



International Association for Public Participation (IAP2)

Description

The International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) promotes and seeks to improve the practice of public participation in relation to individuals, governments, institutions, and other entities that affect the public interest in nations throughout the world. IAP2 carries out this mission by serving the learning needs of its members, advocating for public participation, promoting results-oriented research, and providing technical assistance to improve public participation.

Since the association was founded in 1990, its membership has expanded beyond the formal practitioner to include all people involved in public participation. IAP2's membership is worldwide.

Make it Work

How to Use

CICs can benefit from the services offered by IAP2 to build skills needed for successful community involvement. However, EPA's **Public Involvement Policy** takes precedence for CICs regarding effective and reasonable means to involve the public in EPA's regulatory and program decisions.

Using the Resource

IAP2 Services

IAP2 offers training, a public participation toolbox, a knowledge network, publications, and membership. It also has developed core values and a code of ethics for public participation. Although EPA cannot endorse outside organizations, including IAP2, CICs may find IAP2's services useful when planning and implementing community involvement activities.

Training

IAP2 offers a number of diverse training courses for public participation practitioners. In addition,

IAP2 offers its own Public Participation Certificate training which was developed in consultation with practitioners from around the world. This training is intended to provide a broad-based learning experience on the foundations of public participation, and allows students to explore their own public participation challenges with their instructor and peers. This IAP2 Public Participation Certificate training is comprised of three modules:

- *Planning for Effective Public Participation*—The two-day foundation module focuses on defining the issues for which public participation is required, identifying stakeholders and ensuring their involvement throughout the process. Participants learn how to prepare an organization for conducting public participation and to plan for the timing, techniques, and resources needed to make public participation a success.
- *Communications for Effective Public Participation*—A one-day module offering an overview of communication skills and models. Participants learn the elements needed to prepare communication plans and to practice active listening. They gain an understanding of the essentials of risk communication, making effective written and verbal presentations and working with mass media.
- *Techniques for Effective Public Participation*—This two-day module provides an introduction to a range of practical tools and techniques used by public participation practitioners around the globe. Students learn how to create effective forums for dialogue and how to avoid the many problems encountered in traditional public meetings. Students leave this module armed with information on selecting, using and evaluating a broad range of public participation activities.

Public Participation Toolbox

IAP2's public participation toolbox, presented online in table format, contains a variety of techniques for sharing information, compiling and providing feedback, and bringing people together. CICs may



find IAP2's toolbox a useful adjunct to this Community Involvement Toolkit.

Knowledge Network

The knowledge network developed by IAP2 and the Portland State University's Center for Public Participation is an interactive resource for academics and practitioners who want to share public participation knowledge and research. The network includes a searchable database of books, articles, and Web sites, and an online discussion forum for sharing research-related knowledge and experience.

Core Values and Ethics

IAP2 developed core values and a code of ethics for public participation practitioners. IAP2's values and ethics, reprinted below, endorse the best practices of community involvement worldwide. CICs should read and consider adopting similar principles in their own work with Superfund site communities.

Membership

IAP2 is a membership association made up of a diverse and growing group of people who design, implement, use, and participate in public participation processes. IAP2 facilitates networking, promotes information-sharing and keeps members apprised of current research and events through an annual conference, local chapter activities, an online journal, electronic newsletters, and an on-line discussion forum. Membership enrollment is available on-line on IAP2's Web site.

IAP2Core Values

IAP2 developed the "IAP2 Core Values for Public Participation" for use in the development and implementation of public participation processes. IAP2's core values, as described on the IAP2 Web site (www.iap2.org/), are reprinted below.

IAP2 Core Values for Public Participation

As an international leader in public participation, IAP2 has developed the "IAP2 Core Values for Public Participation" for use in the development and implementation of public participation processes. These core values were developed over a two year period with broad international input to identify those aspects of public partici-

pation which cross national, cultural, and religious boundaries. The purpose of these core values is to help make better decisions which reflect the interests and concerns of potentially affected people and entities.

Core Values for the Practice of Public Participation

- 1. 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.*
- 2. Public participation includes the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision.*
- 3. Public participation promotes sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers.*
- 4. Public participation seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.*
- 5. Public participation seeks input from participants in designing how they participate.*
- 6. Public participation provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.*
- 7. Public participation communicates to participants how their input affected the decision.*

IAP2 Code of Ethics

IAP2's "Code of Ethics for Public Participation Practitioners" supports and reflects IAP2's "Core Values for the Practice of Public Participation". The Core Values define the expectations and aspirations of the public participation process. The Code of Ethics speaks to the actions of practitioners. IAP2's Code of Ethics for Public Participation Practitioners as described on the IAP2 Web site (www.iap2.org/) is reprinted below.

The International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Code of Ethics for Public Participation Practitioners supports and reflects IAP2's Core Values for the Practice of Public Participation. The Core Values define the expectations and aspirations of the public participation process. The Code of Ethics speaks to the actions of practitioners.



Preamble

As members of IAP2, we recognize the importance of a Code of Ethics, which guide the actions of those who advocate, including all affected parties in public decision-making process. In order to fully discharge our duties as public participation practitioners, we define terms used explicitly throughout our Code of Ethics. We define stakeholders as any individual, group of individuals, organizations, or political entity with a stake in the outcome of a decision. We define the public as those stakeholders who are not part of the decision-making entity or entities. We define public participation as any process that involves the public in problem-solving or decision-making and that uses public input to make better decision.

This Code of Ethics is a set of principles, which guide us in our practice of enhancing the integrity of the public participation process. As practitioners, we hold ourselves accountable for these principles and strive to hold all participants to the same standards.

- 1. 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 decisions-making body.*
- 2. 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.*
- 3. TRUST.** *We will undertake and encourage actions that build trust and credibility for the process among all the participants.*
- 4. DEFINING THE PUBLIC'S ROLE.** *We will carefully consider and accurately portray the public's role in the decision-making process.*
- 5. OPENNESS.** *We will encourage the disclosure of all information relevant to the public's understanding and evaluation of a decision.*
- 6. 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.*

- 7. RESPECT FOR COMMUNITIES.** *We will avoid strategies that risk polarizing community interests or that appear to "divide and conquer."*
 - 8. ADVOCACY.** *We will advocate for the public participation process and will not advocate for interest, party, or project outcome.*
 - 9. 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.*
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Other Sources of Information

- International Association for Public Participation: www.iap2.org/
- IAP2's Public Participation Toolbox: www.iap2.org/associations/4748/files/06Dec_Toolbox.pdf
- EPA Public Involvement Policy (EPA 233-B-03-002) www.epa.gov/publicinvolvement/pdf/policy2003.pdf