

# Community Readiness Assessment

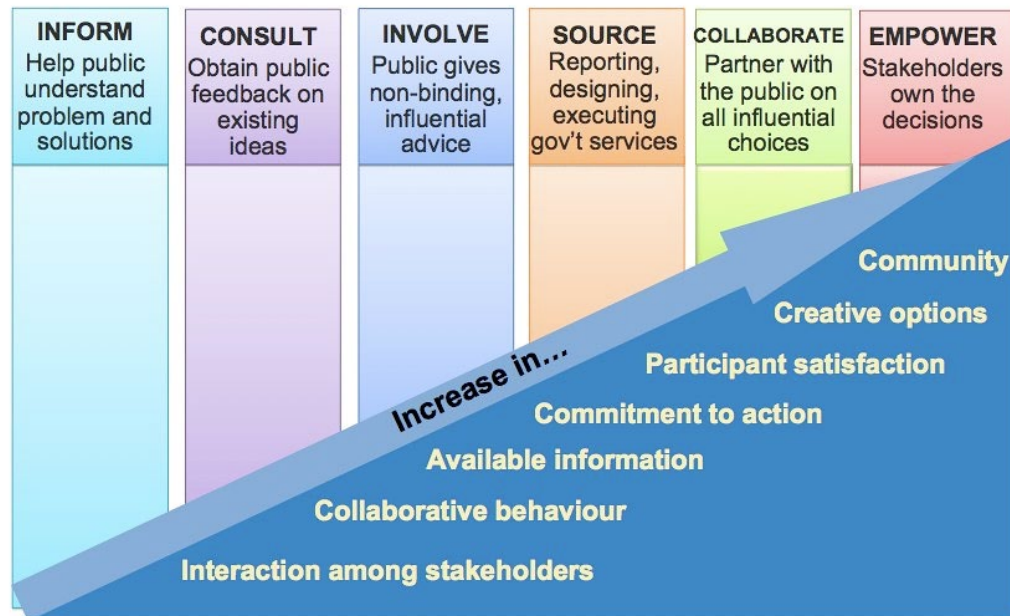
To support watershed implementation and evaluation

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# Engaging Montanans in Addressing NPS Pollution

Goal: to use education and outreach to empower the public in the decision-making process, especially at the watershed level

## Public Engagement Spectrum



Remix of info from IAP2, and Pat Bonner, USA EPA and Susanna Haas Lyons' practice (Engaging.ly)

- Objective 1: Enhance awareness of NPS pollution issues at a statewide and local level.
- Objective 2: Increase knowledge of NPS pollution issues and solutions in order to foster engagement and empowerment.
- Objective 3: Develop skills that will lead to responsible actions taken to decrease NPS pollution. Increase the frequency and magnitude of these actions.

# Evaluating Success of the NPS Management Plan

- Interim Outcome:
  - Public has knowledge and resources to address NPS issues
- Long Term Outcomes:
  - All Montanans are aware of their contributions to nonpoint source pollution and taking actions to reduce them
  - All reasonable land, soil, and water conservation practices are in place to protect water quality
  - Montana's waterbodies are meeting beneficial use

**Adaptive management** - Monitoring and evaluating E&O efforts will highlight areas where goals may need to be changed, or actions adjusted.



# Community Readiness Assessment

*To help communities assess their level of readiness to address a particular issue and to develop and implement actions to increase readiness levels*

- Community readiness = how prepared the community is to take action to address a particular issue
  - Used to identify approaches for addressing new issues or ongoing efforts
  - Matching actions to the level of readiness
- NPS implementation is voluntary; requires broad buy-in to value of clean water
- Water quality improvement takes a long time
- Potential leading indicator for changes in water quality
- Provides a metric for changes in social behavior, awareness, and willingness to address water quality (quantity?) issues



