



Chicago Metropolitan
Agency for Planning

Regional Comprehensive Plan

**E&NR Committee:
Indicators Brainstorm**

Indicator Movement Context

- conceived in 1960s as *social indicators*:
“evidence...that enable us to assess where we stand and are going with respect to our values and goals, and to evaluate specific programs and determine their impact” (Bauer 1966)
- exploded in the 1990s with the emergence of high-tech computer hardware, mapping software and the internet

Definitions: 1

- An **indicator** is a quantitative measure that describes an economic, environmental, social or cultural condition over time. The unemployment rate, infant mortality rates, and air quality indexes are a few examples.

Definitions: 2

- An **indicator system** is an organized effort to assemble and disseminate a group of indicators that together tell a story about the position and progress of a jurisdiction or jurisdictions, such as the City of Boston, the State of Oregon, or the United States of America. Indicator systems collect information from suppliers (e.g., individuals who respond to surveys or institutions that provide data they have collected), which providers (e.g., the Census Bureau) then package into products and services for the benefit of users (e.g., leaders, researchers, planners, and citizens).

Definitions: 3

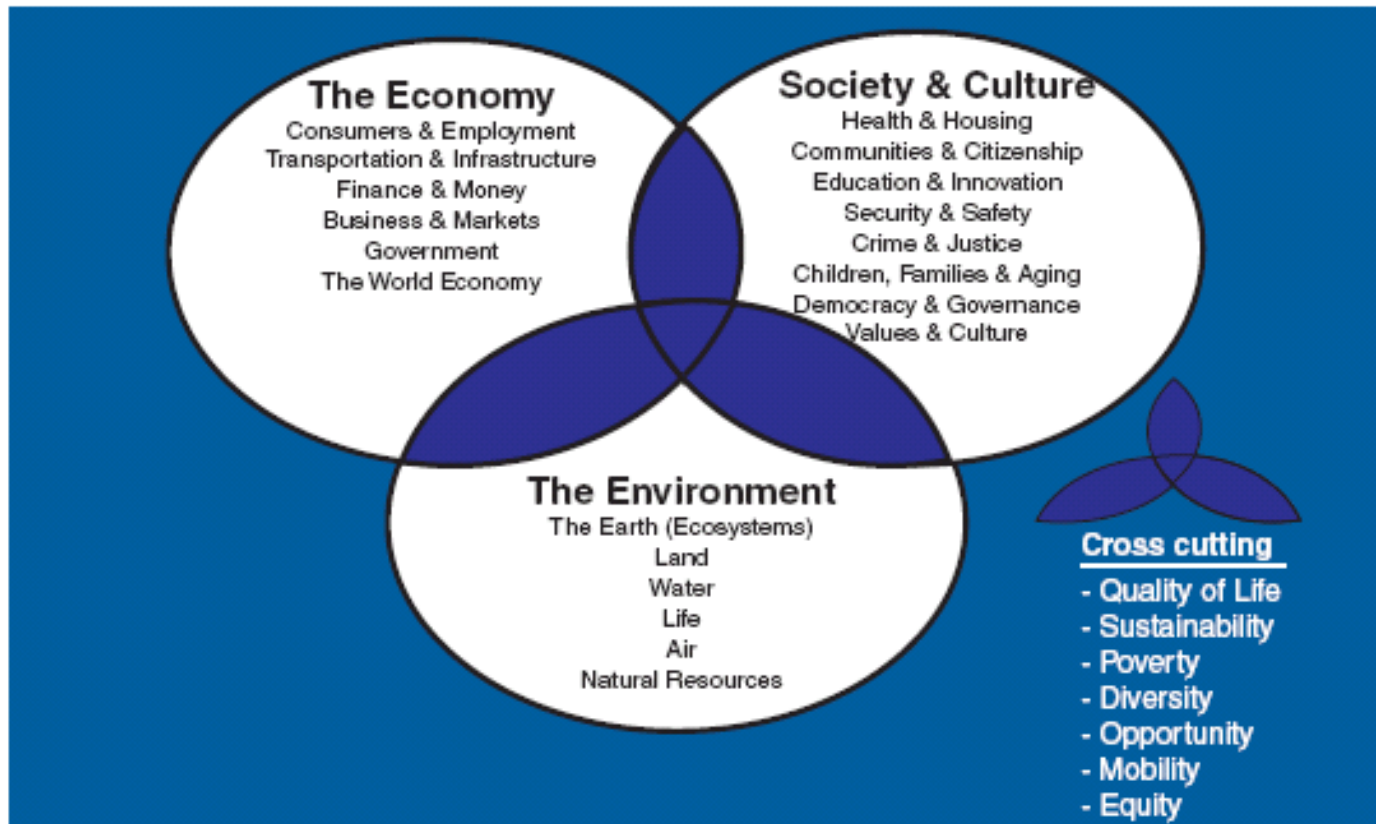
- **Topical indicator systems** involve specific or related sets of issues, such as health, education, public safety, employment, or transportation. They also form the foundation of information resources for the general public, the media, professionals, researchers, institutions, leaders, and policymakers.
 - Quality of Life ([Jacksonville 1985](#))
 - Sustainability ([Seattle 1993](#))
 - Healthy Community ([CHCC 1990s](#))
 - Benchmarking ([Oregon 1991](#))
 - Government Accountability
 - Citistat ([Baltimore 2001](#))

