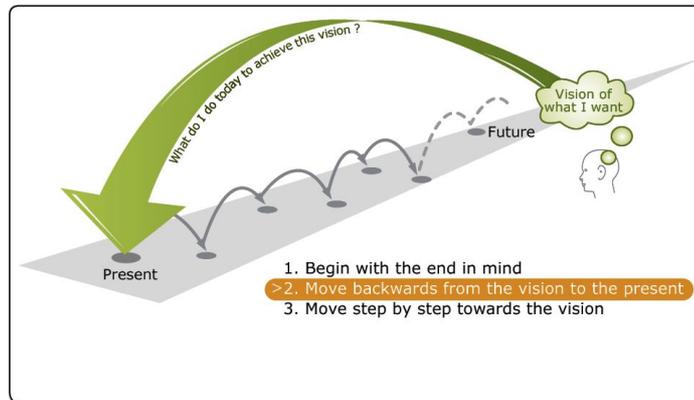


Backcasting

A future oriented planning strategy



<http://www.naturalstep.ca/backcasting>

“a tool to connect desirable long term future scenarios to the present situation” Unknown

Tags Whole System
 Whole System Design, Vision and Purpose

Challenge:

In complex environments it gets difficult to stay on track with your vision. It's easy to get lost in many ideas, to do's, steps or possibilities. If you have an idea or a project for the future how do you reach that envisioned future?. In the same way, visions often seem much too big and it's difficult to get started. People get afraid and don't see the first small step they can make.

Solution:

Backcasting is a design process that will help you to clearly design a process that can lead you to a desired future: Backcasting starts with defining a desirable future. It first asks where we want to go - and then works backwards to identify milestones, steps and moves how to connect that future to the present. The fundamental question is: "if we want to attain a certain goal, what actions must be taken to allow us to get there?". This is a "step-by-step" approach and each step has others both before and after. Thus you walk (plan) back from a desired goal to the here-and-now - in short:

- You begin with the end in mind. With a vision of how things will be in the future when you have been successful.
- Plan backwards from the future vision to the present. You can also cluster the tasks in topics (e.g. finances, community building, ... and that way get project management tasks for a GANTT chart)
- Then move from the present step-by-step to this future.

References:

Backcasting on Wikipedia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Backcasting>

Backcasting from Natural step: <http://www.naturalstep.org/en/backcasting>

Methods:

ABCD Backcasting: <http://www.naturalstep.org/en/abcd-process>

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