites; Mediation and Negotiation; Scenario Testing; Technical Reports & Discussion Papers	provide great opportunity to develop deep understanding of an issue and full ownership of decisions taken about it.	great commitment needed for participation; high need for administrative support; government must implement decisions that may not fully reflect what is necessary

Lower

Quality of Participation

Higher