Definitions: 4

- **Comprehensive key indicator systems** pull together only the most essential indicators on a range of economic, environmental, and social and cultural issues, as opposed to a group of indicators on one topic. Comprehensive systems are only as good as the topical systems they draw from.

Comprehensive Key Indicator Systems

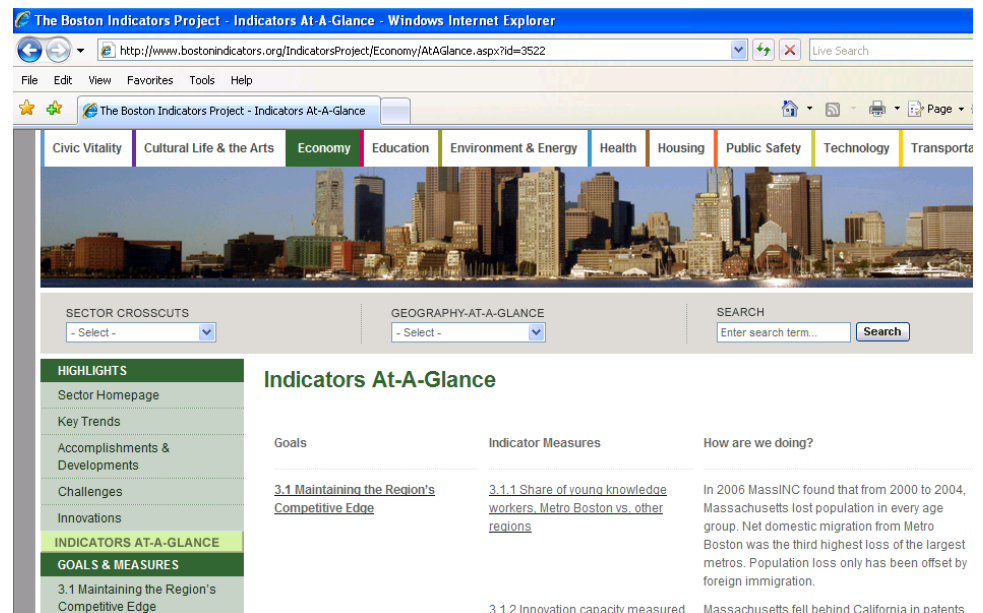
Figure 1: Possible Topics for a Comprehensive Key Indicator System



Source: GAO.

National Examples

- Boston Indicators Project
 - Similar public/private partnership
 - Partnership developed selected indicators
 - Civic leaders, experts develop vision
 - Biannual update report
 - Comprehensive data engine, standardized metadata and internet mapping capabilities



