

Needs Assessment

The Needs Assessment is the first exercise of a two level approach.

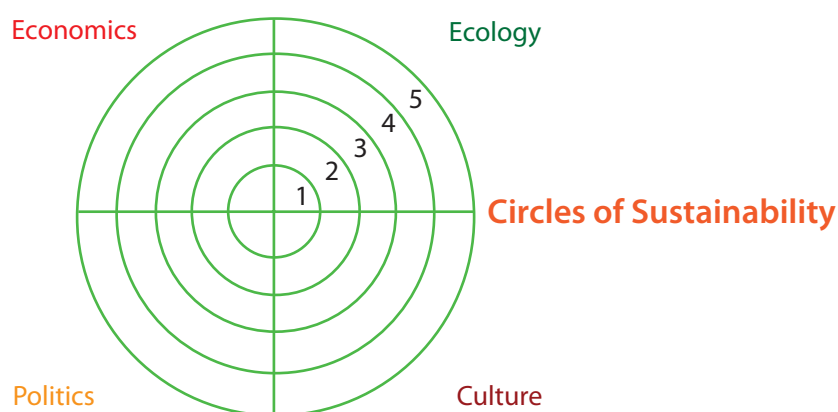
It is complemented by the Facilitated Design Workshop, part of the Design Phase.

The Needs Assessment is a requirement for member cities to undertake as part of the Refinement phase. As the name suggest, this exercise assists cities to 'refine' their project and their thinking behind the proposed design.

The Needs Assessment exercise is a result of a significant amount of research work, conducted on an international scale that investigated the phenomenon and application of sustainability indicators.

To undertake the Needs Assessment, a city follows the following prompts outlined below and responds to each of the four questions for each domain. Each response receives a ranking from 1 to 5, determined by the consensus of the Working Group.

Level One



1 - unsatisfactory 2 - minimal 3 - satisfactory 4 - good 5 - excellent

Questions

What is the depth of awareness of the issue in relation to each domain?

How adequate have been the practical responses to this issue in relation to each domain?

How appropriate have been the resources brought to bear on this issue in relation to each domain?

How well have responses to this issue been monitored across each domain?

1 **unsatisfactory**

A city is unable to demonstrate existence of sustainable practices in relation to the specified issue.

2 **minimal**

A city is aware of the need to develop sustainable practices to improve the existing situation in relation to the specified issue.

3 **satisfactory**

A city is able to demonstrate commitment / investment of appropriate resources that foster sustainable practises toward the improvement of the specified issue.

4 **good**

A city is able to demonstrate investment of appropriate resources that foster sustainable practices. Resources may include financial, human or material contributions that aim to achieve sustainability in relation to a specific issue.

5 **excellent**

A city is able to demonstrate their investment of appropriate resources (human, financial or material) that have influenced sustainable practices in relation to the specified issue.

At the conclusion of the Needs Assessment, a city will benefit by receiving:

Greater depth of analysis. Moves away from triple bottom line.

Assessment of 'distance' between current state of affairs and desired future condition.

Realistic visual reflection of your city's inherent tensions, barriers and opportunities.

Flexible framework. Ability to be undertaken repeatedly as society changes over time.