

IMPACT EFFORT MAPPING

QUICK WINS

These actions will have a high impact for a low effort.

GO FOR IT

LOW EFFORT

MOMENTUM BUILDERS

These require a low effort but also have a low impact.

CONSIDER IT

TRANSFORMATIONAL

These actions will have a high impact but require a high effort.

PLAN FOR IT

HIGH EFFORT

DERAILERS

These require a high effort but only have a low impact.

DUMP IT



Impact Effort Mapping HOW TO GUIDE

1 Gather Your List

List all the potential projects, tasks, or initiatives you are considering. These might come from brainstorming, strategy sessions, or your action plan.

2 Define Impact and Effort

- Impact: How much of a difference will this action make towards your goals?
- Effort: How much time, money, or resources will it take to complete?

Agree on rough definitions before you start mapping.

3 Plot Each Item

Use the Impact/Effort Matrix to sort each item:

Low Impact + Low Effort — *Momentum Builders*: Consider if they are worth doing.

High Effort + Low Impact → *Derailers*: Typically, avoid or drop these.

High Effort + High Impact — Transformational: Plan carefully and prioritize strategically.

Low Effort + High Impact — Quick Wins: Do these first to build momentum and early success.

4 Make Decisions

Label each initiative:

- Go For It: High impact, low effort (Quick Wins)
- Plan For It: High impact, high effort (Transformational)
- Consider It: Low impact, low effort (Momentum Builders)
- **Dump It:** Low impact, high effort (Derailers)

5 TAKE ACTION

Prioritize your next steps based on where each item falls. Build your strategic plan or action list around initiatives that truly move the needle.