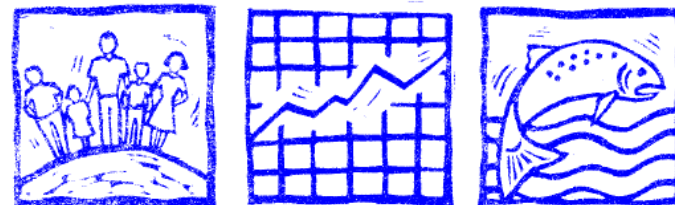
The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Boston Indicators Project website. The browser title is "The Boston Indicators Project - Indicators At-A-Glance - Windows Internet Explorer". The address bar shows the URL: <http://www.bostonindicators.org/IndicatorsProject/Economy/AtAGlance.aspx?id=3522>. The website has a navigation menu with categories: Civic Vitality, Cultural Life & the Arts, Economy (selected), Education, Environment & Energy, Health, Housing, Public Safety, Technology, and Transporta. Below the navigation is a cityscape image. The main content area is titled "Indicators At-A-Glance" and features a table with three columns: Goals, Indicator Measures, and How are we doing?. The table contains data for the goal "3.1 Maintaining the Region's Competitive Edge".

Goals	Indicator Measures	How are we doing?
3.1 Maintaining the Region's Competitive Edge	3.1.1 Share of young knowledge workers, Metro Boston vs. other regions	In 2006 MassINC found that from 2000 to 2004, Massachusetts lost population in every age group. Net domestic migration from Metro Boston was the third highest loss of the largest metros. Population loss only has been offset by foreign immigration.
	3.1.2 Innovation capacity measured	Massachusetts fell behind California in patents

National Examples, cont.

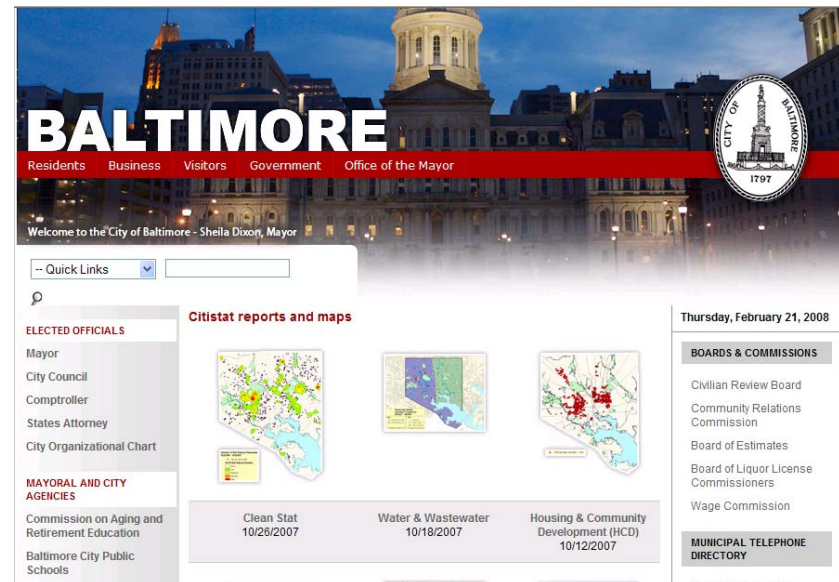
- Sustainable Seattle
 - Sustainability Model
 - Regional NPO
 - Steering committee developed goals
 - Civic Panel, Technical Advisors selected indicators from existing literature
 - Annual progress report updates indicators

Indicators of Sustainable Community



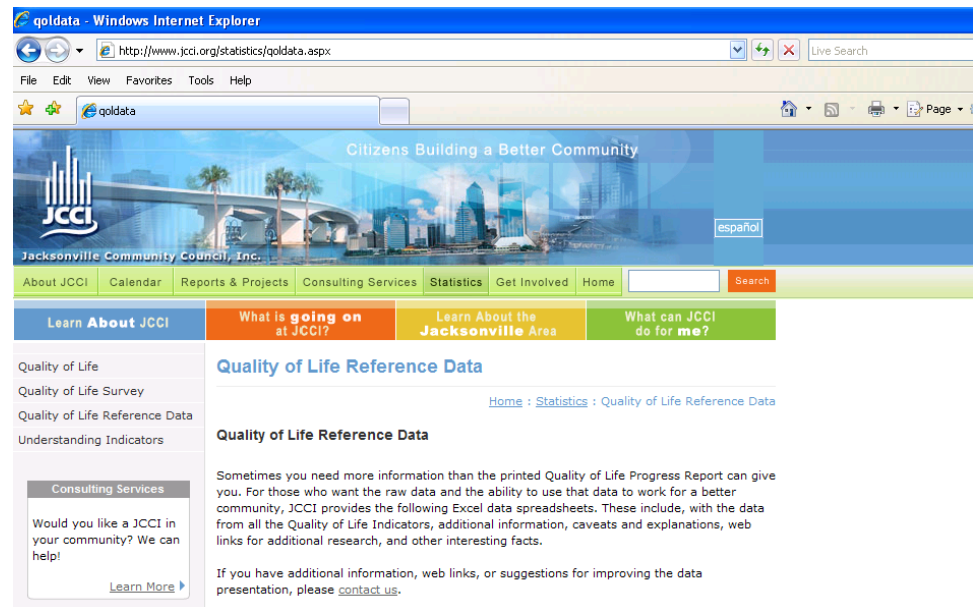
National Examples, cont.

