FLOWER

The **F**ramework For **Lo**ng-Term, **W**hole-System, **E**quity-Based **R**eflection
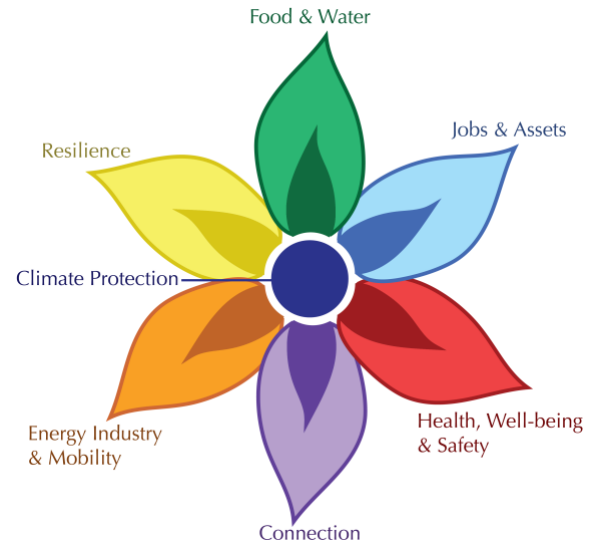
August 2015 • Elizabeth Sawin

Multisolving

Multisolving is the search for systemic solutions that protect the climate while also improving areas such as resilience, equality, health, and well-being. Multisolving is motivated by a search for justice and for solutions that solve rather than exacerbate other problems. This makes multisolving strategic, as solutions discovered via multisolving are the most likely to have broad political support and are the least likely to create new, unanticipated problems.

FLOWER

FLOWER is a visual framework first developed to help us, as researchers, categorize examples of multisolving. We later started using it as a tool for teaching and communicating, because it gave us a shorthand to show audiences which co-benefits might come with a given climate response. It also reminded us to ask not only what benefits might accrue with a given solution, but also how those benefits would be distributed.
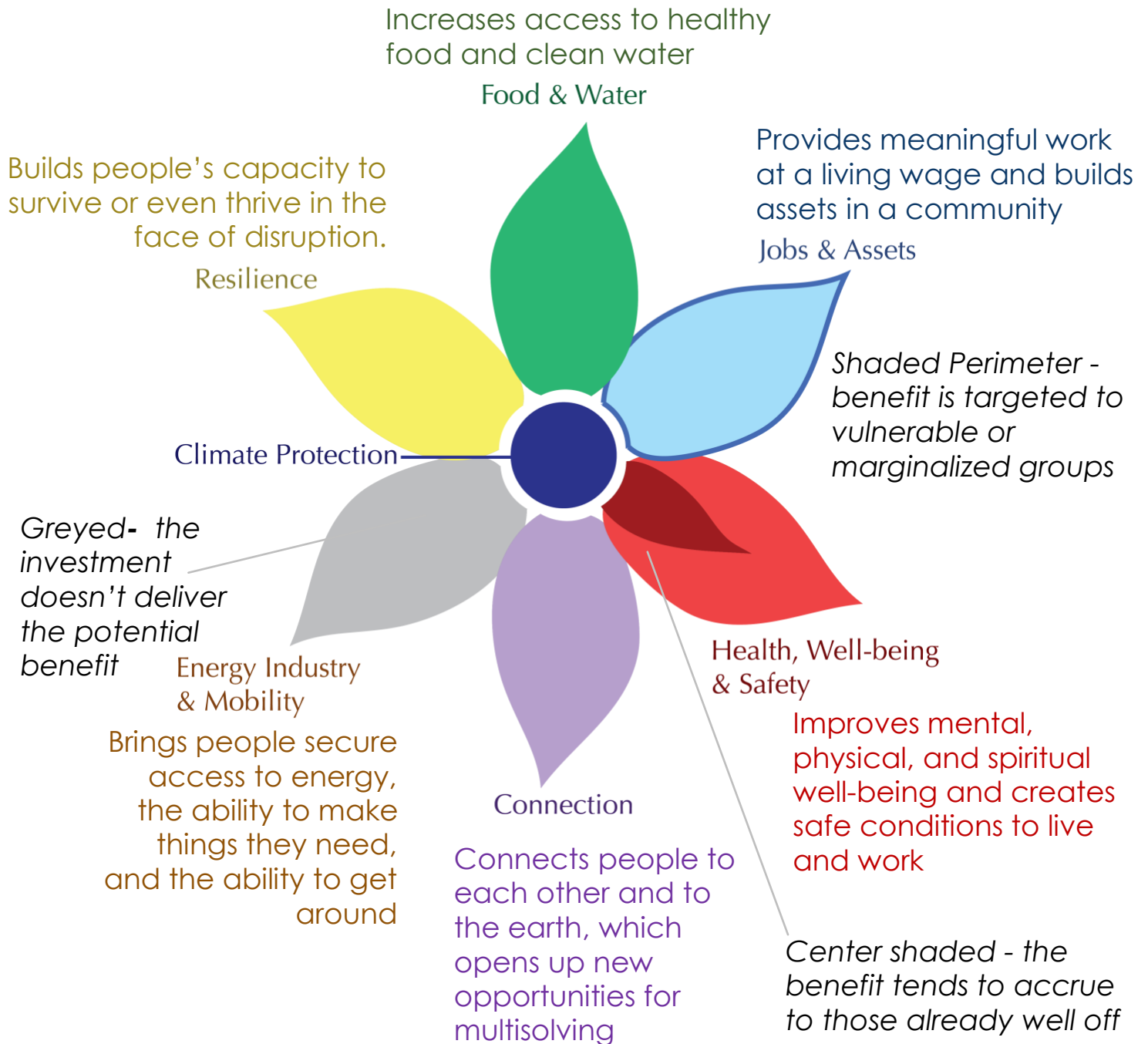

