



University of Dundee

Citizen Science Projects (MOOC) 1.8

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Video - 1.8 How we did it: Understanding the Issue

In this video, you heard from Uta Wehn from the GroundTruth 2.0 project, who explained their Citizens Observatory's approach to discovering and mapping a problem.

She talked about the co-design approach that GroundTruth 2.0 uses. Their collaborative process ensures that no single stakeholder pre-defines the problem without discussion. The goal is to analyse, define and agree on key issues together. By working this way, citizens, scientists, policymakers and other stakeholders can commit to the project, knowing that it fits their own needs and interests.

There are many different ways to build a co-design approach at the start of your project. As Uta describes in this video, you can hold face-to-face meetings where everyone comes together to discuss the issue. These meetings provide a space for people to express their concerns and listen to the concerns of others.

There are ways that you can facilitate these discussions and contributions online too. One way to do this is to use an online mapping tool, such as Zeemaps, where everyone can contribute to a concentrated discussion on an issue.

##Introduction to mapping

There are many reasons why you might also use geographical mapping to help you understand an issue. If you are considering mapping in the early stages of your project, you could map the hotspots of the environmental problem you want to tackle. You may also want to cross-reference those hotspots with other helpful information, for example, the proximity to community hubs, schools, and hospitals.

The key to geographic mapping is to make it a hands-on activity, with everyone using a shared map to discuss and detail the issues they face. It is a way that people can collaborate, just as the GroundTruth 2.0's co-design approach described in the video.

##Share your thoughts!

- + What are in your view the benefits and challenges of a co-designed approach?
- + Can you think of other types of mapping activities or other activities which might help people collaborate and share ideas?