

Public Engagement: Regional Context is Key

Jamie Miro, Alana Paul

Introduction

Meaningful community engagement goes beyond the permitting process. It is an integral process across the project lifecycle.

Stakeholder engagement is increasingly being given greater prominence by investors, as well as local people themselves expecting a greater degree of information, input and benefit sharing in energy projects. Understanding the regional context is key.

An integrated project team is key to validate stakeholder insights and incorporate them into design and mitigation measures.

INFORM

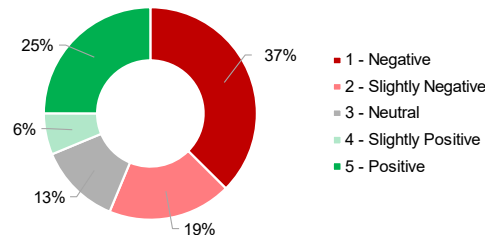
CONSULT

INVOLVE

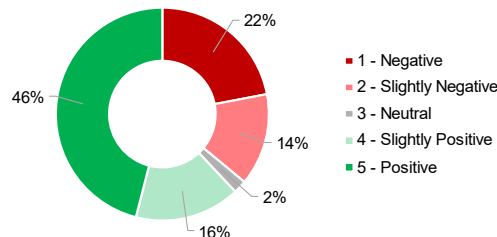
COLLABORATE

EMPOWER

Proportion by Tone



Proportion by Tone



Methods

- Stakeholder mapping, identification, and analysis
- Forming a meaningful, tailored Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Community Benefits Plan
- Considering community dynamics to achieve maximum buy-in
- Inclusive and accessible consultation and participation
- Clarifying issues and gaining insight
- Designating a local liaison and building relationships
- Feeding data and local context into design and mitigation

Discussion

- Risk management and mitigation
- Nature-based solutions
- Environmental justice
- Environmental policy changes
- Community composition and stakeholder sentiment change over time

Results

- Sustainable development solutions
- Local ownership through stewardship partners and community voices heard
- Societal groups feel valued
- Increased understanding of program benefits and co-benefits
- Improved and dynamic communications
- Embedded social value and lasting positive legacy

Reference

© 2018 International Association for Public Participation and the United States Environmental Protection Agency Public Participation Guide

Contact

Alana Paul
Social Equity Technical Leader
alana.paul@mottmac.com