



ClieNFarms
Climate Neutral Farms

ClieNFarms Scaling Toolbox

The Pentagonal Problem

Stakeholder Engagement

The Pentagonal Problem is a visual tool to help teams nail down the problem, identify its different components and details, getting to a common ground for future actions.

Purpose

The Pentagonal Problem is useful tool for groups of framers or value who want to understand a system, they have set out to change. It will help the group understand a complex problem, with multiple sides, perspectives and nuances that make it difficult to define it in a single sentence or paragraph. The tool will help you map out and describe and understand the components of the problem, their interdependencies as a preparation to help the group to look for system solutions.

Expected outcomes of applying the tool

A comprehensive and visual depiction of the main systemic components of your problem.

Preparation

The group will need to start from a basic idea of the problem you face and an open mind to see how the context affects such a problem and conversely how the challenge affects the context.

Step-by-step guide to using the tool (Recipe)

The tool takes you through seven steps:

STEP 1: Define yourself

STEP 2: The basic statement

STEP 3: The climate change challenges

STEP 4: The Technical Challenges

STEP 5: The Social Challenges

STEP 6: The Gaps

STEP 7: Debrief

Suggested follow up steps

A natural next step would be to do a stakeholder analysis or a system analysis to strengthen the groups comprehension of the context surrounding the challenge.

Links and references

The steps and templates related to the Pentagonal Problem are described on pages 17-20 in the Visual Toolbox for System Innovation which can be accessed here: [Visual Toolbox for System Innovation - Observatory of Public Sector Innovation \(oecd-opsi.org\)](https://www.oecd-opsi.org/en/publications/visual-toolbox-for-system-innovation/)