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How to produce an effective public campaign?

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The challenge

Convince & mobilize

- Inform and raise awareness in the general public
- Contribute to the evolution of attitudes, behaviours
 ...and purchases by conducting communication
 campaigns
- Respond to the needs of various audiences by providing a resource centre



The National Climate Change Plan (in France)

National campaign on energy savings was included in the

French Climate Change Plan (2004)

Objective : increasing public awareness to save energy

in relation with climate change

A 3 years campaign for the first time in Europe In 2007, another 3 years campaign



Objective

The initial finding (2004)

People understood (73%) that changing lifestyles is important for climate change. But 10 % only were really aware of the impact of energy use on environment

The aim

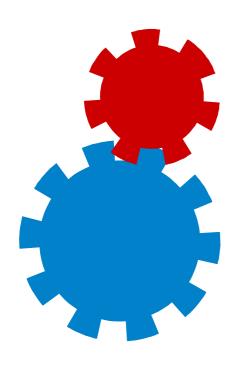
- > Make a link between energy use and climate change
- > Increase awareness of environmental impacts of energy use
- > Increase awareness of the cost of over-consumption
- > Change people's behaviour about energy savings
- > Give practical solutions

The Strategy

- > Gather partners in a Club (Winning Planet Club)
- > Launch an Earth Challenge and promote local initiatives



Developing a communication plan



Key points

- > Understand the situation
- > Conduct socio-economic surveys
- > Set clear and achievable objectives
- > Define message(s) and channel(s)
- > Plan the campaign management
- > Monitor and Evaluate the results



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Every plan is unique, it should be adapted

- > Elaborate a communication plan ... to carry your ideas
- > Define the socio-economic context of the campaign
- > Define overall objectives and time frame
- Define your target audience
- > At this stage, you can brief a communication agency



Setting specific objectives

- Make realistic objectives
 Example: cut household energy use by 10% in 3 years
- What changes do you expect : awareness, attitude, behaviour ?
 The three steps together or just one, or step by step changes ?
- > Identify the different audiences and set priorities
- Define two or three specific audiences rather than « the public »
- Involve stakeholders to give them a sense of ownership



Strategic approach

- Describe how you will achieve your objectives
- Review alternatives and choose!
- Set different elements of general budget
- Create the « business case » of the campaign : why it is the best approach ?
- > Test the campaign on a small audience



Set a central message carefully adapted to your audience

- Be creative! You can choose « real people » as speakers
- Keep an unifying thread along the campaign, like a special logo
- Adapt your message to different audiences
- Create an emotional relationship with your audience



Selecting appropriate Channels

- Good Impact depends of communication channels
- > Choose different channels for different audiences
- Newspapers, advertising, radio, tv, internet ?
- Choice depends on budget... but non only
- Contact Journalists of medias : low cost & efficiency
- Social networks, NGO's, professional organizations ...



Management & implementation

- > No success without a good implementation
- > Role and responsibilities of leading organization and partners
- > Make link with other national or local events
- > Steering group is in charge of strategy but not of day to day decision
- > Develop a overall project management process
- > Develop a crisis management scheme if ...



Measurement & Evaluation

- Monitoring and evaluation allow to know if objectives are achieved
- Adapt monitoring methods: process, outcome and impact
- Make sure you choose the right indicators for the right objective
- What feedback from you audience(s) ?
- > Document and report evaluation : simple tools ...
- web site traffics,
- number of attendees at events,
- media coverage,
- public opinion surveys for awereness levels,
- number of requests for informations,
- also consider changes in strategic priorities, if any occurred



Five points for the best use of your plan

- > Make the plan always accessible to all team members
- Update the plan when signficant change occur
- > Give regular updates to the team, to key partners and stakeholders
- Ask partners and stakeholders if they consider information useful
- Develop the story of the campaign to form a checklist:
- On what issue are you communicating? Why it's important?
- Yours partners? Your messages, how they will reach the audiences?
- Who is managing the campaign, how long it will last?
- How you will know if the campaign is a success?



Key obstacles for a public campaign

- Change in Administration can change priorities for communication ... and lead to less support and fewer resources...
- Consistency betweeen words and action is a key
 Communication should be consistent with policy
- Jargon always is a barrier to successful communications
 Test all messages with your personal circle
- Lack of funding: a constraint and a barrier to effective communication

Campaign targeting attitude change can shift public opinion It's a step to behaviour change

