AGU ADVANCING EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCE

Community Science Principles, Practices, and Actions

What is Community Science?

Community science is the equitable collaboration between scientists and community members for the benefit of both science and communities.

Principles of Community Science

Everyone Benefits

Outcomes are clear, concrete, and reflect community priorities. Science is advanced with new data, new ideas, and new voices. Trust is developed through long-term relationships. Everyone who participates grows, learns, and benefits.

Co-creation

Community science values a range of knowledges, experiences, and skills. People work together to determine the what, when, and how, and check-in regularly. Neither experts nor communities are the sole decision-makers—all voices engage and collaborate.

Science is a Human Right

Every community deserves the opportunity to design, participate in, benefit from and apply science to advance their goals, as long as it does no harm. People doing community science work together to recognize and dismantle barriers that unfairly get in the way of that right.

Practices that Advance Community Science

Increase Funding to Community-Based Organizations

Community-based organizations are rooted in community, so even small grants can make a big impact. Increase their funding, simplify complex bureaucracies and reduce burdensome requirements.

Do *Real* Community Engagement

Genuine community engagement shares power and decisions, distributes resources fairly, and sets the stage for future work. All voices are heard, and power does not reside in just one person or group.

Improve Infrastructure for Community Science

Provide tools, supports, and environments that people need to do community science. Offer opportunities to learn how to do community science.

Drive Culture Change in the Sciences

Engage community representatives and Community-Based Organizations as partners to award funding and make decisions. Reward people professionally for good community science.

Support Community Data

Give communities power over the data collected about them. Make data easy to find and use.

Enhance Community Capacity

Address barriers to funding, resources, scientific information, and solutions. Community priorities that are not science-focused should be supported as part of an overall approach.

Read the full report on expanding community science principles and practices.

Actions that Advance Community Science

Depending on your role, these are actions you can take to advance community science. Start with a few and add more over time.

Researchers, Scientists, and Academics

- Develop relationships over time. Don't wait until you need community participation for a grant application to reach out.
- Co-develop everything: involve communities at every step; make decisions and plans together.
- Write grants with Community-Based Organizations and pay for their participation.
- Share what you know about how science works and how to get science funding.
- Work with communities to leverage existing data and develop new and useful datasets.
- Co-develop agreements for data sharing, retention, and access.
- Develop long-lasting relationships that extend beyond the grant or the project.
- Connect communities to resources and information they need, even if it is unrelated to your project.
- Push for changes in how science is done and rewarded at your institution.

Organizations, Universities, and Non-Profits

- Develop paid partnerships with Community-Based Organizations.
- Help Community-Based Organizations use existing resources to find and write grants.
- Include community leaders in your governance and steering committees.
- Provide trainings and resources for scientists to do community science and address diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ) issues.
- Create resources and opportunities for and with communities.
- Change reward systems so that community science boosts careers.
- Maintain accessible long-term data archives.
- Co-develop ethical guidelines for community science starting with your institution.
- Nurture long-lasting relationships that extend beyond a grant or individual.
- Fund community members who support institutional engagement with their community.

Funders

- Fund Community-Based Organizations directly.
- Reduce barriers to applying for and managing grants.
- When funding science-community partnerships, require and fund clear community agreements.
- Nurture emerging leaders in community science.
- Invest in smaller Minority-Serving Institutions with a record of community science initiatives.
- Develop funding guidelines that require co-creation and community involvement.
- Require explicit agreements between scientists and communities related to data sharing and storage.
- Proactively share opportunities with communities and respond to questions and feedback.
- Co-develop outcome and reporting practices with communities.

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