FLOWER helps people think critically about their own strategies and visions and explore the vast array of climate solutions that have the power to help protect the climate AND create a better world.

We learned that FLOWER provided a way to open the conversation about strategies and whether there were provisions to make sure the co-benefits of climate action would be shared fairly among groups within a community.

Each FLOWER petal represents six common types of co-benefits of actions to protect the climate. And because the multiple benefits of action on climate change don't always fall equally on groups within a community, a FLOWER diagram also indicates the distribution of benefits, to account for climate justice and equity. Read on for a short explanation of each petal and learn how to make your own FLOWER diagram.
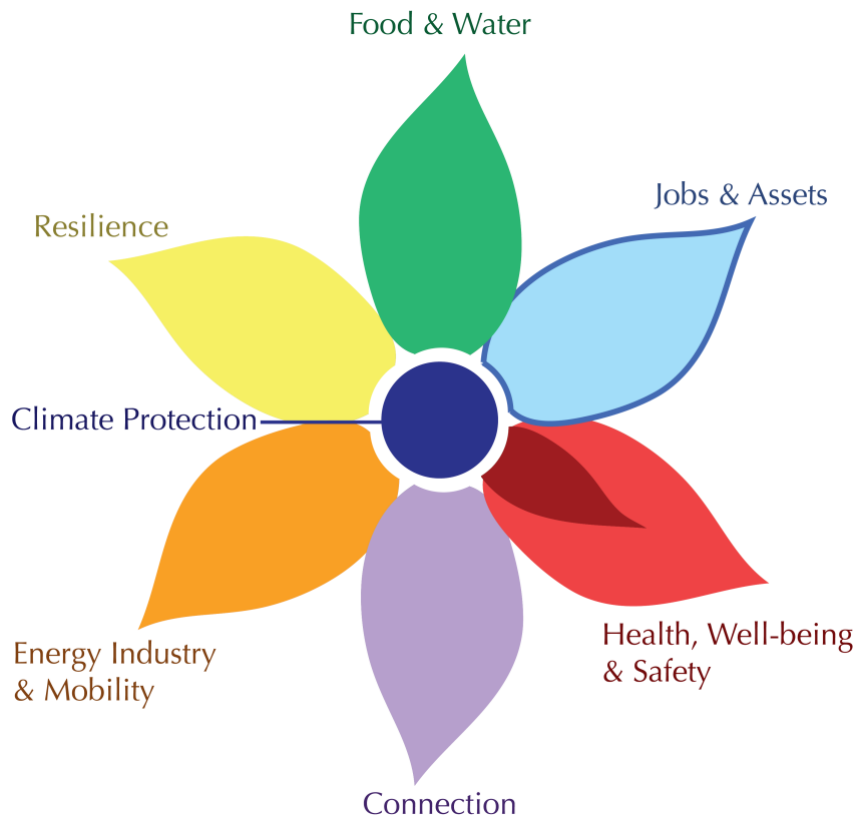
How to Read a FLOWER Diagram

