

Ground Truth to Governance Framework

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A practical tool for identifying where climate policy loses real world impact, and how to correct it.

This framework helps organisations trace how lived experience moves (or fails to move) through decision making systems, and identify where communication, incentives, or structure prevent climate policy from working in practice.

Why this framework exists

Many climate policies fail not because targets are unclear, but because the connection between everyday experience and institutional decision making breaks down.

This tool helps teams:

- identify where real world issues are filtered out
- understand how communication affects trust and participation
- test whether policies translate into workable daily behaviour
- design improvements grounded in lived conditions

It can be used by:

- public sector teams
- NGOs and civic organisations
- participation officers
- communications teams
- policy designers
- project managers

When to use it

Use this framework when:

- public engagement feels low or inconsistent
- policies exist but behaviour is not changing
- communication campaigns are not landing
- trust in a project is unclear
- consultation results feel disconnected from delivery
- teams want to understand practical barriers rather than attitudes

The framework: 5 working steps

1. Capture Ground Reality

Start with observable experience, not opinions.

Ask:

- Who experiences delays, barriers, or risk in this system?
- What additional time, cost, or effort is required from users?
- What workarounds do people rely on?
- What is routinely accepted as “just how it is”?

Focus on patterns, not isolated stories.

Output:

A short list of recurring real world friction points.

2. Identify the Operational Assumptions

Examine what the system quietly assumes.

Check whether delivery assumes:

- single purpose journeys instead of complex daily patterns
- unlimited time availability
- perfect information
- stable income or transport access
- high institutional trust
- ability to absorb extra administrative steps

Output:

A list of hidden assumptions shaping the design.

3. Trace the Voice Path

Follow how information travels through the system.

Map:

experience → reporting channel → internal classification → performance metrics → budget decisions → delivery changes

Ask:

- Where does information stop moving?
- Where is it simplified or re-categorised?
- Which issues never reach budget or planning level?

Output:

A simple diagram showing where real-world feedback disappears.

4. Test the Incentive Structure

Check what success is actually measured.

Look at:

- what teams are rewarded for delivering
- what is reported upward
- what appears in performance dashboards
- what funding depends on

Ask:

Does the system measure:

- adoption?
- usability?
- safety?
- reliability?
- trust?

Or only:

- completion
- spending
- rollout speed

Output:

A list of metrics currently driving behaviour.

5. Prototype a Practical Adjustment

Choose one small structural change.

Examples:

- add a usability checkpoint before rollout
- include trust or clarity questions in reporting
- adjust consultation questions to capture daily constraints
- add a decision path mapping step in project design
- include a maintenance reality check in procurement

Keep changes small and testable.

Output:

One documented adjustment with measurable follow up.

What this framework is NOT

It is not:

- a campaign tool
- a political model
- a replacement for consultation
- a communications strategy

It is a diagnostic tool for understanding how policy functions in real conditions.

Expected outcomes

Using this framework should help teams:

- detect hidden delivery barriers early
- improve participation quality
- strengthen public clarity
- align communication with lived conditions
- reduce rollout friction
- make policy decisions easier to implement