



steps
in the right
direction

Environment and the community – true sustainability involves care for both. The process is as important as the goal of sustainability.

Using the Toolkit - for best results!

→ A bit of background reading

We suggest you circulate copies of The Primer as soon as you can so that people in your community have time to think about what sustainability means to them. And what's bugging them.

→ Browse the Case Study Cards

We think real life stories are the best inspiration. The Case Studies are bit-size chunks of information - about mainly local stories - across a really diverse range of projects. We think they'll show just how achievable some solutions might be.

→ Set aside a time to begin a Sustainability conversation.

The Primer lists nine important strategies for better (more inclusive) conversations. (Like: allowing enough time so everyone gets their chance to talk; making it 'nice' to be there; offering childcare; getting the timing right ... all sorts of good ideas for getting more people involved. (A Community Facilitator could help put these strategies in place.)

→ Get the conversation started

Roundtable introductions are always a good way to get started. Allow enough time for everyone to talk a bit about who they are and why they are there.

To focus the conversation on sustainability you could ask a couple of ice-breakers:

Q. How would you rate the current environmental situation in your community?

Q. Are there processes in place that allow local knowledge to be included in decision-making?

→ Talk about the Case Studies

A culture of co-operation can't be imposed. Case studies however, can allow people to 'see' just how rewarding (and enjoyable) solutions (and co-operation) can be.

→ Capturing the Conversation

As the conversation begins to flow, the Sustainability 'Matrix' can be used to jot down issues, ideas, possible solutions, good contacts and 'next steps'.

The Matrix can become a great record of where your conversation started - and that will help you track your progress.

→ Network

Invite other groups, experts, alternative views to visit and share their perspectives with you along the way.

→ Action

The Matrix can help you identify ‘actions’. Prioritising them might be tricky. (Tip: be flexible). Begin by implementing change in a small way. Select a task that enables people to learn the skills of working together without huge risk. Once trust and confidence are evident more adventurous projects can be planned for.

→ Reflection

Celebrate the milestones together and evaluate constructively. What did we do well?
What would we do differently next time?)

