

Wave Analysis Planning Tool

Purpose

Wave Analysis is a participatory process to help a group analyse its current operating environment in order to plan realistically for the future.

It can be used for reviewing what's going on in your world in a way that prompts participants to consider new and innovative ways of operating, as well as thinking about 'old habits' that they may need to let go of.

It can be used for:

- Gathering data
- Reflection and analytical thinking
- Communicating the future direction of your group

Background

Wave Analysis is a timely alternative to the boring schmoring, done to death SWOT analysis. That was fine for the 1990's – but so was dial-up internet and four channels on your TV! It helps a group to look objectively at what they've been doing and to seriously consider some completely new ways of doing business.

It consists of four components:

- New Edges*. These are new ideas or concepts that we have not even thought of and could really shake our worlds. Currently, they're way out beyond the horizon, however within a few years – well, who knows!
- Emerging Trends*. These are still experimental and are on the move. You see them where the wave is forming and gaining momentum
- Established Norms* are the current, standard operating procedures that get us through our day, week, quarter, month and year. They are on the crest of the wave and keep us moving.
- Dying Practices* are the things we just keep doing even though they're no longer relevant or outdated. We see them where the wave breaks on the shore and has lost its energy.

