

The Futures Game

The REZ

A powerful tool to engage Tribal communities and organizations in debating their future together

The Futures Game – The REZ explores how regional and local decisions shape our economic, environmental, and community well-being. Working in teams, participants are challenged to make decisions about contemporary issues, including; land ownership, workforce and economic development, community building, and investing Tribal funds. The game, which is played in a two to three hour workshop format, provides an opportunity to balance the Native Triple Bottom line (people, place and things) and explores the long term consequences of decisions facing Tribal communities.

How 'The Futures Game' works

Each team starts with a base map depicting a hypothetical region of the Great Plains Region, including a Tribal Reservation, small towns, a variety of land uses and ownership, and a mix of landscapes and businesses. At each of five stages (the years 2010, 2012, 2015, 2020 and 2030), teams are presented with a particular situation and asked to choose between two critical decisions.

They are also given a set of important national and local events to consider as they make their choice. After each stage, teams receive a new map depicting the impact of their decision on regional land use, land ownership, community population and services and local businesses and the economy. By the game's end point in 2030, each team has charted a course for the future reflecting the decisions they've made in the game.

The game takes a multifaceted and integrated view of the future, allowing people to explore a range of plausible outcomes. By the end, it's clear to everyone that choices about

people, place and things can have significant and sometimes unexpected long-term consequences on the region and its communities.

What people gain from playing the game

Communities and organizations can use the game's future simulation approach to achieve several powerful outcomes. The most obvious is that people have a chance to discuss growth and development in a hypothetical region, making it easier to explore alternatives than is often the case in real world settings. They learn how decisions that seem sensible in the short-term may play out in unpredictable ways over time, making it critical to shift course to reflect new priorities and values.

Many communities use the game to assess where they are today relative to where they'd like to be 20 years in the future. In this way, it can be a powerful way for community members to consider their own vision and desires for the future of their region and community, and begin to explore the action steps required to get to their preferred future.

On an individual and organizational level, *The Futures Game – The REZ*, can be an excellent tool for people to explore decision making, and to better understand their own leadership and decision making styles.

For more information on using and purchasing *The Futures Game – The REZ*

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