Values Thinking

Ability to consider and assess sustainability through social justice, equity and ethics

What is Values Thinking?

Values Thinking is focused on integrating goals, values, ethics, equity, and justice into your decision making. This competency is about recognizing and explaining the different values of individuals, groups, organizations, and cultures, and understanding how these differences may impact the development of sustainability solutions. It is also about self-reflection to help you better understand how your norms, values, and preferences compare to others, and how that may influence your sustainability worldview.
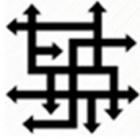
Values Thinking Vocabulary

- Values
- Goals
- Preferences
- Ethics
- Equity
- Justice
- Context
- Reflection
- Vulnerability
- Privilege
- Power

Values Thinking Questions for Creating Sustainability Solutions

- What is their context?
- What might they value?
- How might my perspective and context influence my ability to help?
- How can we create a solution that takes into account multiple perspectives, wants, and needs?

Systems Thinking

Ability to analyze complex systems across different domains (society, environment, economy) & different scales (local to global) while considering trade-offs, cascading effects, and feedback loops

What is Systems Thinking?

Systems thinking is focused on examining sustainability problems through a lens of interconnectedness and complexity. This competency is about identifying and understanding the systems that contribute to sustainability problems, then finding ways to intervene in these systems to develop appropriate solutions.

Systems Thinking Vocabulary

- Systems
- Interconnections
- Complexity
- Diversity
- Unintended Consequences
- Scale
- Trade-offs
- Cascading Effects
- Feedback Loops

Systems Thinking Questions for Creating Sustainability Solutions

- What are the systems involved?
- What are the boundaries of these systems?
- What are the key drivers of these systems?
- Who or what is being impacted by these systems?
- How can we intervene in these systems?

Future Thinking

The ability to analyze, evaluate the current state of sustainability, understand trajectories, and craft relevant and realistic visions/pictures of a desired future

What is Futures Thinking?

Futures Thinking is focused on analyzing and evaluating the current state of sustainability, then considering trends, uncertainty, path dependency, feasibility to create sustainability visions for the future. This competency is about developing scenarios, models, and visions to find strategic ways to intervene in current systems. Futures Thinking considers historical and cultural ideas of the future, as well as our own perspective of possible futures based on personal context and values.

Futures Thinking Vocabulary

- Current State
- Future State
- Trends
- Uncertainty
- Path Dependency
- Context
- Scenarios
- Models
- Visions/Visioning
- Intervention

Futures Thinking Questions for Creating Sustainability Solutions

- What is the current state?
- Why is this the current state?
- What are potential future states based on the current state and trends?
- What might be the benefits of the potential future states?
- What might be the consequences of the potential future states?

Stakeholder Engagement

Ability to facilitate problem-solving through collaboration and inclusion

What is Stakeholder Engagement?

Stakeholder Engagement is focused on connecting and collaborating with others in your school and community to successfully plan and implement sustainability solutions. Stakeholders include anyone who is involved in or will be impacted by a project. For example, if you are doing a recycling project with your class, although the parents and families of your students will not actively participate in the project, they will be impacted because their children may develop habits or values towards sustainability. Engaging with stakeholders is important because it will provide you with a variety of resources and support that you may not have by completing a project on your own.

Stakeholder Engagement Vocabulary

- Stakeholder
- Collaboration
- Resources
- Support
- Impact
- Community

Stakeholder Engagement Questions for Creating Sustainability Solutions

- What resources do we need?
- Who could provide us with these resources?
- What support do we need?
- Who could provide us with this support?
- What is the best way to communicate with each stakeholder?

Action Planning

Ability to collectively design and implement
strategies towards improvement

What is Action Planning?

Action Planning is focused on finding concrete ways to take action in creating sustainability solutions. This competency often includes principles of Project Management and Design Thinking. For example, Action Planning may include making a plan to identify and engage with stakeholders, creating a project timeline, proposing a budget, and developing a team communication plan. It is also important to integrate the wants and needs of your school and community, be open to trial-and-error, and receive feedback from those involved in and impacted by the project.

Action Planning Vocabulary
- Project
- Design Thinking
- Timeline
- Budget
- Team
- Communication
- Trial-and-Error
- Feedback
- Stakeholders

Action Planning Questions for Creating Sustainability Solutions

What are the wants of our school and community?
What are the needs of our school and community?
What is our plan?
Who are our stakeholders?
What is our timeline?
What is our budget?

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