



Grants Program Workshop

National Consumer Roundtable on Energy
31 January 2020
Lynne Gallagher
Director, Research


The Grants Program supports high quality and innovative research and advocacy initiatives which support the long term-interests of consumers

The infographic illustrates the Grants Program process. It begins with a 'Grants' header and a commitment statement from Energy Consumers Australia. It then outlines the program's goal to fund high-quality research and advocacy. The process is divided into three main stages: 1. Applicants (represented by a globe icon), 2. Recipients (represented by a plant icon), and 3. Great Grants (represented by a lightbulb icon). Each stage includes a brief description of the activities involved. The bottom section shows two images: one for applicants working on a desk with a laptop and smartphone, and another for recipients using a tablet to view a house, representing the 'Great Grants' funded projects.

Grants


Energy Consumers Australia is committed to working effectively with consumer advocates to be a strong and effective voice on National Energy Market issues of importance to energy consumers.

One of the ways that we support energy consumer advocacy is through our Grants Program. This program seeks to fund high quality and innovative research and advocacy activities that have potential to deliver outcomes that will benefit the long term interests of energy consumers in the National Energy Market.




Understand what grants are available, then develop and submit your application.

Applicants



Resources, materials and information for grant recipients.

Recipients

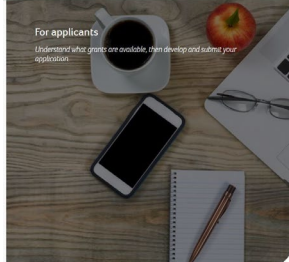


Grants funded bright ideas and projects.

Great Grants

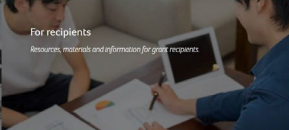
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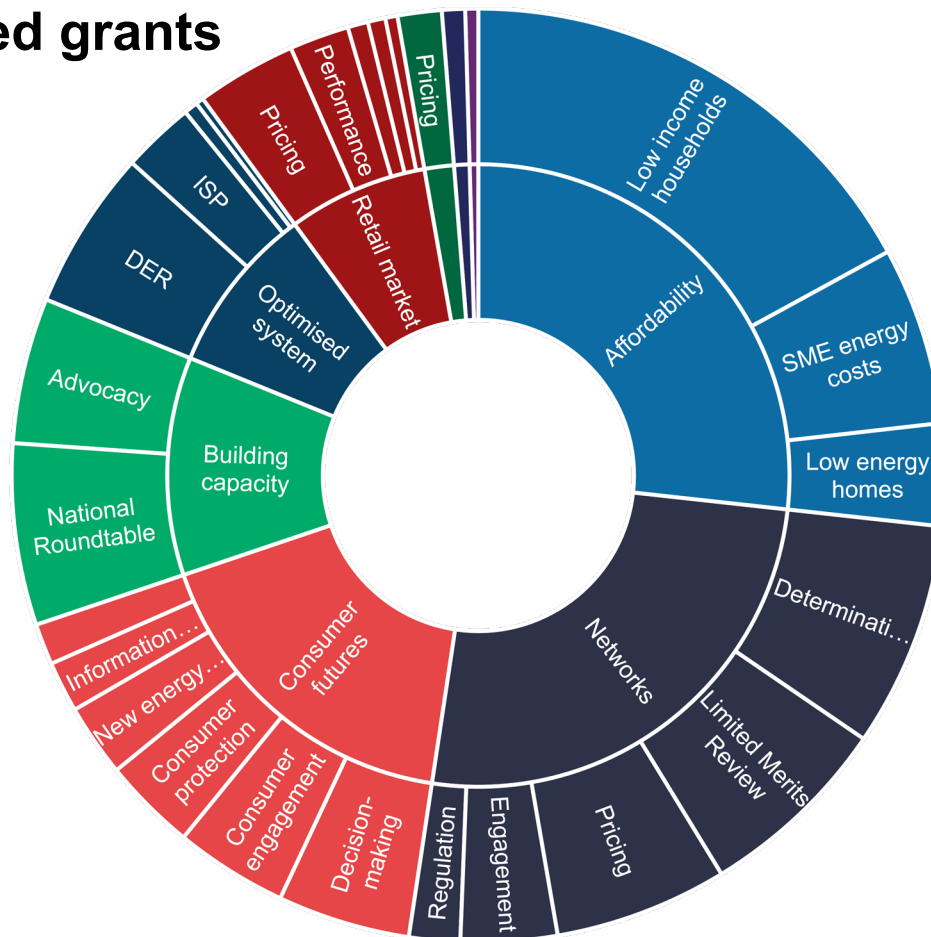
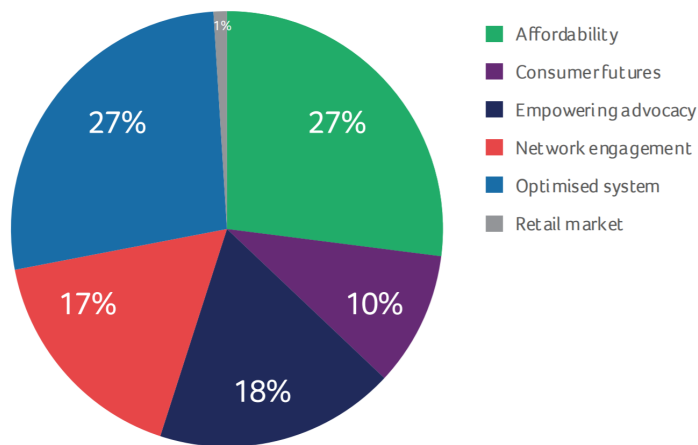


