Tree Value Visions

Introduction
October 2026

Forest Research

The Open University

Camden

EDINBVRGH
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

Local Government Association

1872 PRIFYSGOL ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY 1872 150 2022

Loughborough University

UNIVERSITY of York

SEI Stockholm Environment Institute

The use case

- Social & cultural values
- IPBES derived
- Robust knowledge base
- Participatory
- Consensus forming
- Diverse value-add

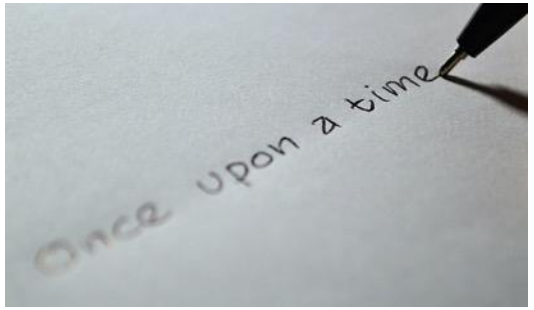
- Simple
- Replicable
- Low-resource
- Supports decision-making
- Statutory-duty integrable
- Total place

How we developed the tool

- 3 cities - developed visions of the future treescape based on values, designed a process to prioritise outcomes and actions.
- 2 additional cities - checked whether these visions work in new contexts and adapted prioritisation process.

https://www.open.edu/openlearncreate/course/view.php?id=15149

What's involved in using the tool?



Step 1: Recruit a citizen/community panel of 15 to 30 people.

Step 2: Pre workshop survey, identifying broad values and giving visions to read in advance

Step 3: ~3 hour workshop to identify priority outcomes and actions

Step 4: Optional - Creation of a synthesis narrative

Pre-workshop survey

What are your broad values

(e.g. honesty, health, fairness, wealth, harmony with nature)

What is important to you about urban trees and treescapes?

Introduction to four visions of future treescapes

Likes and dislikes of the four visions

LIVING IN TREESCAPES
COMMUNITY CAFE
DESIRABLE PLACES TO LIVE

LIVING AS TREESCAPES
ONENESS & HARMONY WITH NATURE

LIVING FROM TREESCAPES
PROSPERITY & EFFICIENCY

LIVING WITH TREESCAPES
HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS

The workshop structure

Review visions	Broad values	Outcomes	Actions
Review the visions. Look at likes and dislikes identified in the pre-workshop survey.	Introduce the top five broad values identified in the pre-workshop survey.	Introduce the outcomes that are contained in the visions, prioritise these.	Multi-criteria decision making: reviewing actions against outcomes to prioritise.

Outcomes

Community: living in, living as

Nature and environment: living with, living as

Transport, economy and development: living in, living from

Final Stage - prioritise actions

TOP 5 PLENARY OUTCOMES:					
PHYSICAL ACTIONS					
1. Community orchards					
2. Small community woodlands					
3. Promoting trees in private gardens					
4. Green roofs and rooftop gardens					
5. Tree-lining streets prioritised over parking and utilities					
6. Change minor streets to pedestrian and cycle zones, making more space for trees					
7. Large national woodland reserves outside city					
8. Agroforestry on farms around city					
9. Tree planting for flood prevention					
10. Green corridors / arteries					
SOCIAL AND LEGAL ACTIONS					
1. Right to access to greenspace within 200m of every house					
2. Increased green prescriptions and green spaces at care facilities					
3. Increased ecotherapy and shift of health/wellbeing activities from indoor to outdoor					
4. Tree for every child					
5. Policy for child engagement with trees and outdoor education in every school					
6. Trees have legal guardians					
7. Green culture and business development plan to take more advantage of green spaces					
8. Very strong protection for veteran and heritage trees					
9. New developments have biodiversity as a hard constraint					
10. Biodiversity loss by developments can be compensated elsewhere					
DECISION MAKING AND MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY					
1. Community groups have key influence					
2. Professional tree experts have key influence					
3. Markets and companies have key influence					

Results - Camden

Broad values:

1. Enjoying life
2. Social justice, fairness
3. Health
4. Honesty, transparency
5. A world at peace, free of conflict

Outcomes:

1. Health and wellbeing
2. Education and awareness about trees
3. Equity in distribution and access to the treescape
4. Community participation and cohesion
5. Clean air and water
6. Local Food production

Actions:

- Tree planting focussed on resilience, air & water quality
- Pedestrianising smaller streets
- Treelining streets
- Community orchards and small woodlands
- Green roofs, green walls
- Policy for child engagement
- Increased green prescriptions
- Right to access greenspace within 300m
- Biodiversity as a hard constraint
- Ecological experts have key influence

Results - Edinburgh

Broad values:

1. Health and Wellbeing
2. Resilience to climate change
3. Space for development to meet community needs
4. Community participation and cohesion
5. Abundance of natural life in the city

Outcomes:

