



What is a Think Tank?

Urban Living Labs - Stem School Challenge

A ThinkTank is a process that can be used to consider the factors that could be used to solve a problem or issue. For example, the issue could be reducing water supply and discharge of wastewater. This is usually a one-way process where drinking water is supplied and used and resulting wastewater is treated and discharged into the environment. For water security and environmental reasons there may be a desire to recycle the water which reduces the amount of drinking water needed to be supplied from other sources and stops discharge of wastewater into the environment.

To examine ways to solve issues such as the one described above, we need to develop new processes and mechanisms, sometimes multiple ones.

A ThinkTank can help identify:

1. Who are the Stakeholders are involved in the process and goals and what influence, or how are they affected by the drivers and problems?
2. What are the specific drivers and problems that are faced in achieving the desired goals? and;
3. Develop a problem statement that can be used, or researched, to achieve the desired outcomes and goals.

Using the 3 stages of a ThinkTank can assist to develop proposals and ideas that could have a meaningful influence on the identified problem, as well as identifying what possible negative issues could arise.