

Planning Process

Ambler, Buckland, Deering, Kiana, Kivalina, Kobuk, Noatak, Noorvik, Sealvik and Shungnak

PROCESS FOR COMMUNITY ACTION PLANS

*Created by Remote Solutions, LLC
Funded by the Northwest Arctic Borough
9/25/14*

In June 2014, the Northwest Arctic Borough contracted with Remote Solutions, LLC to work with the Planning Committees, IRAs, and Cities to create Action Plans affiliated with their top priorities. The process of how this is being completed is detailed below. Through review of existing information, surveys, public meetings, and other forums a list of priorities will be created for 11 different topic areas in addition to having a top ten priority list, which may or may not be similar to their currently adopted priority list. The community will work together to assign actionable tasks to each prioritized goal that the community can take ownership of and achieve success with. The deliverable will be complete Community Action Plans for all communities except Kotzebue. The plans can be renewed by the community on a yearly basis.

1. Review all existing planning documents including: local Comprehensive Plans; Regional Strategic Energy Plan; Regional Plan; NWAB Comprehensive Plan; ANTHC Master Plans; and other planning documents including the NWALT Listening Session Documents and data gained through conversation and meetings (with Regional Service Providers and local entities).
2. Compile all priorities in one spreadsheet that is sortable by (goal, priority, category, etc.) and can be used and updated on an on-going basis.
3. Communicate with IRAs, Cities, and Planning Committees (where they exist) to schedule meetings or to call into existing meetings to inform groups about the process. We work to meet with the Planning Committee, IRA, and the Cities together first in order to co-create a process that is determined by the village as we move into the public meetings.
4. Compile all priorities into common topics that are categorized according to action and solution (not problem) such as:
 - a. People
 - i. Wellness
 - ii. Economic Development
 - iii. Culture
 - iv. Public Safety



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- b. Infrastructure
 - i. Building
 - ii. Utilities
 - iii. Transportation
 - c. Planning
 - i. Research
 - ii. Planning
 - iii. Funding
 - iv. Resource Development
5. Vision Sheets are created that are unique to each community to start focusing on the action needed. The Vision Sheets include information such as mission, vision (sometimes more than one vision per topic), goals, action items, the general problem that is being addressed, and a blank who and when (to eventually make the goals “SMART” during community dialogue).
 6. The Vision Sheets are uploaded online for easy dissemination of the concepts through PDF download and online viewing.
 7. Surveys are created based on the goals listed in the Vision Sheets so that everyone have an opportunity to prioritize their needs. The goal is for all ages to complete the survey, including young people and for high school students to take the surveys around the community and help people complete them. Surveys can be taken online or printed out and returned through fax, mail, or email.
 8. The survey database will highlight common priorities and will inform us about which goals should be focused on during the public meetings. Given the huge amount of challenges, solutions, and ideas the surveys and existing planning documents give us all a place to start during a relatively brief public meeting. The KEY to all is this is the creation of Community ACTION Plans. By having the surveys to help with prioritizing ahead of the Public Meetings, we hope to be able to focus on ACTION and the development of SMART goal during the Public Meetings.
 9. Public Meetings can be held over 2-3 days at night, a weekend, or in one day depending on community input. Circle practice will be used to ensure that ownership of the results stay within the community. A detailed layout has been created for the



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public planning meetings, which will be changed as needed by the IRA, City, and Planning Committee. This layout/agenda has been carefully crafted to achieve maximum amount of input, connection, excitement, and hope. The intention of the public meeting(s) is to leave the meeting feeling energized, hopeful, and excited about the Community Action Plan that we are co-creating. Any interested Stakeholders will be informed of the Public Meetings so that all can be involved.

10. Given the challenge of hearing every voice, a public meeting is not enough because not all people will attend the meeting. So, through the surveys, website, community planning Facebook pages, and other outlets we hope to give every resident an opportunity to provide input.
11. The end product will be a Community Action Plan for every community, which will include a detailed Project Plan for achieving their top two goals in every topic area. The Community Action Plan will be clear, succinct, and accessible so that commitments are evident. The Plans will be available through print and online. The Community Action Plans will be formally adopted by both councils and the Planning Committee.
12. A second end product is the Community Action Plan Website (currently at www.dreamthefutureak.com). This website currently has all available planning documents on each village's page, the current priorities are listed for each village, and all of the current Vision Sheets. Soon, a news feed will be on the front page for regional news and on the local page for local news such as grant submissions or awards. In addition, grant submissions or project proposals can be posted here as well to help consolidate information. This website can be ultimately housed on any domain and work very well in a collaborative manner with existing regional websites.

KEY CONCEPTS

Youth + Wisdom= Momentum

Change the Chairs, Change the World

Connecting with archetypes (Healer, Warrior, Teacher, and Visionary) to work together as a diverse team while honoring our uniqueness.

Intention in meetings is end feeling energized, hopeful, and excited about the Community Action Plan that we are co-creating.

Every Voice Counts

Vision of Process: Every person in the region will have clarity, confidence, and commitment about taking action.



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