Key milestones in the development of the Grants Program

Date	Milestone
February 2015	Board considers Consumer Advocacy Panel (CAP) <i>Key learnings brief</i>
March 2015	Board announces it would not be continuing with Capability Building Grants & Global Advocacy Grants funding, and invites grant applications for advocacy and research projects
September 2015	Release of Grants Program Review Issue Paper for consultation
February 2016	Board considers Grants Program Review recommendations including Grants Program process review
March 2016	Announcement of outcomes of Grants Program Review
November 2019	KPMG Final Report, Review of Energy Consumers Australia http://www.coagenergycouncil.gov.au/publications/review-energy-consumers-australia

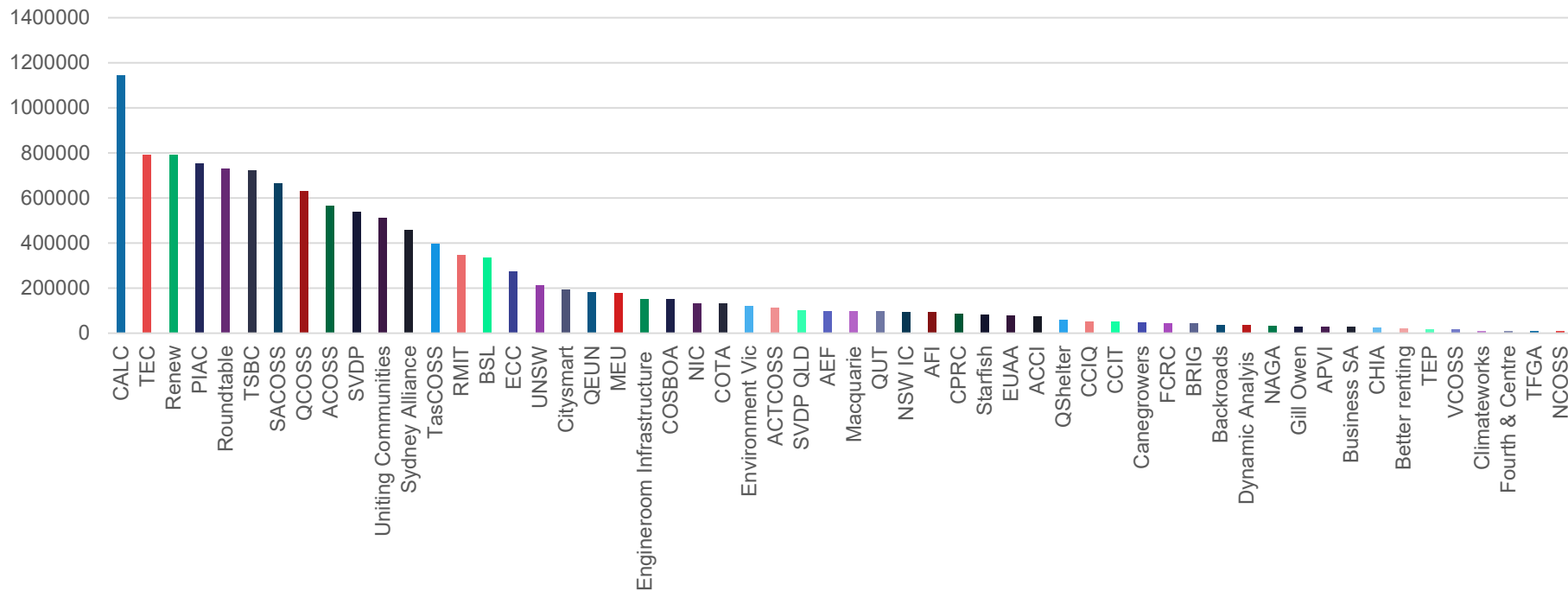
Key themes, issues for approved grants

Figure 7: Grant funding by major theme 2018-19



Grants funding approved from 2014-15 to date

Approved Grant Funding 2014-15 to 2018-19



Applications for advocacy and research project funding



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Guidance Note: Advocacy and Research Projects

Energy Consumers Australia funds both advocacy and research projects within its Grants Program. We have published this Guidance Note to assist applicants in better meeting the requirements of the Grants Program.

All projects must be eligible

Energy Consumers Australia requires all applications for funding within the Grants Program to meet the same eligibility criteria. This means that all applications for advocacy and research projects need to demonstrate that they will:

Build knowledge and/or sectoral capacity supporting policy development and consumer education in the National Energy Market.

All projects must support advocacy

Through its Grants Program, Energy Consumers Australia supports strong, co-ordinated, collegiate and evidence-based advocacy for the benefit of residential and small business energy consumers. Energy Consumers Australia has defined energy advocacy as:

An activity designed to influence or create change that improves the long-term interests of electricity and gas consumers.¹

