Introducing Values

Conversation Guide

What values do you associate with sustainability? Do similar values resonate with others at your organization?

USING THIS GUIDE

Successful sustainability plans and actions are grounded in values. This activity can help people at your organization consider how sustainability aligns with their values and share the values that they think are important to building a sustainable future. By explicitly discussing the values you connect with sustainability, you can better define your goals for sustainability and bring your team together.

CONVERSATION PROMPTS

Please share:

- Your name and your role at the organization

- A value that resonates with you and your hopes for sustainability at your organization or in your community

EXAMPLE VALUES

Ethics	Inclusion	Accomplishment
Growth	Tradition	Creativity
Generosity	Integrity	Wisdom
Kindness	Honesty	Empathy
Reason	Humility	Balance
Knowledge	Adventure	Fun
Authenticity	Community	Optimism
Trust	Individuality	Respect
Independence	Family	Structure
Love	Strength	Resilience
Prosperity	Beauty	Fairness

TIPS FOR FACILITATING CONVERSATIONS

- This activity works well to kick off a sustainability planning session. You can tailor the prompts to fit your group or agenda.
- It can help if you (as facilitator) start off and model the activity. For example, you can say, "I choose *optimism,* because I think it's important to encourage people to have a positive outlook and feel empowered to create the future they want to live in," or "I choose *creativity,* because I think we will need to think of creative solutions to make our community more sustainable."
- Encourage everyone to share a value. You can share the list included here or participants can contribute their own. Be sure to explain that there are no right or wrong answers. People can choose the same value as someone else but should provide their own explanation for why they chose it.
- If you like, you can take a few minutes at the end to discuss what people noticed about the variety of values that were shared.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

NISE Network has a variety of other resources that can help your organization plan and implement sustainability related projects: https://www.nisenet.org/catalog/sustainability-science-technology-museums-professional-development-resources

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