

Facilitating Sustainable Agriculture: A Participatory National Conference on Post- Secondary Education

January 24-25, 2006

Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove, California

Open Space Technology Session #1: Intro. to Open Space Technology

Facilitator: Nancy Grudens-Schuck, ISU

Open Space Technique:

- Supports groups to do their best thinking.
- Works well with ill-defined or longstanding challenges/opportunities.
- Group discussion technique that builds on the “autonomous impulse” of professionals.
- Locates agenda-setting at time and place that may differ from past conferences.

Open Space Directions:

- Set the agenda together, now.
- Proposals from 8-10 attendees, one at a time.
- Topics prompted by question provided by facilitator (coming up next).
- People sign up for topics, go to room assigned to topic, and talk.
- Report via paper form inputted to computer for proceedings.
- Convene in Chapel at 11:40 for summary and dismissal to lunch.

Rules of Open Space Technology:

- Attendees must propose only topics or questions they feel deeply about, and they become the section leader for the round.
- Any attendee—including section leader—may change sections at any time.
- Groups are self-managed.
- Topics are self-managed.
- Whatever happens was meant to happen, whoever comes was meant to come.

Question to Address: OST Session #1:

1. In your experience with sustainable agricultural education, what has worked well—perhaps surprisingly well—that you would like to talk about with others?

Question to Address: OST Session #2:

1. What concerns or challenges do you have regarding education for sustainable agriculture that you would like to discuss with others?