1. Health and Wellbeing
2. Resilience to climate change
3. Space for development to meet community needs
4. Community participation and cohesion
5. Abundance of natural life in the city

Actions:

- Tree planting focused on resilience
- Treelined pedestrianised streets
- Small community woodlands
- New developments have biodiversity as hard constraint
- Policy for child engagement
- Green prescriptions
- Green culture and business development plan
- Balanced decision making
- Community groups have key influence
- Ecological experts have key influence

Evidence produced

Pre-workshop questionnaire

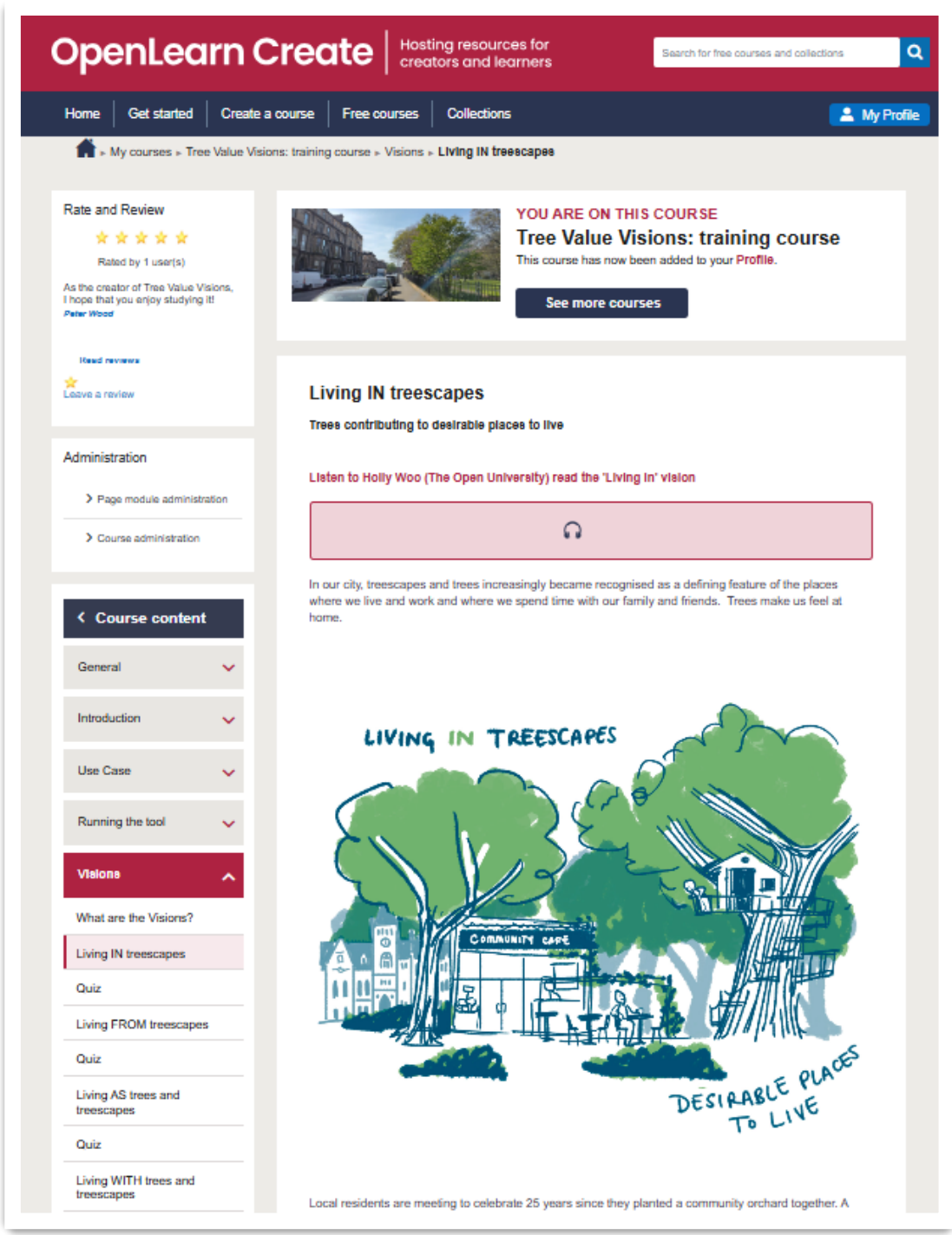
- Values associated with each Life Frame
- Likes and dislikes of visions (primarily formative)
- Broad values

Workshop

- Priority outcomes
- Priority actions
- Transcript/notes/analysis of discussions

OpenLearnCreate module

- Self-study online training
- Open access (free/libre)
- Introduces the tool ‘on rails’
- Interactive
- Quizzes for learning and examination (formative and summative)
- Statement of participation for CPD



LinkedIn:
Tree Value Visions user group

www.linkedin.com/groups/13241010

Questions?

Was there any part of the visions, actions and outcomes that did not make sense for your city?