Governing Green: An Introduction

What is Governing Green?

Governing Green is an experiential toolkit that invites you to examine the social processes shaping environmental projects in cities. Modeled after the text-based role-playing games or RPGs of decades past, Governing Green immerses you in 3 true-to-life stories of green infrastructure projects. The kinds of projects and decisions involved were distilled from dozens of interviews with city officials, non-profit representatives, and community leaders in 6 US cities. You have the opportunity to navigate each of these projects from these different perspectives.

What problem does Governing Green address?

US cities face a critical hurdle as they look to achieve multiple benefits with green infrastructure. This hurdle, articulated by the dozens of stakeholders interviewed for this project, is "how can the benefits of green infrastructure be leveraged to promote equitable environmental change?"

Governing Green invites you to consider how social, environmental, and technical priorities shape projects at different stages of implementation. This framing demonstrates how procedures, policies, and institutional structures shape the eventual project and the benefits it achieves.

How do I use Governing Green?

In round one of this toolkit, you select the scenario and the stakeholder type. The four rounds that follow track the lifecycle of a green infrastructure project.

Each round contains two vignettes. Each vignette has four parts: context, challenge, choices, and prioritization. After reading through the narrative in the context and challenge section, you face a series of governance choices that address this particular challenge. Once you make a selection, you must prioritize how well your decision did or did not address a variety of benefits typically associated with green infrastructure projects. You will rank each category on a scale of 0-5. Your prioritization scores are tracked through the rounds and tallied after round 5.

What will I take away from using Governing Green?

Navigating the stories within **Governing Green** prepares you to evaluate how governance decisions impact the priorities and values that a project achieves. The toolkit also enhances your knowledge of the patterns shaping collective action and provides a template for assessing governance decisions beyond the scenarios in the toolkit.

The format of **Governing Green** emphasizes learning-by-doing through immersing users in scenarios where they may apply knowledge and reflect immediately on the impact of their decisions. These learning outcomes are enhanced by navigating the kit from different stakeholder perspectives.