Advocacy can also be described as a set of actions that lead to realising a goal. Put another way, it can be working to put a problem on the agenda of decision-makers, identify a solution to that problem and build support for action on the problem and the solution.

Advocacy can involve working with peers, allies and coalitions. It can be undertaken by a range of organisations and stakeholders. In energy markets in Australia, there are groups and individuals who have a core focus on undertaking advocacy for residential and small business energy consumers. However, there are other voices involved in energy advocacy and Energy Consumers Australia welcomes grant applications from others who can contribute to this advocacy.

An important consideration for all grant applications - both advocacy and research projects to support advocacy - is how these projects intend to achieve impact or influence.

Requirements for advocacy projects

Advocacy projects need to show:

- What is the problem you are trying to address?
- Why is this critical for the long-term interests of consumers?
- Who is the project aimed at influencing? Why now?
- What actions will you take to address the problem and create influence? Why those actions?

¹ Energy Consumers Australia, Grants Review Issues Paper, September 2015 ([link](#))

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- Who is the project aimed at influencing? Why now?
- What actions will you take to address the problem and create influence? Why those actions?
- How you will engage with other advocates?
- Why you are best placed or have the capability to undertake the project and achieve impact?
- What will be the measurable impact of your project? Who will benefit?
- Will there be wider benefits?

<https://energyconsumersaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/Energy-Consumers-Australia-Grants-Guidance-Note.pdf>

Applications for CEO Grants



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Guidance Note: CEO Grants Program

December 2019

Energy Consumers Australia runs a CEO Grants Program, which is a small grants sub-program within the overall Grants Program. It provides funding - capped at \$15,000 (ex GST) - to applicants for the purposes of consumer engagement or international scholarship.