Increases access to healthy
food and clean water
Food & Water

Builds people's capacity to
survive or even thrive in the
face of disruption.
Resilience

Provides meaningful work
at a living wage and builds
assets in a community
Jobs & Assets

Climate Protection

*Shaded Perimeter -
benefit is targeted to
vulnerable or
marginalized groups*

*Greyed- the
investment
doesn't deliver
the potential
benefit*

Energy Industry
& Mobility

Brings people secure
access to energy,
the ability to make
things they need,
and the ability to get
around

Health, Well-being
& Safety

Improves mental,
physical, and spiritual
well-being and creates
safe conditions to live
and work

Connection

Connects people to
each other and to
the earth, which
opens up new
opportunities for
multisolving

*Center shaded - the
benefit tends to accrue
to those already well off*

How to Make a FLOWER Diagram

Answer these questions:

1. ***Does the project protect the climate?*** If your project reduces GHGs in the atmosphere, color the center of the FLOWER **dark blue**.
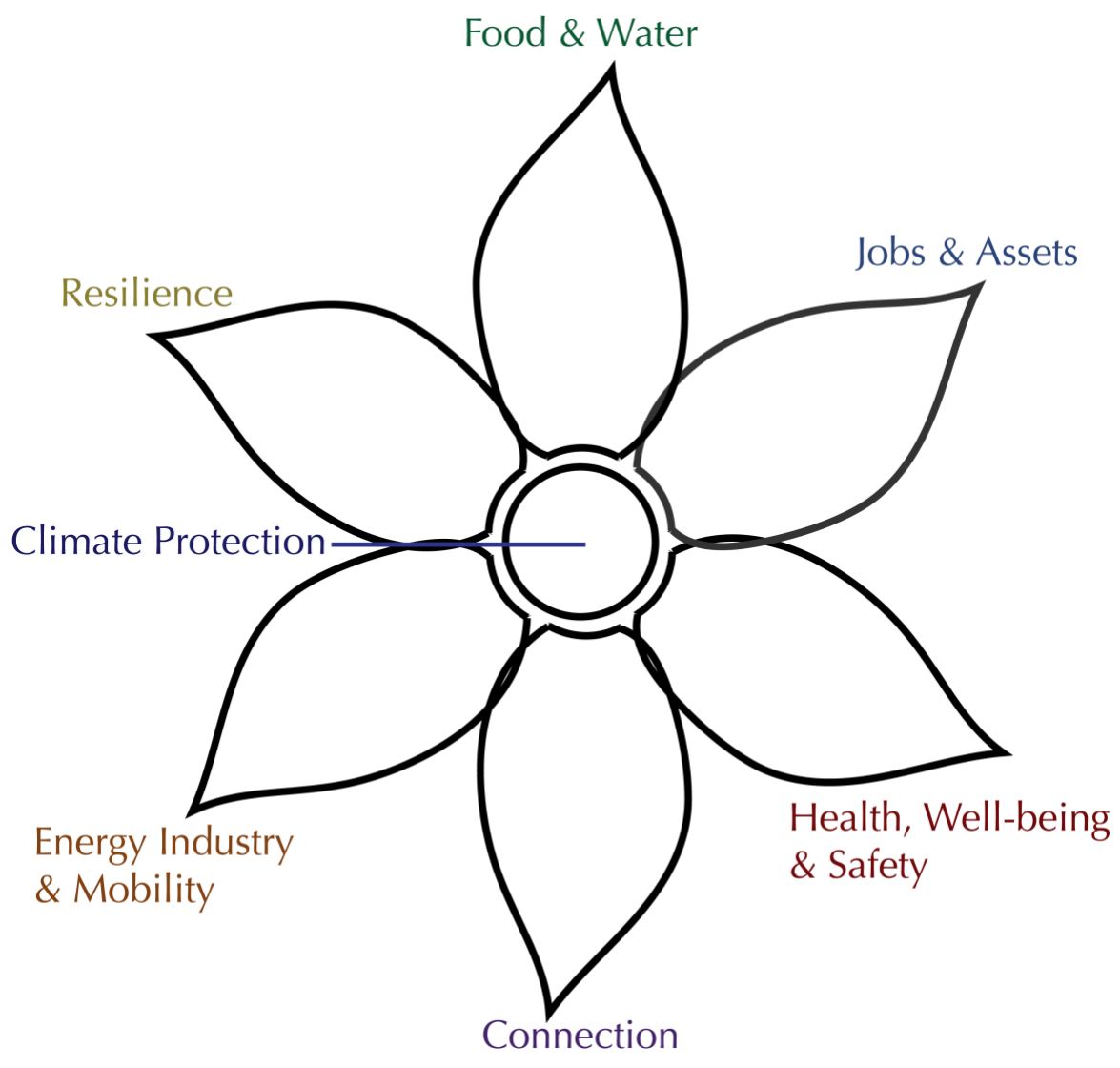

