

SAMPLE ACTIVITY

You can adapt this activity to the amount of time available and staff interest at your workplace.

Objective: working together to create a common vision for a sustainable organization.

Name of activity: Imagining the Future

Time: one hour

What you need: flipchart paper and markers

Individual Visioning (10 minutes)

Ask participants to close their eyes and imagine their ideal workplace. Advise participants not to get stuck in concerns over how to make things work. This is about expanding possibilities.

Use these questions as prompts:

- What does our organization look like in 10 years?
- How do people get to work?
- What does a typical day at the office look like?
- What kinds of products or services do we offer?
- How does work make you feel?
- Where does our building's energy come from?
- Where do we eat lunch, and where does our food come from?
- How are resources used in our office?
- What happens to office waste?
- What is the role of our workplace in the community?
- What has changed, and what is the same?

Group Brainstorming (25 minutes)

Now ask participants to share their ideas. This is a brainstorming stage, so have the note-takers capture all of the responses on flipchart paper. Be as specific as possible (e.g., "rainwater is collected to flush toilets and water the garden"). You'll probably notice that themes emerge as similar ideas are voiced by several participants.

Deciding on a Common Vision (25 minutes)

Using all ideas generated by your participants, work together to create a vision that will inspire and excite. Create a storyboard, image, or short paragraph that captures your common vision. Let this be your guide as you develop your sustainability action plans/road map.