- Citistat (Baltimore, MD)
 - Government Accountability Model
 - City Government
 - Departments must provide comprehensive indicator reports biweekly
 - Updated maps, tables, reports distributed to the public via website biweekly
 - Mayor makes decisions based on data

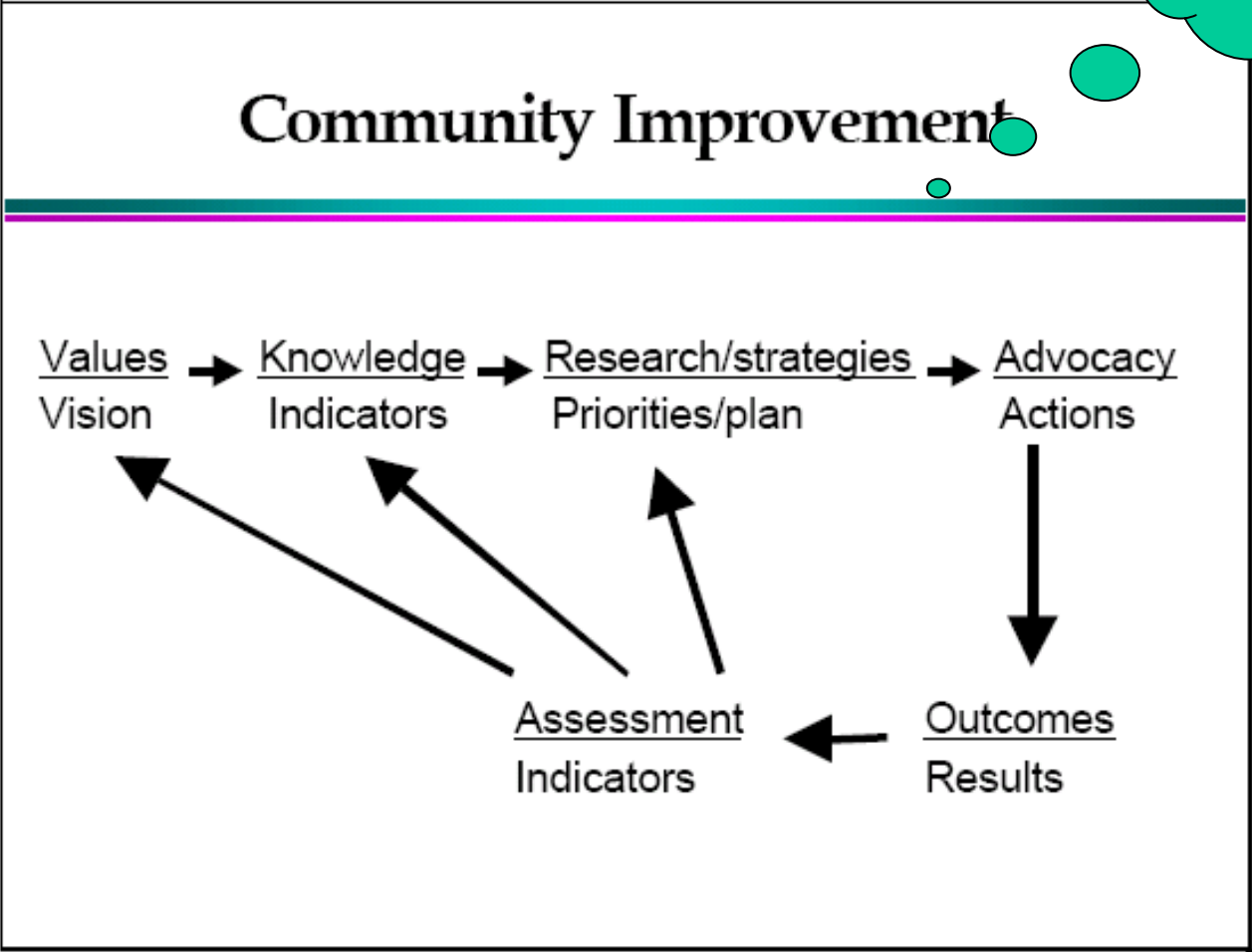
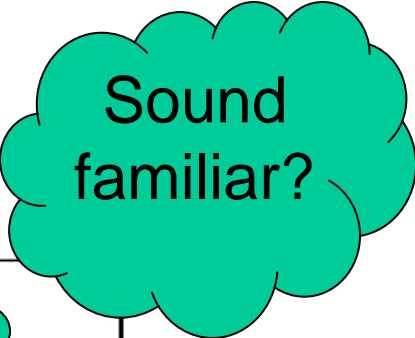


