

Vision-to-Action

Sustainable Delmarva’s “Vision-to-Action” program organizes and leads the innovative large group conversation-based meeting models World Café and Future Search for communities. The outcomes of these conferences include the development of common ground values and a set of short term and long term actions for the community to follow. These outcomes contribute towards the vision of a bigger system, the Delmarva Peninsula.

World Café & Future Search – An effective process for visioning and action:

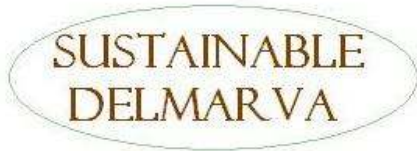
World Café is a meeting model that was created based on the findings that when a group of people desiring to move ahead on a particular issue are given an opportunity to gather and conduct a series of meaningful conversations insights are available that weren’t before often called “group wisdom”. A highly regarded model to use when working with a large group, World Café is often combined with a Future Search to take the outcomes of a World Café and build upon them to create an in-depth community plan. The goal of both events is to enable a community to come together as a whole, allow diverse populations to build relationships among each other, build off each other’s ideas, develop a set of common ground values, and determine particular action steps that all participants agree to work toward.

World Café:

A World Café is one evening of conversations among a large and diverse group of people that, through well developed questions, reveal a deeper pattern through which the group can envision a collective future. These conversations link and build upon each other as people move between groups, cross-pollinate ideas, and discover new insights into the questions or issues that are most important in their life, work, or community. As a process, the World Café can evoke and make visible the collective intelligence of any group, thus increasing people’s capacity for effective action in pursuit of common aims.

Timeframe of tasks for a World Café event

Task	Timing
Sponsor identifies and invites 8 - 10 people who represent community stakeholder groups to the first of three World Café planning meetings. The first meeting will familiarize members of World Cafe concepts and begin to make plans for a World Café in their community. The planning group will choose a date for the community event during the first meeting.	Month 1 -2
Hold second planning meeting to decide how to invite people to attend the World Café event and begin determining logistics.	Month 3
Third planning meeting held to finalize logistics. Hold World Cafe event	Month 4
Follow up meeting with the World Café planning committee to review event and next steps	Month 5



Future Search:

A Future Search is a 2 ½ day meeting planned over three months and relies on mutual learning among stakeholders as a catalyst for voluntary action and follow-up. Using the Future Search conference model to build a plan for the future ensures that:

- All stakeholders are represented.
- The whole system or "whole elephant" is explored before seeking to fix any part.
- Common ground and future focus is placed front and center while treating problems and conflicts as information, not action items.
- Participants take responsibility for action before, during, and after the Future Search.

Future Search as a meeting model stands out because it requires meaningful involvement by all identified stakeholders of the issue. Stakeholders plan the meeting, invite the participants, identify common ground ideas, and determine and commit to action steps. Most importantly, the Future Search model is open-ended which allow and endless amount of possibilities to emerge.

Timeframe of tasks for a Future Search conference

Task	Timing
World Café planning committee identifies members of a Future Search planning committee (10 – 12 representatives of stakeholder groups). Hold first Future Search planning committee meeting to review the outcomes and themes that emerged from the Chestertown World Café event, become familiar with Future Search principles and methods, and begin making plans for a Chestertown Future Search.	Month 6
Hold Future Search planning meeting two and three.	Month 7 - 8
Hold a fourth planning meeting to finalize logistics. Hold a 2.5 day Future Search conference	Month 9
Hold follow up community meeting for action committees to report on their progress	Month 12

Costs:

Estimated costs for services, travel, and materials associated with a World Cafe meeting ranges between \$5000 - \$7000. An estimated cost for services, travel, and materials associated with a Future Search conference ranges between \$15,000 - \$20,000. Sustainable Delmarva is presently working to secure 50% of the funding for five World Café events and two Future Search events on the Delmarva Peninsula. Sponsoring organizations would be asked to provide the other 50%.

For more information about World Café visit www.theworldcafe.com

For more information about Future Search visit www.futuresearch.net

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