

C-TIP #1 Enlisting a Skilled Consensus Facilitator.

In consensus, good facilitation can mean the difference between people leaving a meeting energized and completely committed to the future or feeling tired, frustrated, and cynical.

A facilitator is an objective, neutral party who is there to help a group navigate the consensus process. An effective facilitator will lead a group to make decisions that truly reflect the shared will of its members.

The following Facilitator Check-list is a list of skills and attributes for an effective facilitator.

- In-depth knowledge of consensus practices.
- Flexibility in adapting to your group's or organizations' unique needs.
- Respect for the time and effort you invest in meetings.
- Ability to listen closely and recognize relationships among ideas.
- Capacity to remain neutral and objective about meeting topics.
- Patience and an outwardly optimistic outlook.
- Ability to focus on what the group needs rather than being liked by its members.
- A collaborative style that prefers win-win solutions.
- Experience using approaches that encourage full participation and cooperation.
- Assertiveness and diplomacy in dealing with strong personalities.