National Examples, cont.

- Jacksonville Community Council, Inc.
 - Quality of Life model
 - Regional community council (NPO)
 - Community/Experts/BOD select indicators
 - Large-scale telephone survey fills gaps
 - Annual progress report updates indicators
 - Website includes downloadable XL files

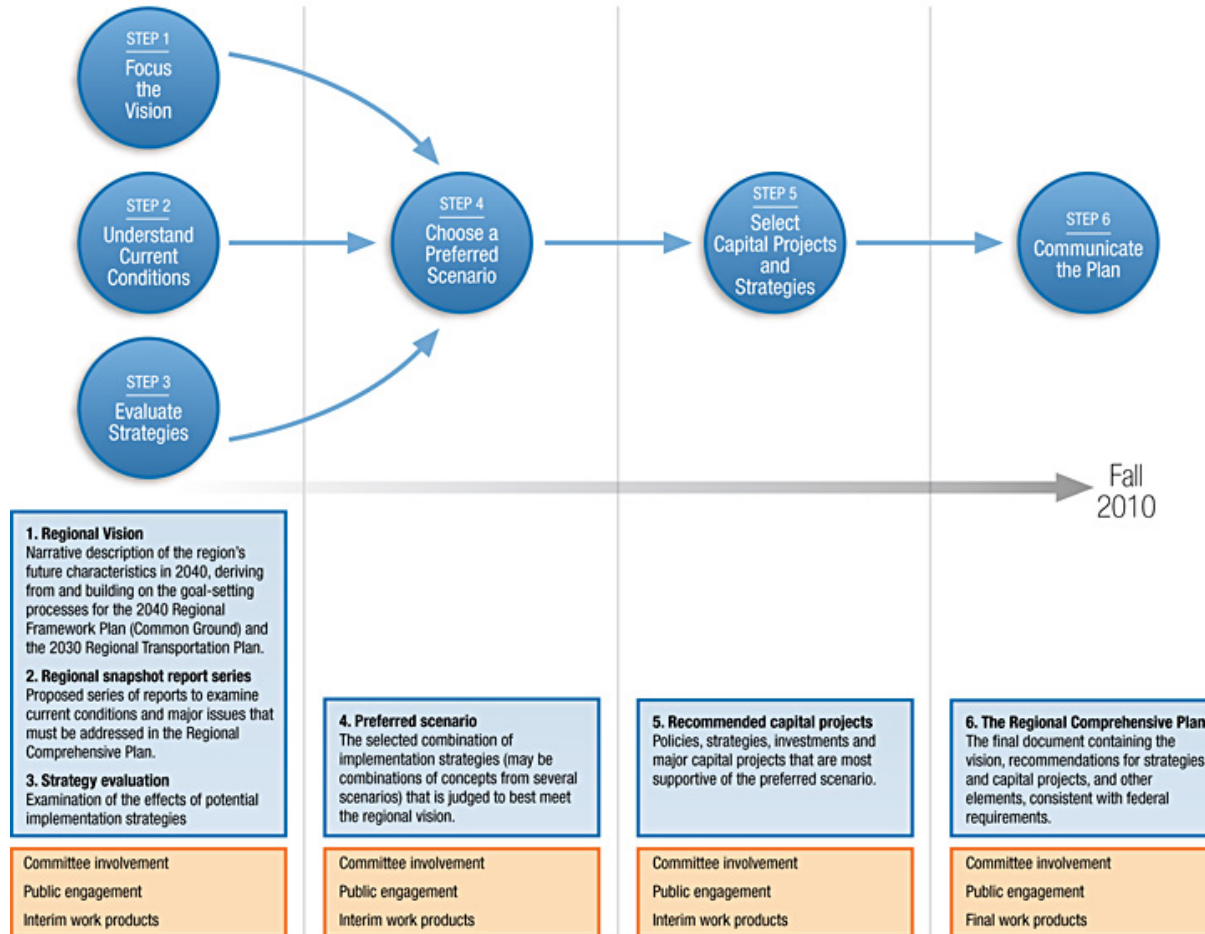


Jacksonville Process



CMAP Process

The 2040 Regional Comprehensive Planning Process



3/6/2008



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Selection Criteria

- Importance
- Policy Relevance
- Responsiveness
- Validity
- Understandability
- Clarity
- Outcome Orientation
- Asset Orientation
- Anticipation
- Representativeness

Top 10 Indicator Project Examples

- Boston Indicators Project
- Community Vision, Osceola County, FL
- Georgia Community Indicators
- Jacksonville Quality of Life Indicators
- Minneapolis Sustainability Indicators
- Santa Cruz County Community Assessment Project
- Santa Monica Sustainable City Plan
- Sustainable Cincinnati
- Sustainable Seattle
- Truckee Meadows Tomorrow, Nevada

How does Go To 2040 measure up?

Indicator Category	%PJs	GoTo 2040 Vision Themes
Economy	100%	Economic Competitiveness
Health	90%	Public Health and Safety
Education	90%	Education
General Environment/Sustainability	90%	Environmental Health and Sustainability
Water Supply/Quality	90%	Water Supply
Social Services	70%	Public Health and Safety
Safety	70%	Public Health and Safety
Civic Participation	70%	Civic Involvement
Transportation	60%	Transportation
Housing	60%	Housing
Equity	50%	Equity
Demography	40%	
Arts/Culture	40%	Quality of Life
Resource (Conservation)	40%	Energy and Resource Conservation
Land Use	30%	Coordinated Planning and Government
Business	30%	Economic Competitiveness
Quality of Life/Social Wellbeing	30%	Quality of Life
Government Accountability/Responsiveness	20%	Coordinated Planning and Government
Reinvestment	20%	Reinvestment
Open Space	10%	Environmental Health
Tourism	10%	
Youth	10%	
Aging	10%	
Recreation	10%	
Technology/Innovation	10%	

