Facilitator Guide to FLOWER Online

FLOWER:

FRAMEWORK FOR LONG-TERM, WHOLE-SYSTEM, EQUITY-BASED REFLECTION

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MULTISOLVING INSTITUTE
one action, many benefits

Welcome & Overview

This guide is intended to support your use of the **FLOWER** tool with groups of learners. You can use the tool in a stand-alone fashion, or you can use our slides and guidance for offering a 60-90 minute, "Multisolving for Equitable Climate Solutions Using FLOWER" experience. This guide describes the full experience, introducing multisolving and FLOWER and then moving into small groups for the exercise. If you prefer you can create your own introduction and simply use these materials for the small group interactive portion.

You can use the tool with anywhere from 2 learners to hundreds of participants; the work with the tool itself is done in small groups of around six people, via "break-out rooms."

FLOWER stands for **F**ramework for **Lo**ng-term, **W**hole-system, **E**quity-based **R**eflection. It is a visual framework first developed to help us, as researchers categorize examples of multisolving. We have since developed **FLOWER** into an interactive tool for both teaching and communicating. It is intended for high school and college students as well as groups of adults.

FLOWER offers a visual framework for people to think about multisolving:

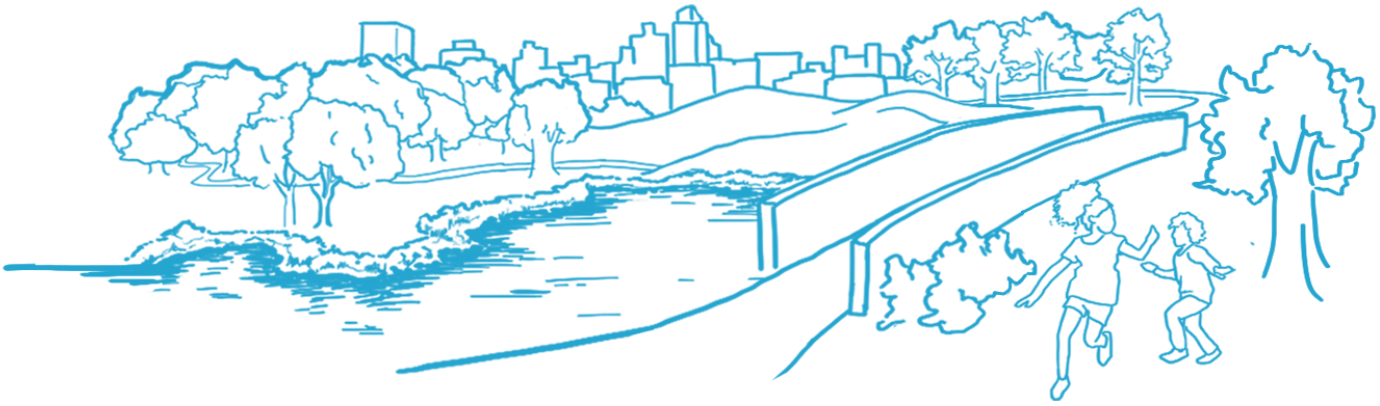
multisolving (v): using one investment of time or effort to solve several problems at once in a way that also improves equity

Participants analyze a policy, investment or action using FLOWER. They explore which co-benefits might be created and discuss the extent to which those benefits are shared equitably. They also explore how the policy could be improved to produce more co-benefits or share them more equitably.

After using FLOWER people should be better able to:

- Define multisolving
- Read and understand a FLOWER diagram
- Recognize examples of multisolving in the world
- Identify co-benefits in common multisolving policies or investments
- Identify equity impacts in common multisolving policies or investments

FLOWER is a project of the Multisolving Institute, a think-do tank dedicated to increasing the prevalence of multisolving in the world. You can learn more about the Institute at [www.multisolving.org.](http://www.multisolving.org)



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Preparing for the workshop

Gain an understanding of multisolving

Put simply, multisolving is using one investment of time, money, or other resource, to solve multiple problems at once. Central to the concept of multisolving is equity, asking how the burdens and benefits of a plan, policy, or investment are shared.

