

Community Engagement Code of Ethics

- Purpose. We support public participation as a process to make better decisions that incorporate the interests and concerns of all affected stakeholders and meet the needs of the decision-making body.
- Role of Practitioner. We will enhance the public's participation in the decision-making process and assist decision-makers in being responsive to the public's concerns and suggestions.
- Trust. We will undertake and encourage actions that build trust and credibility for the process among all the participants.
- Defining the Public's Role. We will carefully consider and accurately portray the public's role in the decision-making process.
- Openness. We will encourage the disclosure of all information relevant to the public's understanding and evaluation of a decision.
- Access to the Process. We will ensure that stakeholders have fair and equal access to the public participation process and the opportunity to influence decisions.
- Respect for Communities. We will avoid strategies that risk polarizing community interests or that appear to "divide and conquer."
- Advocacy. We will advocate for the public participation process and will not advocate for interest, party, or project outcome.
- Commitments. We ensure that all commitments made to the public, including those by the decision-maker, are made in good faith.
- Support of the Practice. We will mentor new practitioners in the field and educate decision-makers and the public about the value and use of public participation.