

Frameworks to Understand Environmental Public Issues

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I: Knowledge

1. Scientific/Factual/Technical
2. Interest: self and others; meaning and large context
3. Public Decision-making; critical judgments (public ethical judgments); power; taking action; authority

II. Part of Addressing a Public Issue:

Those in control:

1. Establish the end goal
2. Define the target of change – what needs to change to reach the goal (defining the problem)
3. Select the implementation methods to induce the targeted change
4. Determine what success means – when the goal is reached

III. Risk Assessment and Management:

1. Recognizing there is a problem & planning
2. Conducting the risk assessment
 - problem formulation
 - analysis
 - risk characterization
3. Risk Management (public decision-making)
4. Risk Communication

IV. Implementation Methods

- Enforcement
- Engineering
- Education

V. Ethics and Aesthetics

VI. Areas of Ethics

1. Private
2. Functional
3. Citizen
4. Community
5. Professional
6. Organizational
7. Institutional
8. Public Policy
9. International

VII. Ethical Theories

1. Virtue
2. Nonconsequentialism
3. Consequentialism

VIII. Ethical Principles

1. Respect for the Individual
2. Respect for the Commons
3. To Do Good
4. To Do No Harm
5. Autonomy (Individual)
6. Fidelity
7. Paternalism (hard and soft)
8. Justice
 - Types
 - a) Utilitarian
 - b) Communitarian
 - c) Libertarian
 - d) Egalitarian
 - Distributive Justice
 - a) Formal
 - b) Material

IX. Opportunity Costs

X. Public Issues

- Where is the problem
- What is most important
- Who is responsible to fix the problem

XI. Risk

1. Probability
2. Danger
3. Assign Blame
4. Re-enforce or challenge cultural norms

XII. Risk Perception Factors

- control/no control
- trust/ distrust
- credibility/no credibility
- voluntary/involuntary
- not dreaded/dread
- moral/immoral
- fair/unfair
- visible/invisible
- distant/close
- familiar/unfamiliar
- natural/unnatural
- children not at risk/are at risk

XIII. Risk Communication

1. Informing
2. Influencing

IXV. Risk Messages

1. Source
2. Media/Channel
3. Receiver
4. Message