



ACTIVITY 10

Group Decision for Vanwick

DISCUSSION

Group decision-making
is supported by clear
communication and
active listening.





10: GROUP DECISION FOR VANWICK

GUIDING QUESTION

What should be considered while making a group decision about Vanwick's Project REV?

INTRODUCTION

In a previous activity, you considered Vanwicks' future power needs by investigating renewable power generation. In this activity, you will play the role of a participant who is making a group decision about renewable power generation for Project REV. Previously, while different ideas were developed by various stakeholders, here you will use decision-making tools to develop a single recommendation. This recommendation should incorporate the values of Vanwick stakeholders so it will be more likely to be approved by residents.



Tribal leaders identify suitable renewable energy sources and locations for potential renewable energy projects in their communities.

CONCEPTUAL
TOOLS



PROCEDURE

- 1 With your group, read the following scenario.

It is time for the City Council to decide on the Project REV energy plan. After having planned for energy storage and deciding on a Building Initiative, the City Council now needs to decide on the generation sites. The stakeholders have gathered to generate the final recommendation.

The Project REV generation sites need to meet the electrical power needs of the area, which is currently 500 MW maximum capacity. With the possibility of full electrification in the future, Vanwick's demand for electricity would increase. This is because devices such as home heating and cars will run on electricity instead of fossil fuels. The amount of electric power Vanwick needs to provide is expected to double to 1,000 MW in the future. The stakeholders have to come up with an agreed-upon plan that meets that requirement if they want to get the funding for Project REV.

- 2 Review the site recommendations that you made with your stakeholder group in Activity 8. Recall the facts, values, and trade-offs that led to the recommendation. Be able to explain why this plan should be accepted by fellow citizens of Vanwick.
- 3 Follow your teacher's instructions to switch to a mixed-stakeholder group with a representative for each stakeholder. You represent your stakeholder from Activity 8. Give a brief summary of your recommendation to your group and explain why the City Council should choose your stakeholder's sites.
- 4 With your group, come up with a single plan that meets the 1,000 MW requirement that is agreed on by all stakeholders. The recommendation can be a new plan, a combination of previous recommendations, or one of the existing stakeholder recommendations. Remember to listen to and consider the ideas of other group members. If you disagree with other group members, explain why you disagree.
- 5 Record the group's single recommendation by completing Student Sheet 10.1, "Vanwick Site Map: Group Decision." Record the reasoning for choosing each site in your science notebook.
- 6 Create a presentation to share your decision with the class. Present your plan and explain how your group decided on it.

MATERIALS LIST

FOR EACH GROUP
OF FOUR STUDENTS

POSTER BOARD OR
SLIDE PRESENTATION

FOR EACH STUDENT

STUDENT SHEET 8.1
"Vanwick Site Map:
Stakeholder
(completed)"

STUDENT SHEET 10.1
"Vanwick Site Map:
Group Decision"

BUILD UNDERSTANDING

- ① Explain how your group decided on what to include in your plan to recommend to the Vanwick City Council. Be sure your explanation includes the following:
 - the relevant facts and stakeholder values and how they affected your decision,
 - the predicted outcome(s) of your decision,
 - any trade-offs involved in your decision, and
 - any part of the decision where there was a compromise.
- ② How do you think your stakeholder would have responded to the final recommendation?
- ③ Think back on your experience trying to find compromises with your group.
 - a What was most difficult about the process of group decision-making?
 - b What are some advantages and disadvantages of compromising during group decision-making?