

Scenario Planning

Regional Planning Tool

A powerful new approach to planning the future

Innovative Leadership has developed and refined a scenario planning process that provides a cutting edge approach to exploring regional, community, and organizational futures. This approach, which has been used in diverse locations around the world, is a rigorous and insightful process that enhances new and existing regional planning efforts.

What is Scenario Planning?

Scenario Planning is a method used to powerfully examine possible futures. This technique has traditionally been used in the corporate and military settings to generate one or more plausible scenarios about the future, using information about dimensions such as socio-political, environmental and economic trends.

Innovative Leadership has been working to transfer this powerful visioning and planning tool into the regional and rural community planning context. The strength of this approach is that it allows participants to explore a range of plausible futures and to assess their implications and consequences, better preparing them to adjust during time of change.

How Regional Scenario Planning works

The scenario planning process, as applied by Innovative Leadership, can be conducted in a one or two day format. The workshop involves a key group of stakeholders and community leaders. It builds from a solid factual basis and draws together the collective insights and intuitive intelligence of the stakeholders. This process is highly participatory and engaging.

The key elements include:

- Review of important global, national and local trends
- Identification of key local drivers shaping the future
- Clustering of critical sets of drivers
- Formulation of different plausible scenario 'spaces'
- Developing detailed narratives and descriptions about each of the plausible scenarios
- Identifying preferred futures and critical actions steps

This process provides an opportunity for people to produce new insights about the future, and to identify key actions to move a region towards a preferred future.

Experience with Regional Scenario Planning

Innovative Leadership has conducted regional and organizational scenario planning in numerous situations. Some of our recent scenario planning work includes:

- SE Regional Alberta, Canada
- University of Idaho
- Pacific Northwest Region, USA
- Australian Grain Industry
- Midwest USA
- Great Plains Native American Reservations, USA

Scenario Planning and 'The Futures Game'

As a compliment to the scenario planning work, Innovative Leadership has been pioneering the development of the **'The Futures Game'** concept. This is a derivative product of the regional scenario planning process and provides an enjoyable and accessible way for citizens to engage in discussion about a regional future. The coupling together of scenario planning and 'The Futures Game' provides the depth and rigor of the scenario planning process, together with the ease and portability of 'The Futures Game' approach.

For more information on Scenario Planning

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