

# It's the Circle of Life: Introducing Ecocycle Planning

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Canadian Library Assessment Workshop (CLAW), October 2019

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The University of Windsor sits on the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, which includes the Ojibwa, the Odawa, and the Potawatomie.

Simon Fraser University is located on the unceded, traditional, ancestral, and current territories of the x<sup>w</sup>məθkwəyəm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), Səlílwətał (Tseil-Waututh), q̓ícəy̓ (Katzie), k<sup>w</sup>ik<sup>w</sup>əłəm (Kwkwetlem), and other Stó:lō Nations

# What are Liberating Structures?

- A collection of 33 facilitation techniques that can be used & adapted in classrooms, presentations, meetings, planning sessions, etc.
  - Ecocycle Planning is one of the Liberating Structures
- Developed by Henri Lipmanowicz & Keith McCandless
- All Liberating Structures are available on the website under a CC-BY-NC license

## So what? (Why is this important?)

- Conventional structures can be too rigid (lectures, status updates) or too loose (open-ended discussions)
- Liberating Structures are designed to promote participation, engagement, innovation, and creativity
- Key design elements
  - Invitation, space & materials, participation, configuration, steps & timing

# Ecocycle Planning



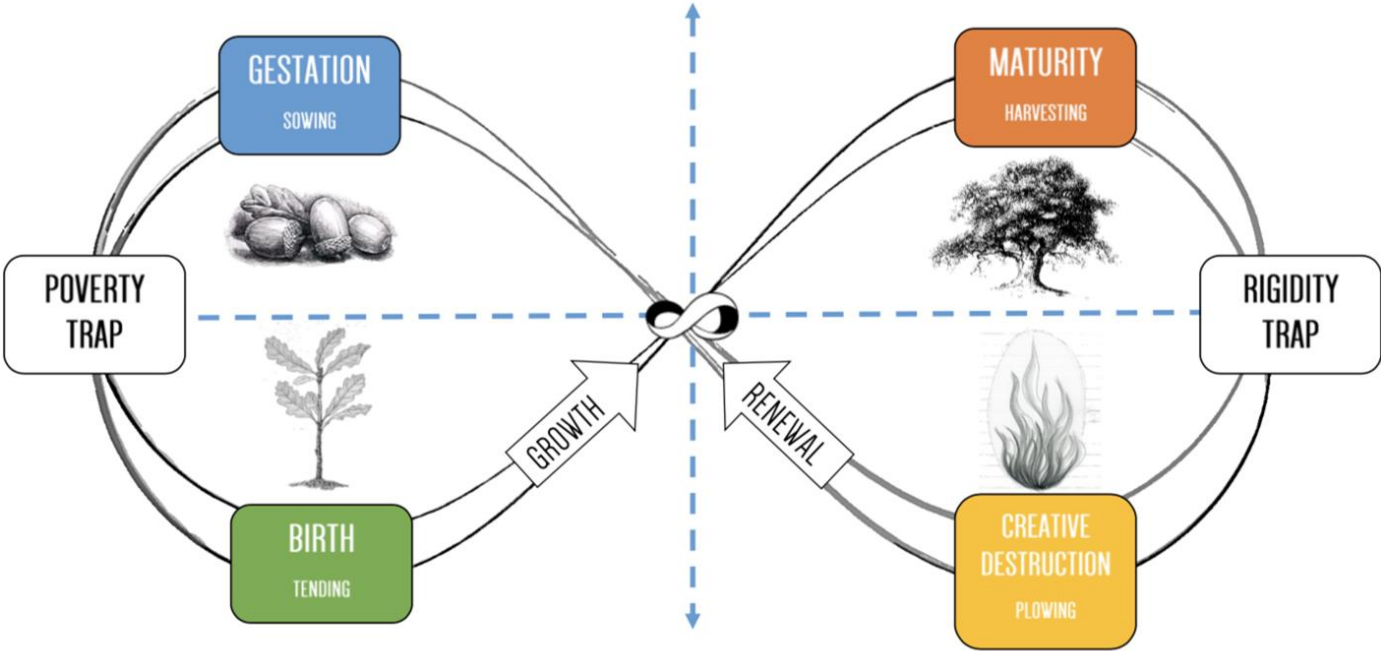
Analyze the Full Portfolio of Activities & Relationships to Identify Obstacles & Opportunities for Progress

- Allow everyone to see where their activities fit in the larger context with others
- Set priorities and plan actions
- Hear all perspectives
- Identify blockages and opportunities to free up resources
- Absorb disruption by assessing/reorganizing together

Suggested time: 95 minutes

*Adapted by Henri Lipmanowicz and Keith McCandless from Brenda Zimmerman*

# Introducing the Ecocycle



[Image](#) created by Fisher Qua

# Trying out Ecocycle Planning

## **Topic: academic libraries' activities and resources that support learning at our institutions?**

- Make a list of activities (projects, initiatives, resources) that occupy you and your colleagues' time. (2 min)
- Work in pairs to place the activities on the ecocycle map at your table (4 min)
- Join with another pair to compare and combine your ecocycle maps (8 min)
- Bring your post-its up to the Ecocycle map to add them on the larger map

# Next steps in Ecocycle Planning

Step back for a moment to review.

- What activities do we need to creatively destroy or stop to move forward?
- What activities do we need to expand or start to move forward?

**Choose one activity. What first step action could you take?**



**Now what?** (What actions make sense?)

What are your takeaways?

Are there contexts that Ecocycle Planning would be useful or worth exploring in your work?

# Sneaky other Liberating Structures

What, So What, Now What?

1-2-4-All

# Moving forward with Liberating Structures for assessment

- Explore and assess a portfolio of activities or a shared experience
  - Ecocycle Planning; What, So What, Now What; TRIZ
- Identify essential elements of a project
  - 15% Solutions; Min Specs
- Moving forward with results post-assessment
  - Nine Whys; Conversation Café; 15% Solutions
- Inclusivity: get feedback or ideas from all participants in a room
  - 1-2-4-All; 25/10 Crowd Sourcing

Thank you!