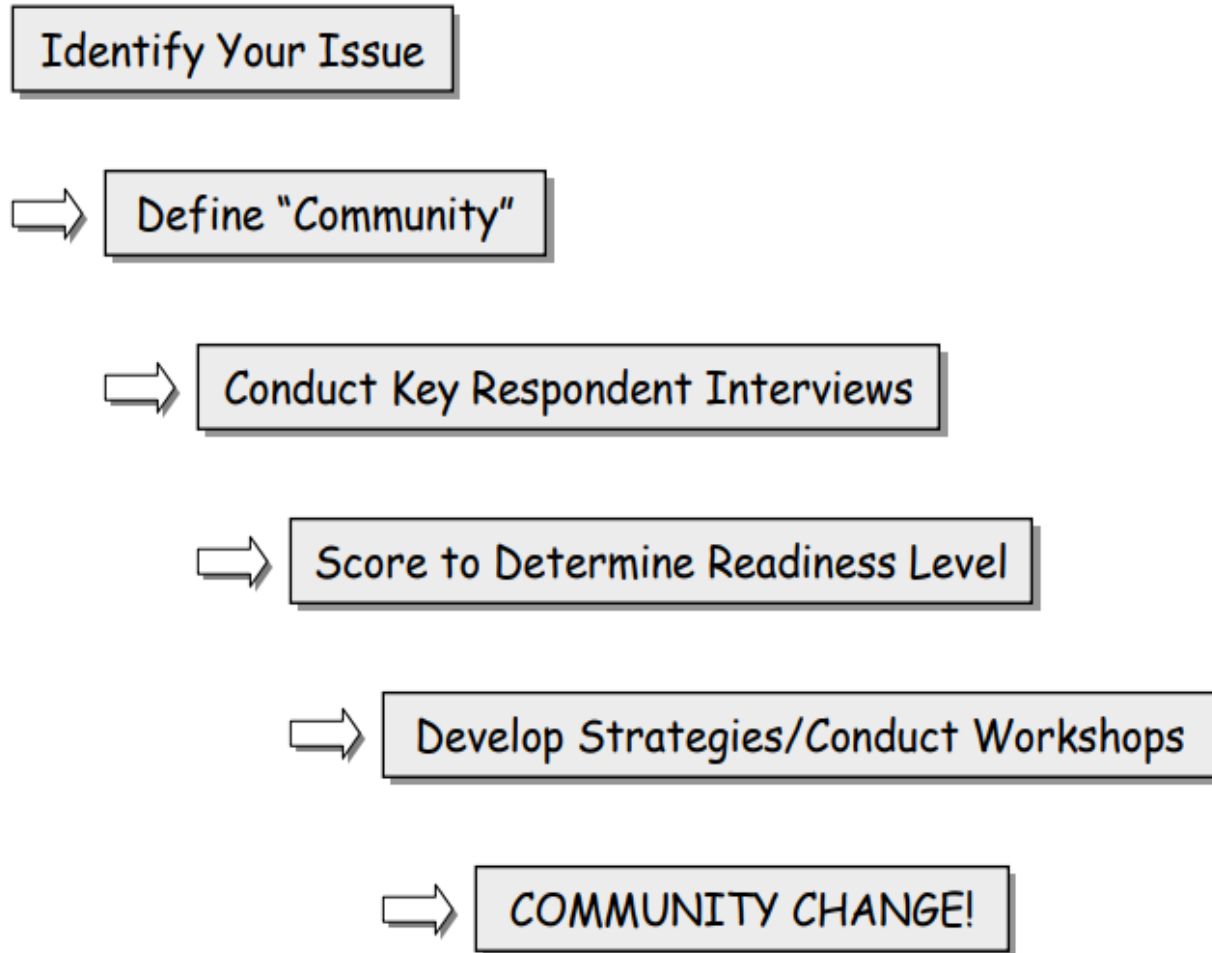


## **Community Readiness Report for Climate Smart Missoula**

The Health Effects Of Wildfire Smoke On Sensitive Groups and Missoula, MT  
Community Readiness Assessment

[https://www.missoulacclimate.org/uploads/4/3/2/6/43267085/communityreadinessreport\\_climatesmartmsla\\_spring2016.pdf](https://www.missoulacclimate.org/uploads/4/3/2/6/43267085/communityreadinessreport_climatesmartmsla_spring2016.pdf)

# CRA Process



**Dimensions of readiness** are key factors that influence your community's preparedness to take action on an issue.

**A. Community Efforts:** To what extent are there efforts, programs, and policies that address the issue?

**B. Community Knowledge of the Efforts:** To what extent do community members know about local efforts and their effectiveness, and are the efforts accessible to all segments of the community?

**C. Leadership:** To what extent are appointed leaders and influential community members supportive of the issue?

**D. Community Climate:** What is the prevailing attitude of the community toward the issue? Is it one of helplessness or one of responsibility and empowerment?

**E. Community Knowledge about the Issue:** To what extent do community members know about the causes of the problem, consequences, and how it impacts your community?

**F. Resources Related to the Issue:** To what extent are local resources – people, time, money, space, etc. – available to support efforts?