

Who is Governing Green For?

Governing Green prepares you to effectively consider how your decisions impact the function, outcomes, or benefits associated with green infrastructure. This tool will help you assess governance decisions by considering how project values are understood by different organizations or institutions. The tool also enhances your knowledge of how structural constraints, policies, and procedures shape collective action by providing resources, definitions, and links to background information.

The format of Governing Green emphasizes learning by doing. This approach immerses users in scenarios. Within scenarios, users apply contextual knowledge and reflect on how the application of knowledge prioritizes specific values.

The kinds of projects and decisions involved were distilled from dozens of interviews with city officials, non-profit representatives, and community leaders in 6 US cities. Through these interviews, we learned that stakeholders often possess little knowledge about the experiences of others involved in a project. Our tool fills in this knowledge gap and draws attention to the challenges stakeholders face when implementing green infrastructure.

City Officials, Agencies, or Representatives

Often, city officials implementing green infrastructure work within existing regulatory requirements. Regulatory goals or benchmarks may influence the location, funding options, and the desired functional outcomes of the project. Yet, when engaging in partnerships with organizations or communities, regulatory priorities may overshadow concerns on the ground.

City officials who use this tool will learn how diverse partners advocate for local priorities, organize members, or respond to environmental problems.

Non-Profit Organizations

Within urban areas in the US, non-profit organizations have successfully implemented countless green infrastructure projects. From small community gardens to complete streets programming, non-profit organizations generally have greater flexibility and institutional capacity to implement projects. Yet, these strengths can sometimes lead to conflicts with partners who hope to solve different problems with green infrastructure.

Representatives from non-profit organizations will learn how their institutional mission and priorities may hinder outreach and project success.

Community and Neighborhood Associations

Community or neighborhood associations are on the frontline of defining and solving the problems that most impact their group. The knowledge and skills developed within and amongst local leaders are essential to understanding local environmental and social challenges. Yet, community groups are often understaffed, under-resourced, and under pressure to advocate for their communities with limited support.

Community leaders using this tool will learn about the structural, political, and regulatory dimensions that shape projects in their local environments.