Consumer Engagement Grants

The CEO Grants Program will support and accommodate advocates' engagement in government, regulatory and/or industry decision making processes, recognising the need for consumers to respond within short timeframes. Applications for this grant must be able to show that the matter is urgent or time-constrained and could not reasonably have been anticipated or planned for, within the normal timelines for the Grants Program. Examples of projects that could be funded include:

- engaging a consultant to provide technical or specialist expertise for a submission;
- undertaking research to inform and support future advocacy; and
- funding for reasonable travel costs (flights, accommodation, ground transport but not sitting fees) to engage in government, regulatory and industry forums relating to that process, and where video conferencing is not provided.

Information on previous CEO Grants can be found by accessing the [Grants Archive](#) on Energy Consumers Australia's website. Recent grants include:

- Grant No. 970 to the Queensland Electricity Users Network [here](#);
- Grant No. 987 to the Council on the Ageing Australia [here](#);
- Grant No. 990 to the Major Energy Users [here](#); and
- Grant No. 1037 to the Tasmanian Small Business Council [here](#).

To apply for the Consumer Engagement Grants, the applicant must be proposing to undertake a work program, or participate in engagement, that:

- builds knowledge and/or sectoral capacity supporting policy development and consumer education in the National Energy Market;
- supports energy advocacy, which is designed to influence or create change that improves the long-term outcomes of electricity and gas consumers; and
- considers how the project or engagement will achieve impact or influence.

In your application, in no more than 4 pages, please provide the following information:

1. Applicant details, including the organisation details, and a CV demonstrating how you meet the eligibility criteria and outlining relevant experience.
2. What it is you plan to do (why/how/initiative)?
3. How will your proposal benefit consumers?
4. Budget (including details of any other co-contributors or funding available for your proposal).

Further guidance on the approach to advocacy and research projects in the Grants Program can be found [here](#), or contact us at grants@energyconsumersaustralia.com.au to discuss submitting an application.

<https://energyconsumersaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/Guidance-Note-%E2%80%93-CEO-Grants.pdf>

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From “Great Grants” to impact

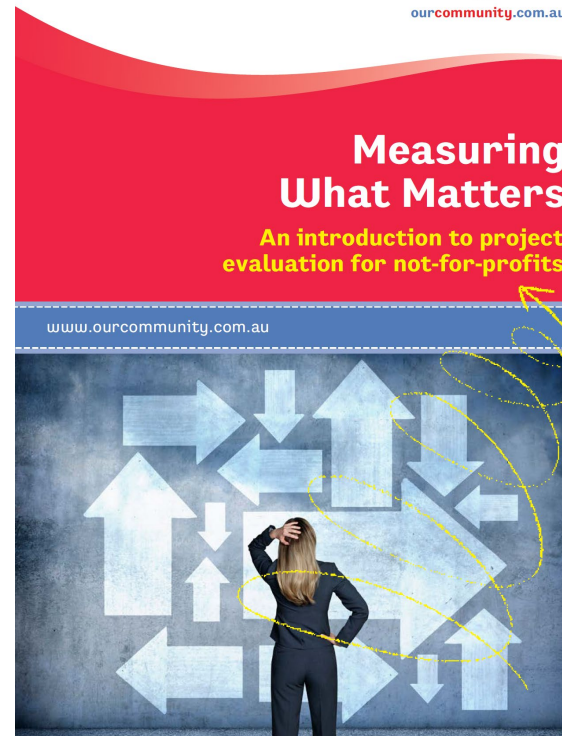
	Project	Organisation / Code
Networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inconvenient guests – the consumer experience of administrative review for electricity pricing (consumer participation in limited merits review processes) 	752, 800, 801 Public Interest Advocacy Centre
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of SAPN tariff reforms through its proposed TSS in relation to impacts on small business 	787 Business South Australia
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Networks & batteries: what's best for consumers? 	795 Total Environment Centre
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An evaluation of the role of accelerated depreciation in regulation of electricity and gas networks 	807 Engineroom Infrastructure Consulting
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electricity pricing and managing heatwaves at home: mitigating health and financial risks for heat-vulnerable household consumers 	813 RMIT
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessing and improving consumer outcomes of network pricing reform 	840 Renew (formerly Alternative Technology Association)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tariff Assessment Tool 	814, 944 UNSW
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Living Deliberate Negotiate Agree (DNA) 	853 Uniting Communities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AER TasNetworks Revenue Proposal - Small Business advocacy 	915 Tasmanian Small Business Council
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fair outcomes for low income and vulnerable consumers – Queensland Electricity Networks Revenue Determination 2020-25 	946 QCOS
Affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tariff Reform workshop for consumer advocates 	987 COTA Queensland
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Households in the Dark: Mapping electricity disconnections in the NEM 	712 St Vincent de Paul Society
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interaction between energy supply and residential rental housing arrangements 	791 QCOS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research and Advocacy materials on the feasibility of rural electricity users in Queensland going off-grid and irrigators in particular 	832 Bundaberg Regional Irrigators Group
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photovoltaics on Apartment Buildings 	841 UNSW
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The lived experience of Tasmanian consumers – energy consumer advocacy project 	849 TasCOS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response to Queensland Competition Authority Scoping Paper 	862 QCOS

