

Framework for Strategic Sustainable Development
A 5 Level Model for Planning in Complex Systems.



Source: The Natural Step

“The object of all work is accomplishment and to either of these ends there must be forethought, system, planning, intelligence, and honest purpose, as well as perspiration.”

Thomas A. Edison

Tags: Whole system - Vision and purpose,
Whole System - monitoring and evaluation,
Whole system - education and pedagogy - academic

Challenge:

Planning within complex systems is..complex, and without a clear understanding of the different levels that are involved we are unlikely to be successful. We may struggle to have a clear idea of what a successful outcome is, what tools are appropriate, what tactics and strategies to adopt. This can lead to wasted time, resources, frustration and ultimately, failure.

Solution:

This five level model helps us to plan for success. By understanding the system within which we are working we can more clearly define what success looks like within that system. This allows us to be strategic, to develop tactics, tools and metrics. To rephrase: it allows us to understand the tools and metrics we need to carry out the actions required to be strategic, to achieve success within the system.

References:

The Natural Step, *Framework for Strategic Sustainable Development*, Retrieved March 2015 <http://www.naturalstep.org/en/our-approach>

Robert, K.H et al (2002) Journal of Cleaner Production 10 (2002) 197-214 *Strategic Sustainable Development-selection, design and synergies of selected tools.*

<http://www.foroandinopvc.org.co/documentos/Strategic%20Sustainable%20Development%20-%20K.H%20Robert%20et%20al.pdf>

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