A good example of multisolving is how walkable cities help reduce emissions from transportation, provide equitable access to mobility, create healthier citizens, and help local businesses thrive. Multisolving is a way to look at the whole picture and help everyone.

Perhaps you have been aware of multisolving for a while, or perhaps you're new to the concept. Either way, we recommend visiting our website and browsing through our resources to ensure you understand the concept before introducing it to your participants.

A few suggestions to get you started:

- TEDxSun Valley: The Power of Multisolving for People and Planet
- Health and Climate Intersections Report *
- Series on resilience and multisolving case studies *

Once you feel confident you've gained an understanding of multisolving, you should familiarize yourself with the **FLOWER** tool.

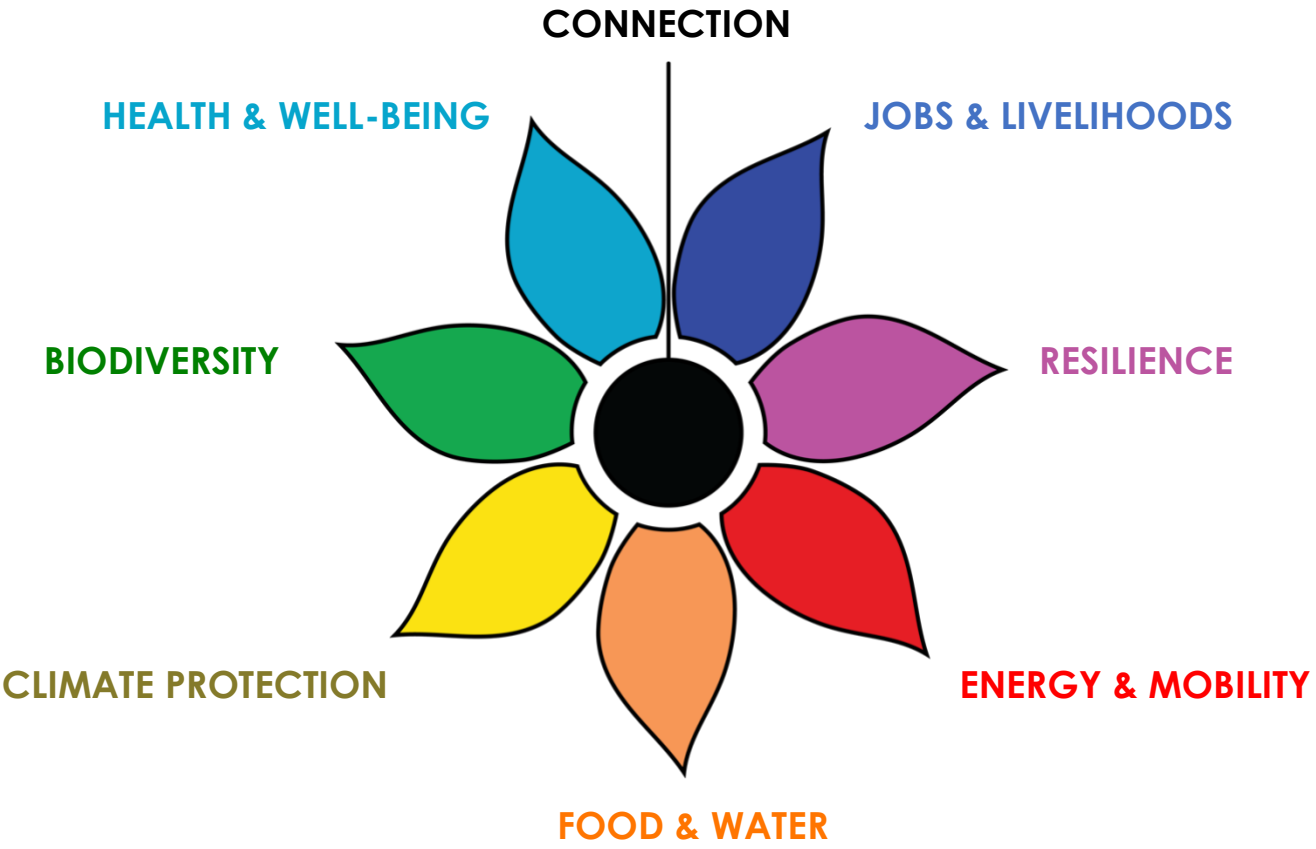
*These include a total of fourteen case studies of multisolving and can be a useful source of examples of multisolving in the US and internationally.