[https://energyconsumersaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/Energy-Consumers-Australia Annual-Report 2018-19.pdf](https://energyconsumersaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/Energy-Consumers-Australia%20Annual-Report%202018-19.pdf)

Energy Consumers Australia Grants Program - January 2020



ourcommunity.com.au



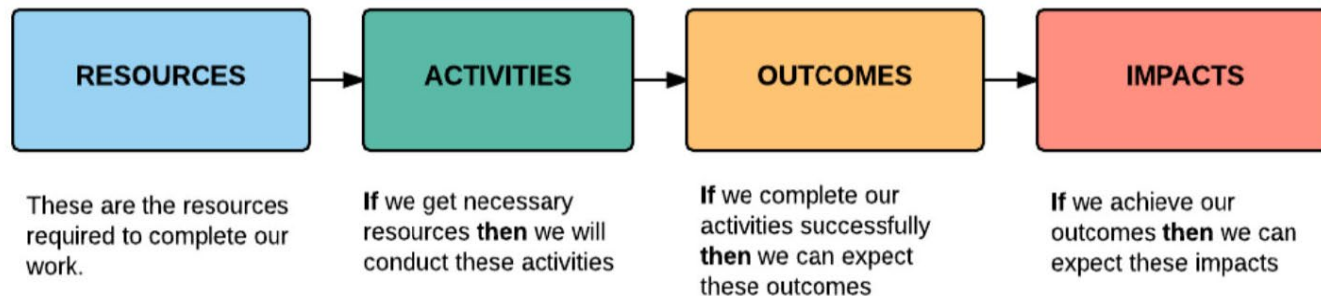
<https://www.ourcommunity.com.au/files/books/MeasuringWhatMattersBooklet.pdf>

