

Background

One of the toughest parts of engaging communities on climate change is overcoming our anxiety and uncertainty about the future. This workshop seeks to overcome that by opening the space to speculate about what the world may look like at different times. The tone of the workshop can range from silly to serious, and we encourage an open attitude to both negative and optimistic approaches to the future.

Introduction

Explain to the participants that they'll be asked to imagine what their city, planet or community will look like at a given date. If you'd like them to focus on a specific sector (e.g., water, biodiversity, equality), then give some examples of how those fields may change. Otherwise, you can mention the broadest possible perspectives. Try to spark creativity with a few questions (these can be printed, spoken or projected on a board):

- What will people eat in fifty years?
- What will houses look like in the year 2100?
- Will people be living in spaceships?
- How will inequality be in 2050?
- How will art and culture change?
- What will YOU or your family be doing in thirty years?
- How would you get to the office in 2075, and what work would you do there?

Activity

- Break the group into smaller sections (3-4 people each)
- Assign each group a date (it can be the same for everyone or different)
- Give them their assignment: to "time travel" to a specific point in the future and report back what they've seen. Encourage them to view themselves as scientists and to pay attention to the details of society and the environment.
- Give thirty minutes to an hour for the groups to work together. They can be provided with materials like paper, pens, etc to make visual representations of their futures.

Note: They can be asked to envision a specific scenario (e.g., what is the day in an average life like in Paris in 2077) or describe a city as a whole. They can also come up with their own specific approach given the instructions and makeup of the group.

Presentation/Discussion

-Gather the participants back into a larger group and ask each section to share their findings with the community.

After sharing, spark a conversation with a few questions, like:

How did it feel to imagine the future?

Did you feel hopeful or negative?

How likely do you think this future is?

What do you think would need to happen, or not happen, in order for this future to be a reality?

What role can I play in building that future?