Learn about FLOWER

FLOWER stands for the **F**ramework for **Lo**ng-term, **W**hole-system, **E**quity-based **R**eflection. **FLOWER** gives people a shorthand to explore which co-benefits might come with a given policy or investment and allows them to explore how those co-benefits might be distributed.

FLOWER:

- Provides a way to open the conversation about strategies and whether co-benefits are shared equitably among groups within a community.
- Helps people think critically about their own strategies and visions for solving many problems at the same time.



Each **FLOWER** petal represents one of seven common types of co-benefits: jobs & livelihoods, resilience, energy & mobility, food & water, climate protection, biodiversity, and health. The center of FLOWER represents connection, including connections between people or between people and nature. See the diagram below for a short definition of each.

CONNECTION

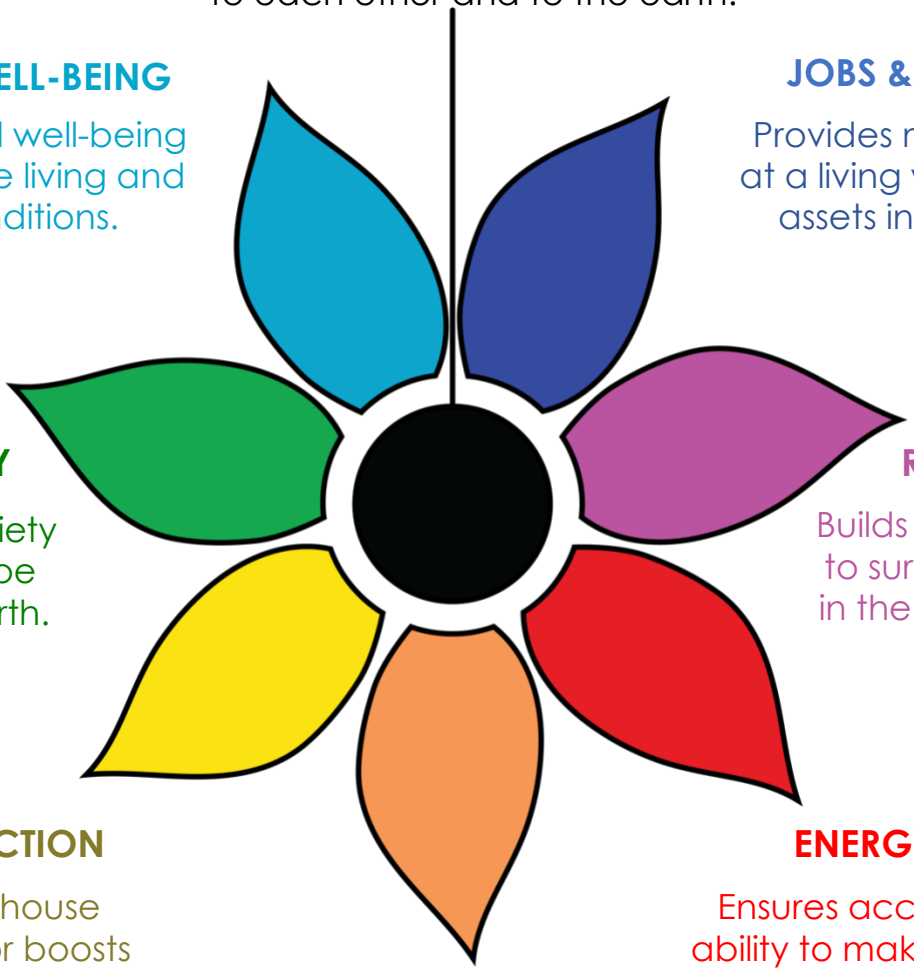
People feel more connected to each other and to the earth.

HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Improves overall well-being and creates safe living and working conditions.

JOBS & LIVELIHOODS

Provides meaningful work at a living wage and builds assets in a community.



BIODIVERSITY

Preserves the variety of life that can be found on the earth.

RESILIENCE

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

CLIMATE PROTECTION

Reduces greenhouse gases emissions or boosts carbon-sequestration.

ENERGY & MOBILITY

Ensures access to energy, the ability to make things they need, and the ability to get around.

FOOD & WATER

Increases access to healthy food and clean water.

Familiarize yourself with workshop materials

Most of the materials you will need you have downloaded with this guide. They include:

- Facilitator Slides (Power Point)
- List of policies (Word document)
- Participant Instructions (PDF)

In addition to these materials, you will need to set up the template participants will use for the interactive exercise. The templates are google slides and they come in two forms:

- The blank form allows you to create your own policies for participants to map with FLOWER. You'll find it here: FLOWER Exercise Template - Blank
- The "policies" form is already populated with policies we have used with other groups. You'll find it here: FLOWER Exercise Template - Policies

Finally, there is a pre-made slide for demonstrating the FLOWER activity using a real-world example.

- Walk to School FLOWER template

Below is a brief description of each of these materials:

Facilitator Slides (Power Point):

We put together a small slide deck to support your facilitation of this exercise. It can be used to give your participants an overview of multisolving and a light introduction to FLOWER, before sending them to work in groups of 4-6. More information about how to use the PPT in your facilitation can be found in the "Workshop Facilitation" section, beginning on page 10.

In the notes field on most slides, you can find both a suggested script in italics, as well as notes on facilitation in bold. These notes will guide you on what to say and how to transition from one part of the workshop to the next. Review these before facilitating the workshop.

List of policies:

This is a word document containing a list of the same 25 policies used in the FLOWER Exercise Template - Policies. You can copy these into your own version of slides or pick and choose from this list. (Again, these are just a starting point, you can supplement with your own).

Participant Instructions - FLOWER Online:

This PDF document is for participants/students. You can share it with them prior to the workshop if you'd like, but it is not necessary. However, we do recommend you go through the instructions with the participants/students before sending them to work in groups. More tips on how to do so can be found on page 13 of this document.

There are three parts to this PDF document:

- Pages 1-2 are the activity instructions and include notes to help participants get set up.
- Page 3 is a guide on the mechanics of coloring in shapes and adding text.
- Pages 4 and 5 are a FLOWER appendix for participants to reference.

FLOWER Google Slide Template - Policies:

This is a view-only template. You will need copy and paste these slides into a Google slide deck you created**. You can also download it if you do not have or use Google Drive.

If you plan to have multiple small groups, come up with a plan for directing each group to a different slide. Two ideas for how:

1. Add a text box in the corner of each slide with “Breakout Room 1” “Breakout Room 2” “Breakout Room 3” etc.
2. Tell students that their group number corresponds to the slide #.

FLOWER Google Slide Template - Blank:

Same view-only template as above, but with a blank blue box in which to manually insert policies. Copy into your own google slide deck** or download it as a power point.

***If you plan to have participants work within a Google slide deck(s) that you have created by copying our template, make sure to change the permissions from “view only” to “anyone with the link can edit” using the yellow “Share” button in the top righthand corner.

Slide for demonstrating the FLOWER Template:

This is also a view-only template. You should copy and paste this slide into your own Google slide deck or download if you do not use Google Drive. Whether on your desktop in a web browser, have this slide open and ready in a separate window if you plan to demonstrate the FLOWER exercise to your audience: Walk to School FLOWER template

Workshop Facilitation

Introduce multisolving and FLOWER

It is important for participants to have a basic understanding of multisolving and FLOWER before starting to work in groups. We have put together a starting slide deck, “Facilitator Slides – FLOWER Online,” to help you walk students through both concepts.

What needs protecting? Construct a story.

We find a good way to start is by asking participants, “What needs protecting?” (slide #2). The question doesn’t have to be framed in terms of environment/climate protections. We use Poll Everywhere to capture answers, but similar software also works. You can also have participants answer in the chat or out loud, depending on group size.

