

Description

Buzz groups are a common workshop technique that allows participants share their understanding of a topic with each other. There are many variations, from working in pairs, triads or more. There should not be more than six to a buzz group, as beyond this number the less brave will not be heard.

**Benefits**

The great benefit of buzz groups is that they are highly flexible. They can be used to generate ideas, reflect on new or old knowledge. They can be used to bring people together, or keep people apart. They can be used at virtually any part of a participatory process in some form or other.

Skills

The flexibility of the concept means that effective use requires knowing when to use them, and in what format. They are though robust, and it is rare to make a complete disaster using them.

Other Considerations

This is a workshop technique, and should be used as part of a variety of community engagement toolbox.