



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

GUIDE

Engage the public. Preserve the planet.



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An International Toolkit

What is the toolkit?

- The Public Participation Guide, or toolkit, provides essential, basic information in public participation, as well as useful links to more content on the web.
- It is designed to help those who must manage processes where public input is important to decision-making.
- It is organized to provide you with a clear overview program to help you identify best practices in planning, skills, and behaviors that can be used to design and implement a meaningful public participation program to best meet the needs of your project and the publics you wish to engage.
- The toolkit provides examples of tools and techniques that you can use to disseminate information to the public; to obtain public input to the decision process; and techniques that you can use to bring diverse groups of stakeholders together to engage in shared learning and decision-making.
- It provides case studies as a means of information-exchange and to show a variety of successful public participation programs throughout the world.
- The guide is in English, Spanish, Arabic, French, and Chinese.
- Structure of the toolkit:
 - *An Introduction to Public Participation*
 - *Public Participation Situation Assessment*
 - *Selecting the Right Level of Public Participation*
 - *Public Participation Process Design*
 - *Public Participation Tools*
 - *Foundational Skills, Knowledge, and Behaviors*
 - *Public Participation Resources*

How do we intend to use the toolkit?

- U.S.EPA launched the Public Participation Guide, an international public participation toolkit, to provide tools for public participation and public outreach in environmental decision-making.
- It is initially focused on the Middle East and North Africa, citing examples of public participation and public outreach from countries throughout the Middle East and North Africa region to show varied methods of successful public participation programs.
- Case studies are currently being developed from countries and regions around the world.
- EPA held workshops on the toolkit and public participation in Chile, and plans to hold workshops in the CAFTA-DR countries, the Middle East, North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa, and Asia.
- The toolkit can support various programs:
 - Improving environmental programs that you are currently supporting

<http://www.epa.gov/international/public-participation-guide/>



Shereen Kandil

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Program Manager for International Public Participation

202-564-6433

Kandil.shereen@epa.gov