2. ***Co-benefits?*** For each of the six petals, ask: does my project produce this benefit? If yes, **color the corresponding petal**. If not, leave the petal uncolored.

3. ***Who benefits?*** For each petal ask: who receives the benefit?
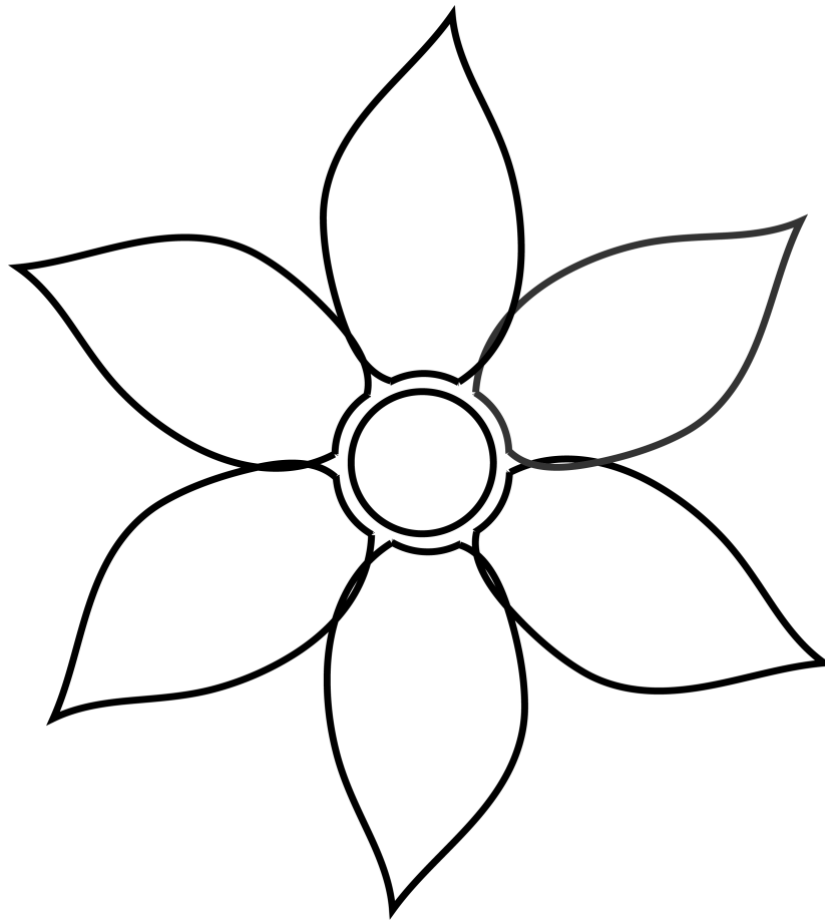If **everyone benefits**, shade **evenly**.

If those **already well off** gain most of the benefit, **shade the center** of the petal darker than the edges.

If the project most benefits **marginalized groups,** shade the **outer edges more darkly.**

Blank FLOWER Diagram

Food & Water

Jobs & Assets

Resilience

Climate Protection

Energy Industry & Mobility

Health, Well-being & Safety

Connection

Blank FLOWER Diagram – No Labels

Examples of FLOWER in Action