

Inspiration for Local Action

WELL-BEING AS WEALTH

Neighborhood Resources

Today's world can feel overwhelming, there's actually a lot we can do, if we come together. This series of documents is a set of conversation starters to help neighborhoods look at their reality and form a plan of action. Designed as a companion to **Collaboration Through Consultation: A Powerful Tool for Building Community**, these modules provide context for practicing the skills of consultation.

Consultation Basics

Consultation involves both principles and process. These are the skills you'll be practicing as you discuss the topics in this theme.

PRINCIPLES

- **Oneness of humanity:** We humans are one species, one race, one human family. We are infinitely varied in our expressions—language, culture, dress and customs—but we are one people. Once we understand this, everything else flows from here.
- **Harmony and Inspiration:** Simply put, a team that respects and appreciates one another is going to be far more effective than one that bickers. A team whose members reach beyond themselves and are inspired by a higher vision will tap into creativity they didn't know they had.
- **Inner Work:** Group work is only half the equation. The other half is the inner work each of us must do individually to develop spiritual qualities such as patience, service, humility, etc.



PROCESS

1. **Express your view:** Each participant must be free to fully express his or her viewpoint. This also means listening carefully to the views of others. You never know who will come up with the next gem of wisdom.
2. **Let it go:** Once you've stated your view, let go of it completely. Now the view belongs to the group.
3. **Seek truth:** The group then explores all the different views—sorting, sifting, combining, evaluating—to arrive at the truth of the matter.
4. **Support the decision:** Not every consultation results in a decision; sometimes the aim is deeper understanding. If a group does make a decision, everyone supports it—whether they agree or not. If the decision is wrong, it will quickly become apparent and a new decision can be made.

Well-Being as Wealth

The theme for this series of modules is “Well-Being as Wealth.” In today's society, we tend to think of wealth in terms of money.

But money, by itself, actually has no value. It's not something we can eat or put over our heads. Money is a symbol we have confused with wealth.

What if we started focusing on the things that actually matter? What are the things that keep us alive and make life worth living? What if we thought of our wealth in terms of well-being?

If we rethink wealth as collective treasure, rather than individual riches, we see things differently. We begin to understand how valuable clean air is, and clean water. We see that our community can't thrive if some of us lack basic needs. If wealth is well-being, how do we create it together?

Local Action Module #1

COMMUNITY WEALTH INVENTORY

The Community Wealth Inventory provides an opportunity to read your reality in your local area. What is the “well-being wealth” of your neighborhood or community?

This worksheet offers nine different areas to consider. Discuss each area with your group and give your neighborhood a score of 0 to 10. How well is your neighborhood stewarding its “well-being wealth”?



Food: Does everyone in your neighborhood have access to healthy, affordable food?



Spiritual Capital: What qualities, values and ethics are present in your neighborhood?



Health: How is the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being of people in your neighborhood?



Clean air, water & soil: How clean is the air, water and soil in your neighborhood?



Basic Needs: Does everyone in your neighborhood have adequate food, shelter, clothing, a source of heat/energy and basic security?



Biodiversity: Without the vast network of plants and animals, the ecosystems that sustain us collapse and break down. How is the biodiversity in your neighborhood?



Knowledge & Education: How does your community share wisdom, knowledge and education?



Carbon: Our carbon stores need to be balanced to keep the earth at a livable temperature – in the ground, not in the atmosphere. How is your neighborhood increasing carbon in the ground and decreasing carbon in the air?



Work & Employment: Is everyone in your neighborhood able to put their talents to work in a productive way?

We don't inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.

~ Native American proverb

COMMUNITY WEALTH INVENTORY

How is your community doing in each of these areas?



Food

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Health

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Basic Needs

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Knowledge & Education

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Work & Employment

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Spiritual Capital

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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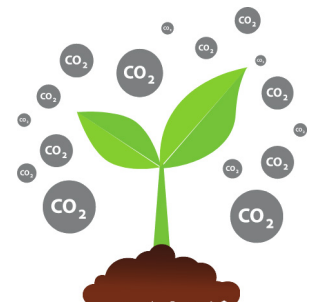
Clean Air, Water, Soil

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Biodiversity

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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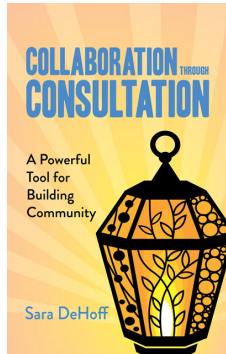


Carbon

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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If you like these conversation starters...

Here are more resources for you:

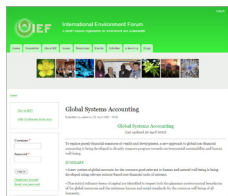


Collaboration Through Consultation: A Powerful Tool for Building Community

This book provides more explanation of the principles and skills of consultation. Filled with stories, examples and practical tips, it provides the basis for the **Inspiration for Local Action** series. Find it at:

OurProsperousWorld.com/Consultation

Sign up for our newsletter to get updates and new modules as they become available.



Global Systems Accounting

Bahá'ís and colleagues are working on an alternative to using Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as the main measure of success. This new alternative looks at environmental and social resources as collective wealth that needs to be stewarded. Learn more at:

IEFworld.org/accounting



One Planet, One Habitation: A Bahá'í Perspective on Recasting Humanity's Relationship with the Natural World

The Bahá'í International Community recently released this statement on the environment and what is needed to address the urgent issues before us. Learn more at:

BIC.org

If you have questions, ideas, insights, stories about using this **Inspiration for Local Action** series, please contact us at: info@ourprosperousworld.com.

Enjoy!