



# The Town Meeting

## Listening to What the Community Wants

The Town Meeting is the most flexible part of Plan Week. The Project Director and Steering Committee can shape this part of the process to best meet local needs. The chief purpose of the meeting is to ensure the community believes it has been heard and that its input will be valued in the planning process. There are three parts to the town meeting.

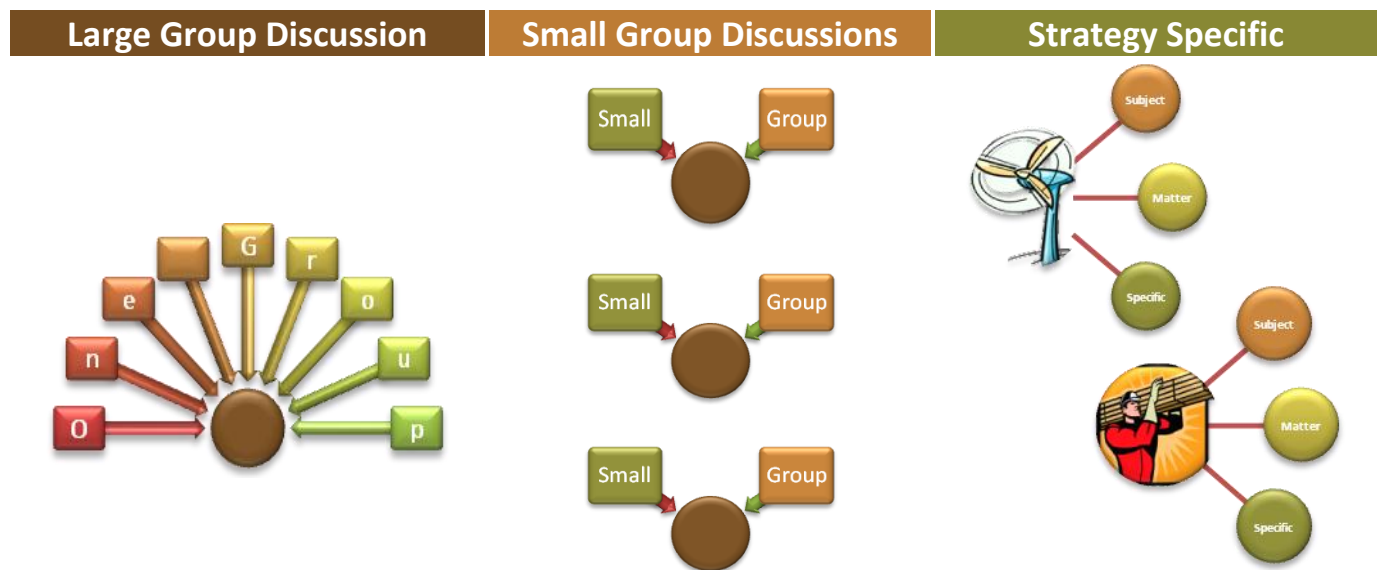
First, the sponsor/lead organization welcomes the participants to the meeting. This is an opportunity for the lead organization to gain visibility in the community for the valuable contribution it is making. The sponsor should instill the notion that the input provided by community members will be considered by the lead organization and the Steering Committee in the process of selecting strategies and specific actions.



Second, Building Communities presents the findings of the Strategy Selector Tool. The concept of the 25 Strategies will be presented, and at least two reports will be shared with the participants that show the relative scoring of the strategies. The purpose of this part of the meeting is to frame the discussion for inviting the ideas, projects, and initiatives that community members want for their town. During this time, participants will:

- Become grounded in the realities of their community
- Gain a basis for providing input
- Become inspired related to viable possibilities
- Have time to consider their ideas

Finally, community input is gathered. The Project Director and Steering Committee should design this part of the meeting in a way they believe will be most effective for the participants. Options are presented in the graphic below.



Building Communities will assist the community to ensure that input received during the meeting is reflected in the final plan. It is the responsibility of the Project Director and Steering Committee to determine how, and to what extent, the meeting input should influence the strategies selected and the action steps that are assigned.