The Wheel of Context

A tool for unpacking contextual differences in climate change terminology.

Originally developed by Jessica Lee, Anna Steynor, Amy Davison, Katinka Waagsaether and Alice McClure.

Aim

This tool was developed out of a recognised need to unpack and clarify both conceptual and contextual discrepancies in terminology, across sectors or disciplines.

Suggested settings suitable to use this tool

We recommend that this tool be used in a transdisciplinary setting such as a transversal workgroup. It is important that there are representatives from different sectors/line functions to carry out the activity successfully.

Facilitation

This tool requires a facilitator who is responsible for overseeing the activity. He/she should follow the instructions below.

Instructions

1. Choose a term that you would like to unpack and write it in the blank space at the top of the board. (some examples include: green, resilience & low carbon)

2. In the outer circle write down a maximum of six sectors/line functions. These should be chosen per the sector representatives present.[1]

3. Provide the sector representative(s) with the corresponding segment pieces of the same colour.

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[1] Sectors/Line functions not present can be added if there is someone present with a good understanding of that sector's interpretation of the chosen term.
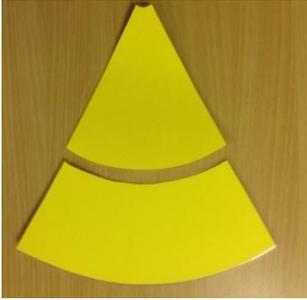
The segment pieces

4. Ask each representative to write down a definition of the term chosen. This should be done on the outer (larger) segment.

The outer segment

5. Ask each representative to write down one example of how this term might be applied in their sector/context. This should be done on the inner segment. For example, green practices in the Urban Planning Unity might be: 'the design of ecological corridors throughout the city.'


The inner segment

6. Pin each segment in its corresponding place on the board (colour coded).

Completed circle

7. The facilitator should choose one sector and read out the definition and example provided. Then they should turn the wheel placing *the definition* for that sector into the

sector clockwise from it. He/She should then aid a discussion on the application of this definition in another sector. Does this definition make sense in the next sector? Ask the representative from the second sector whether is it is a suitable definition or whether it is too different from theirs to be applicable. Does this definition makes sense in terms of the example provided? Once this is completed move the definition to the next sector and repeat. Do this until the definition has done a full circle and is back in its original place.
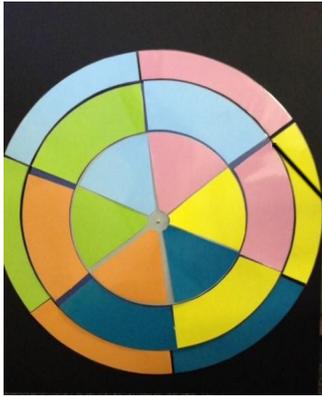
Turning the wheel clockwise

8. Do this for each sector.

Note: it is important to highlight discrepancies. These can be discussed as they arise, or at the end. The facilitator might say the following: *"so we can see that the definition provided by x fits well with y, but does not fit well with z. x and z mean different things when they use this term and this needs to be acknowledged."*
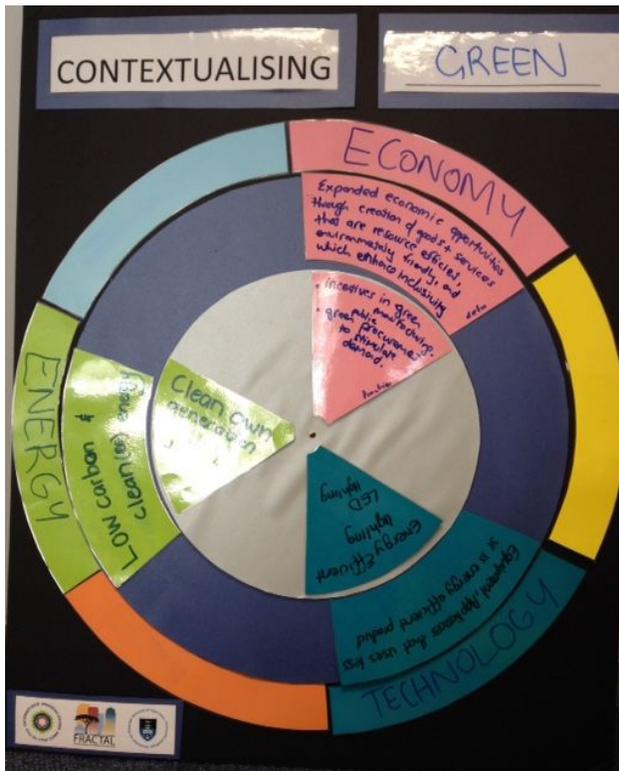
An example of a wheel completed with 3 sectors