If folks hesitate to jump in, try naming an example from your own life or work. As you or participants read out answers, listen for possible synergies. You can’t anticipate exactly what will be said and that’s okay. The purpose of this exercise is to ground folks in the moment and prepare them to start thinking about the interconnections.

Once answers have been shared for a few minutes (~3-5), make the connection to multisolving by saying something like, “Now, imagine if we could protect all those things at once? What if all these vulnerable things we named could be addressed more easily be addressing them together, rather than one by one? That’s what we call multisolving.”

You can then turn to slide #3, which gives the definition of multisolving and distinguishes it from the Multisolving Institute.

The potential of multisolving

Once your audience has a shared, common definition of multisolving, highlight the important potential of multisolving by walking them through a few examples. Use the script in the notes field on slides #4 – 7.

Then, walk participants through an example to demonstrate what multisolving might accomplish in the real world, both in the short and long term. Again, we’ve provided a script on slides #8-13 to guide you through this portion.

The role of equity in multisolving

Central to the concept of multisolving is the need to approach any multisolving endeavor from an equity viewpoint or lens. It is important for your audience to understand this before the interactive activity, as they will be asked to analyze and speak to the equity components of the policy on their groups' slides. Please refer to the script in notes field of slide #14.

Orient students/participants to FLOWER

The pivot from discussing the role of equity to orienting students to the FLOWER tool can be done by following the script provided in slides #15-17. The goal here should be to present FLOWER as a tool to both look at the potential co-benefits of multisolving and for sparking discussion on equitable distribution of those co-benefits.

Demonstration using Walk to School (UK) Case Study

You can demo the FLOWER activity using a provided case study example to help orient participants to the Google slide controls they will need to complete the activity. In slightly speeded up fashion you will use the same template the participants will be using in their small groups using an example of a project that helped create safe routes for children to walk to school.

Note that instructions on how to work within the Google slide template are also included on page 4 of "Participant Instructions – FLOWER Online." Practice with these instructions before your event.

Depending on the amount of time you have, you may choose to skip the demonstration. If so, you can skip to the following page in this guide and skip slides #18 and #19 in the facilitator slide deck.

If you choose to demonstrate how to work within the google slide, you should have your own copy of our Walk to School FLOWER template open in your browser. Once you've given a brief overview of the case study (you can use the

script in the notes section of slide #18), switch from PowerPoint slides to your browser to show the template.

With your cursor, hover over the health petal and in your own words name how the Walk to School program creates co-benefits in health. Narrate to the participants what you are doing, such as "I'm going to click the petal, and you can see it's selected because there is a box around it. Now I am going to the fill bucket, and under "custom" you can see the blue health petal color. Clicking that circle fills in the shape" Etc. We recommend you go through this process with 2-3 of the shapes.

You can also briefly show your audience how to insert a text box and orient them to the headings in the notes field of the slide, as they will use that space during the activity.

Interactive activity

FLOWER Instructions:

Return to the window with facilitator power point. You should now be on slide #20. If you have not already shared a copy of the Participant Instructions with your audience, do so now. Pull up a copy of the instructions on your own screen.

Before sending participants to work in groups: orient participants to the section of the instructions so they know what resources they have available.

BE SURE TO TELL PARTICIPANTS HOW MUCH TIME THEY WILL HAVE.
WE RECOMMEND GIVING THEM AT LEAST 30 MINUTES IF POSSIBLE.

Highlight to participants that their first steps will be to introduce themselves (if the group is unfamiliar) and to assign certain roles, like "screen-sharer" and "time-keeper"

Tips on closing reflection

Bring participants back to the main room or virtual space. Rather than having them recount exactly what co-benefits or modifications their group came up with, we recommend asking folks to share an insight or something that surprised them (slide #21) from the activity.

Finally, we like to end things with a reflection prompt. Feel free to prepare your own, or use ours (slide #22), also copied below:

What might be possible in a world with more multisolving? What would it look like? What would there be more of?