Planning for impact

Plan for influence or impact

- A simple logic model

Logic Model - Basic Design

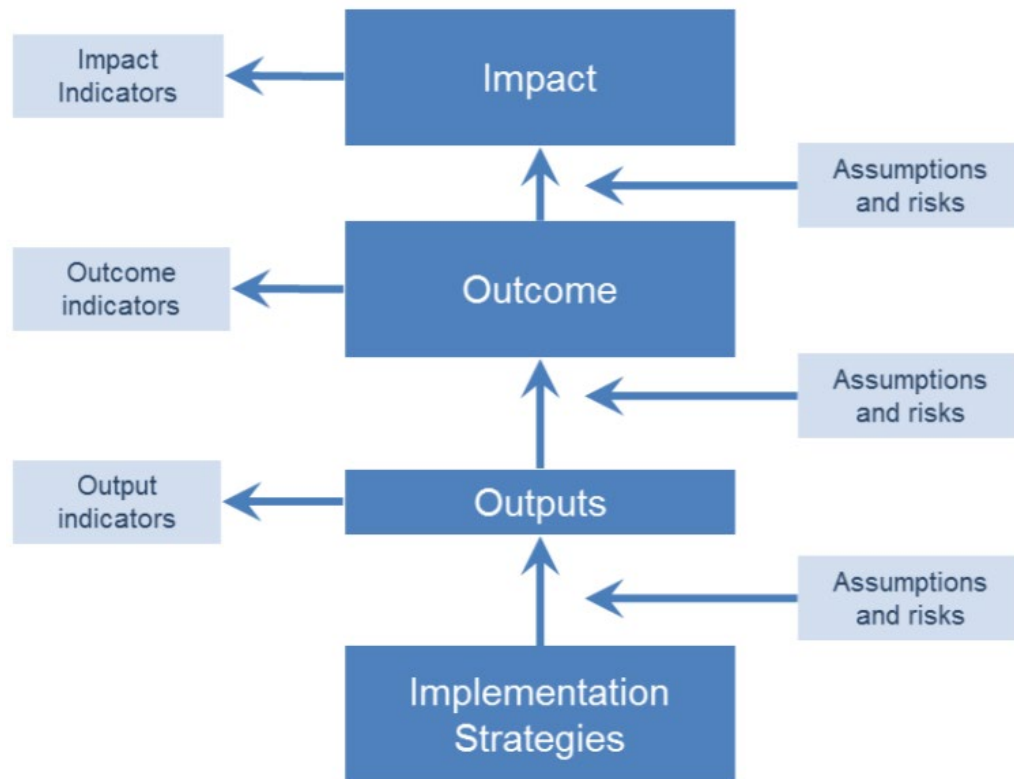


- https://www.ourcommunity.com.au/marketplace/marketplace_article.jsp?articleId=7167
- <http://crockfordconsulting.com/image-gallery/0bt7s5kptr4wr3zwn6rpt21r0cvmfy>

Applying a theory of change

Theory of change

- Start with impact
- What is the best way of getting there?
- Is your methodology the right one?
- How will your outputs lead to influence or impact?
- https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/brief_2_theoryofchange_eng.pdf

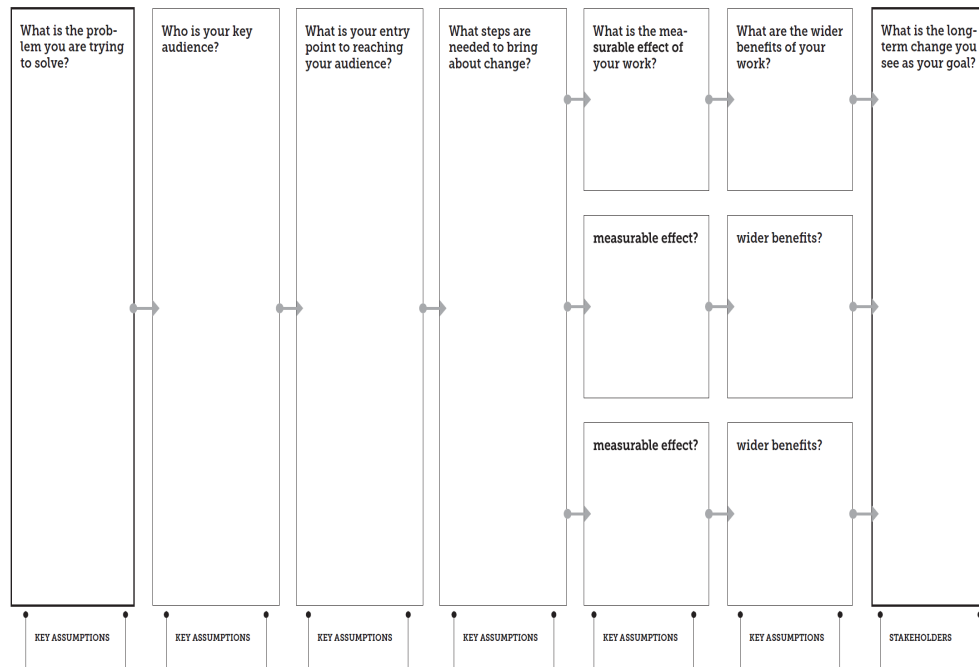


Mapping a project against theory of change



I want to clarify my priorities
by defining my goals and the path to reach them

THEORY OF CHANGE



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