

The carousel group process is used to generate a large number of ideas, alternatives or responses to a particular topic. This process is an active one where participants move around the space as they share ideas, responses or alternatives to a particular topic.

### Steps for Carousel Group Process:

- Write a topic, statement or question to be explored on the top of separate flipchart or newsprint paper.
- Post the flipchart or newsprint on the walls several feet apart. (Check to make sure flipchart paper or newsprint can be posted to the walls of the space you are in. If they can't be posted on the wall consider using a table top or a window to post the paper.)
- Divide participants into groups (four or five people work best). Ask each group to stand next to one of the flipchart or newsprint papers. NOTE: The group will stay together throughout the process.
- Have the group choose a recorder. Group members share their ideas on the topic for two minutes. The recorder writes down the ideas on the flipchart or newsprint paper.
- At the end of two minutes, let the group know to move to the right (clockwise) to the next flipchart or newsprint. Groups should read with is already written and then add their ideas to the list for two minutes. This process continues until all groups have been to all the flipchart or newsprint papers. Each group adds to the ideas of the group before them.
- At the end of the process, group members do a "gallery tour" to circulate and read what other groups have generated for each piece of flipchart or newsprint paper in the space.

Adapted from: QStP Tool Kit For Quality. (1995).  
 Columbus, OH: Ohio Office of Quality Services.

Figure 1: Example of carousel group process



Figure 2: Possible questions or topics for carousel process:

- Watershed improvement ideas
- Marketing ideas for projects
- Ideas for creating awareness of watershed projects
- How to improve quality of water in watershed?
- What are three wishes you have for the watershed?