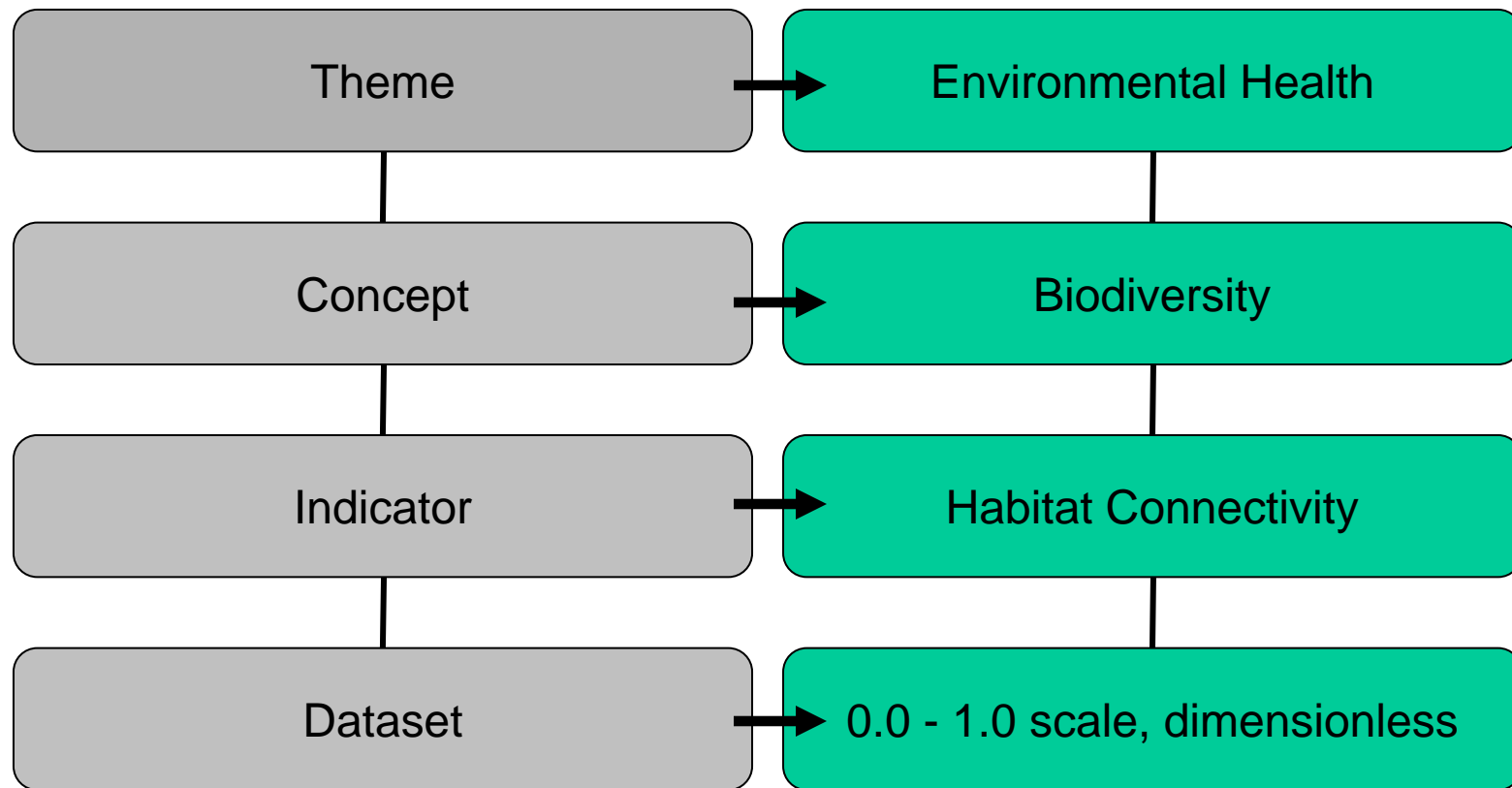
Relevant indicators projects

- State of the Great Lakes Ecosystems Conference (SOLEC) indicators
- TCSP Route 47/Kishwaukee River Corridor Project
- Chicago Wilderness: Biodiversity Report Card
- Green Infrastructure Vision
- Outside of the region
 - Sustainable Seattle
 - Sustainable Cincinnati

Vision Themes

	Quality of Life	Environmental Health	Energy and Resource Conservation	Water Supply	Housing	Public Health and Safety	Education	Economic Competitiveness	Reinvestment	Coordinated Planning and Government	Civic Involvement
Sustainability	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#
Equity	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#

Brainstorming Session



Potential Indicators: Environmental Health

- Possible Indicators
 - Percent of population residing within ½ mile of public open space
 - Adjacency index for open space connectivity/habitat fragmentation
 - Total annual stormwater runoff and pollutant load (N, P, BOD, Zn, Cu, Pb, Cl, Sediment)
 - Emissions of **selected** non-criteria pollutants
 - Destruction of or impacts to **selected** natural community types
- Others..?

Potential Indicators: Energy and Resource Conservation

- Possible Indicators
 - Total energy use
 - Ratio of energy use to gross regional product
 - Fossil fuel use
 - Total land consumption
 - Farmland preserved
 - Watersheds over 10% impervious
- Others..?

Potential Indicators: Water Supply

- Possible Indicators
 - Total water use
 - Population change in water stressed townships
- Others..?