Communicating Environmental Issues To Make a Difference

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Scientific and expert policy communities make decisions on an analytical basis. Political and business decisions requiring public support are decided differently.

What works for communication in science will not work in everyday life. Expert solutions to complex problems cannot in practice be communicated to public audiences through analytical understanding.

To win support from voters, customers, businesses or politicians, your clever ideas need to make sense when processed by 'intuitive' thinking. To do this you need to apply tools such as heuristics, motivational values and framing. These are routinely used in sales, marketing and advertising but often ignored by scientists and other professionals. 'Issues' lie in the specialist not public domain.



To get change you mostly need to:



Two big tasks:

- Planning your journey
- Taking people with you

Don't campaign on the issue

Just one line of it

Planning your journey -





• Taking people with you



• How do they decide ?

How we decide



System 1 tools

System 1



Values: unconscious drivers and behaviours – unmet needs



Prospectors – outer directed: need for success, esteem of others then self esteem. Acquire and display symbols of success.



Settlers - need for security driven: safety, security, identity belonging. Keep things small, local, avoid risk



Pioneers – inner directed. Need to connect actions with values, explore ideas, experiment. Networking, interests, ethics, innovation



Natural England's Marine Campaign



MPAs



Protect it

Sense of place

What place ?



Protect what ?



First create a sense of place – "there is an undersea landscape" ... "our region has one"





Then <u>later</u> we can show threats: problems and solutions (*not now*)



Client and 'green base' mostly Pioneer

When shown marine concepts

Concept group	Settler	Prospector	Pioneer			
Topography	An exciting idea					
Individuals and communities	A compelling idea	A neutral idea	An interesting idea			
Beauty Spots	A potentially worrying idea		A fascinating idea			



Rule of thumb: Prospectors are hardest to please

Seabed topography is immediately engaging, exciting, a result – something to appreciate



Plucky survivor communities - of interest to Settlers and Pioneers



Like our own neighbourhood Underdogs struggling to survive A good cause to champion



Beauty spots – mixed reaction

Pioneers loved the mystery

Others found it scary or not credible

KULP FOREST AND SEAGRASS MEADOWS OF THE SOUTH WEST.





Values of the Coastal Futures Conference are massively skewed to Pioneer (over 2x overrep'); Prospectors 6x under-represented, Settlers 16x.

Pioneer group-think values assumptions dominate most 'green' NGO public comm's leading to failures, and failure to learn lessons from failures. Need to engage on values. Same underlies 'Brexit'.

More at <u>www.campaignstrategy.org</u> (see Three Worlds blog) & <u>www.cultdyn.co.uk</u> CDSM

	UK	CMS
Settler	25	1.5
Pioneer	38	92.5
Prospector	37	6

What Makes People Tick



THE THREE HIDDEN WORLDS OF SETTLERS, PROSPECTORS AND PIONEERS

Heuristics – work more often than not

- Liking
- Effort
- Social proof
- Consistency
- Exchange

Lots more

Babies

Children



Researchers left 240 wallets on the streets of Edinburgh 42 per cent of the wallets were posted back in total. (No money but clear id/address)



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Environment>Children Reframing uplift effect – more Settlers + GDs agree

ENV	Pion	Prosp	Sett	CHILD	Pion	Prosp	Sett
Strongly	45.8%	30.4%		Strongly	47.1%	42.6%	36.1%
Slightly	29.0%	20.8%		Slightly	34.9%	36.2%	36.9%
Neither a	19.3%	21.8%	26.8%	Neither a	14.7%	16.9%	21.7%
Slightly a	4.3%	20.2%	11.8%	Slightly a	2.9%	2.5%	2.6%
Strongly	1.6%	6.8%	5.7%	Strongly	0.3%	1.8%	2.8%

50.0% 50.0% 45.0% 45.0% 40.0% 40.0% 35.0% 35.0% 30.0% 30.0% 25:0% 25.0% Pion Pion. 20.0% 20.0% Prosp. Prosp 15.0% 15.0% Sett Sett. 10.0% 10.0% 5.0% 5.0% 0.0% 0.0% Strongly pro Slightly Slightly anti Strongly anti Neither Strongly pro Slightly Neither Slightly anti Strongly antiagree nor env agree nor env disagree disagree

Use of the 'environment for our children' frame rather than the 'environmental concern' frame has a positive effect on all MGs but it is very small for Pioneers, and much larger for Prospectors and Settlers.

Values + heuristics

- make it nature

for-the-children

and more agree

Framing- unconscious categories



Plastic as litter or plastic as pollution ?

"First we see – then we understand"

Walter Lippman

'framing' – George Lakoff



Idea Framing, Metaphors, and Your Brain - George Lakoff

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_CWBjyIERY



a frame determines



www.campaignstrategy.org

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7OHG7tHrNM

🔲 🕒 YouTube



Where the 'litter' framing strategy came from: Crying Indian Campaign by 'Keep America Beautiful', 1970 video

14bn views

14 billion views +

The Crying Indian 1970

"People start pollution. People can stop it".

in America Beautif

A Beautiful If Evil Strategy

Posted on September 27, 2017 chris rose, chris@campaignstrategy.co.uk http://threeworlds.campaignstrategy.org/?p=1656

As the planet fills up with plastic and the EU ponders its

Framing: Litter or Pollution?



"This is not, the fault of the government. It is the fault of the people who knowingly and thoughtlessly throw it down."

http://threeworlds.campaignstrategy.org/?p=1847





esponsibility Personal





Responsibility: producer



In 2016, the fourth edition of Waste Free Environment, For the second time, WFE was celebrated not only in the Arabian Gulf, but successfully exported to Shanghai, China, Mumbai in India, Singapore, and Sittard/Geleen and The Hague in the Netherlands. In total

GPCA's Waste Free Environment (WFE) campaign, now in it's fifth year, recently expanded into three new territories, adding the U.S., Australia and Sri Lanka to its global reach. Growing participation in the WFE initiative encompasses 29 companies and thousands of volunteers across 23 cities internationally. In

United Nations Environment Assembly "Green Room" Event





Plastics industry 2017

Litter framing

Children picking up plastic 'marine litter'



"People start pollution. People can stop it".

Strategy puts responsibility on the public, not the packaging or plastics industry.

Success of 'Litter' framing





http://threeworlds.campaignstrategy.org/?p=2170



Public domain Mainly unconscious communication: daily life, advertisiing, politics, popular media (System 1) Analytical domain Mainly conscious communication, science, law, disciplines, policy communities (System 2)







Blogs: <u>http://threeworlds.campaignstrategy.org/</u> @campaignstrat

