



Virtual Public Engagement Resources

Conducting public engagement during a pandemic adds a new layer of complexity to an already challenging process. Now, perhaps more than ever, it is important for natural resource agencies to continue to connect with external stakeholders.

The following list contains some resources that you may find helpful as you navigate this new reality. Please be aware that some stakeholders may not have computer access and more traditional ways of communicating, such as by telephone or mail, may be needed.

Policy Guidance

[Interim Guidance for National Environmental Policy Act Processes](#)

Author: Department of the Interior (DOI)

Format: Memo, April 10, 2020

Description: Public participation and document schedules during COVID-19.

Time to Review: < 15 Minutes



Conducting Virtual Public Engagement

[Virtual Public Meetings: A Prequel Case Study](#)

Author: Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Format: Presentation

Description: Case study of BLM's experience conducting virtual public meetings.

Time to Review: 15 - 45 minutes

[Digital Engagement, Social Media & Public Participation](#)

Author: International Association for Public Participation

Format: White Paper

Description: A comprehensive presentation of digital strategies and tools for engaging with the public.

Time to Review: > 45 Minutes

[Broadening Public Participation Using Online Tools](#)

Author: Institute for Local Government

Format: Online Brochure

Description: Written specifically for local governments in California, but tools can be applied more broadly. Also provides case studies of successful virtual engagement.

Time to Review: 15 – 45 Minutes

[Best Practices for Virtual Engagement](#)

Author: Local Government Commission

Format: Online Brochure

Description: A detailed brochure highlighting best practices when engaging remotely.

Time to Review: > 45 Minutes

[When the Open House is Closed: A Playbook For Virtual Public Engagement](#)

Author: HDR, Inc.

Format: Online Brochure

Description: A guide to the virtual public involvement process for infrastructure projects, but lessons can be applied to a wide variety of situations and projects.

Time to Review: 15 – 45 Minutes

[7 Tips for Effective Remote Collaboration](#)

Author: The Institute for Conservation Leadership

Format: Tip Sheet

Description: Short descriptions of how to remotely conduct effective collaboration.

Time to Review: 15 – 45 Minutes

[Virtual Public Involvement](#)

Author: Federal Highway Administration

Format: Fact Sheet

Description: Tips on how virtual public engagement can enhance information sharing with the public.

Time to Review: < 15 Minutes

Best Practices for Planning and Facilitating Virtual Meetings

[Facilitating Virtual Meetings Training](#)

Author: DOI Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution (CADR)

Format: Webinar

Description: A webinar designed to train DOI staff on the basics of conducting virtual meetings. DOI access only.

Time to Review: 15 – 45 Minutes

[Virtual Meeting Resources](#)

Author: Bureau of Land Management (BLM) CADR and BLM National Training Center

Format: Varied

Description: Resources and training for holding virtual meetings, including large public meetings. DOI access only.

Time to Review: Varied

[Toolkit: Facilitating Virtual Meetings](#)

Author: DOI Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution (CADR)

Format: Word Document

Description: This toolkit accompanies the CADR training webinar, but can be used as a stand-alone document. DOI access only.

Time to Review: 15 – 45 Minutes

[Tips and Tricks for Planning a Virtual Meeting](#)

Author: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Format: Quick Reference Sheet

Description: Information on planning, facilitating, and participating in virtual meetings with links to more resources.

Time to Review: < 15 Minutes

[10 Tips for Improving Online Meetings](#)

Author: The Consensus Building Institute

Format: Tip Sheet

Description: A compilation of tips for conducting online meetings that are productive and engaging.

Time to Review: < 15 Minutes

[What It Takes to Run a Great Virtual Meeting](#)

Author: Harvard Business Review

Format: Article

Description: 12 Steps to conducting a virtual meeting. Written from a business prospective, but useful information for all.

Time to Review: 15 – 45 Minutes

[10 Tips for Staying Human on Video Calls](#)

Author: NonProfit Quarterly

Format: Online Brochure

Description: Tips on how to be a good participant in virtual meetings.

Time to Review: 15 – 45 Minutes

[How to Be Social at a Distance](#)

Author: DJ Case and Associates

Format: Webpage

Description: This page describes techniques, platforms, and other tips.

Time to Review: < 15 Minutes

[Techniques for Facilitating Virtual Meetings](#)

Author: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Format: Quick Reference Sheet

Description: Strategies to help you facilitate your virtual meetings.

Time to Review: < 15 Minutes

Online Tools for Hosting Virtual Meetings

[Conferencing Solutions Comparison](#)

Author: Bureau of Land Management

Format: Table

Description: A table comparing different virtual technology platforms. DOI access only.

Time to review: 15 – 45 Minutes

[Microsoft Teams](#), [Webex](#), and [Zoom](#) are three of the most popular platforms for engaging remotely. Please check with your IT administrator to determine if you have access to these platforms and for questions on how to get started.

We're Here to Help!

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