

Q6. Additional Comments

- Build capacity in gathering and analyzing that data to know what to do with it and put it in the format that it can be used in the best possible way
- Weigh the options of risk and reward. If we do this, what are the positive and negative effects of that action
- It's not just a commitment; do we have the resources to pull this off, all the time? Can we live up to the promise?
- Are departments willing to do what is needed to live up to this commitment?
- It can't just be fashionable to be 'open'
- We need to understand the limits and don't over promise.
- The cost-benefit analysis is paramount
- Is it really the public that wants this or is it politics?
- Who is the general public?
- Maybe some people just want government to do their jobs
- Education and training to all staff regarding open government and the parameters of openness
- Make sure you have enough resources
- Be more open
- Disclose negative and positive information and data
- Be willing to fail or get negative feedback, but move forward and learn from failures rather than using them as a reason to stop negative feedback.
- Making citizens' comments public may be a deterrent for those citizens to participate (making government's comments public is important, but there is sometimes a discomfort among private citizens)
- Will the Open Government website itself be searchable? Currently, materials are listed alphabetically, but titles are not always intuitive. Keyword searchability is important here.
- Because of entrenched attitudes, there will be resistance to the initiative. Don't lose motivation!
- Ensure that released data is indeed appropriate to be released (quality, privacy, etc.)
- Being open internally (i.e. within government itself) may actually be more difficult than to be open externally (i.e. the government to the public).
- In terms of collaboration, there comes a point in the decision-making process that does NOT occur in partnership with groups, advocates, or concerned individuals. It is EXTREMELY important that it be established (and re-established) with stakeholders how the collaboration works, and where, effectively, it must end in order for the decision to be made.
- Need to work much better cross departmentally
- Need the support of "upper management" to do this

- Need the support to work cross departmentally on a regional basis too
- Need a good central data management system