What kind of engagement with communities is needed on potential CDR projects?

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Benefits, Negotiations, Oversight, and Enforcement”
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What is community engagement?

…encompasses processes by which different groups are involved in making decisions that affect them

And why is it relevant for our discussion today?

A just, ethical negotiation on benefits requires involving affected and interested groups in broader project decision making

What community engagement is NOT

- Not PR or marketing
- Not (just) education or communication

Instead, purpose is to align a project with the priorities of the people it might affect

…who is the ‘community’ that should be involved?

- Potentially affected and interested groups + those with rights relevant to the broader project (area)

*important to actively prioritize accessibility + also be aware of established voices

Adapted from the International Association for Public Participation

Aim to move towards towards greater community participation

Outreach

Processes seek to provide information to communities

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Processes seek to provide information to communities

Consult

Processes seek community input

Increased community participation in project

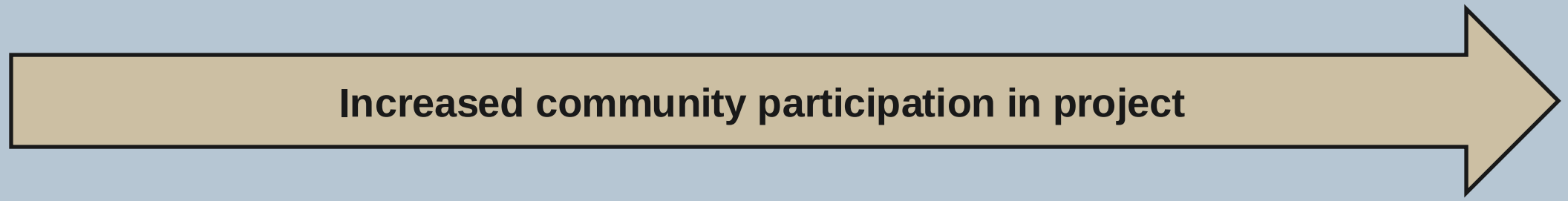
Adapted from the International Association for Public Participation

Aim to move towards towards greater community participation

Outreach
Processes seek to provide information to communities

Consult
Processes seek community input

Involve
Community goals and concerns are considered in decisions



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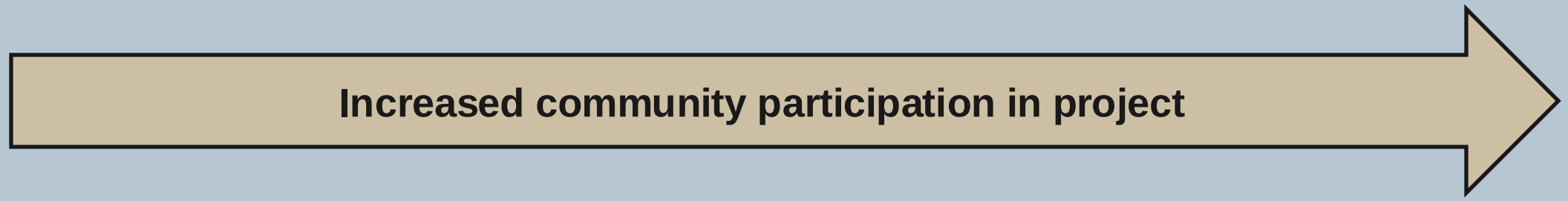
Aim to move towards towards greater community participation

Outreach	Consult	Involve	Collaborate
Processes seek to provide information to communities	Processes seek community input	Community goals and concerns are considered in decisions	Communities are partners that are actively involved in building outcomes



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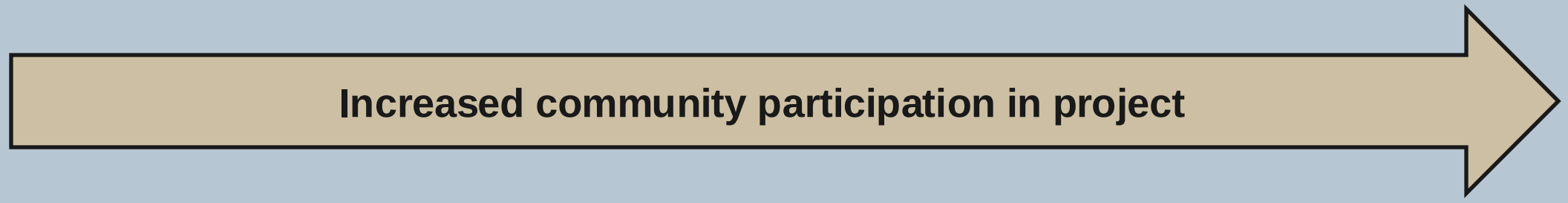
Aim to move towards towards greater community participation

Outreach	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Shared leadership
Processes seek to provide information to communities	Processes seek community input	Community goals and concerns are considered in decisions	Communities are partners that are actively involved in building outcomes	Final decision making occurs at the community level



Examples of methods w/ lesser to greater degrees of participation

Outreach

Fact sheets
Q&A sessions
Websites

Examples of methods w/ lesser to greater degrees of participation

Outreach	Consult
Fact sheets	Town halls
Q&A sessions	Surveys
Websites	Public meetings

Examples of methods w/ lesser to greater degrees of participation

Outreach	Consult	Involve
Fact sheets Q&A sessions Websites	Town halls Surveys Public meetings	Deliberative workshops Deliberative polling

Examples of methods w/ lesser to greater degrees of participation

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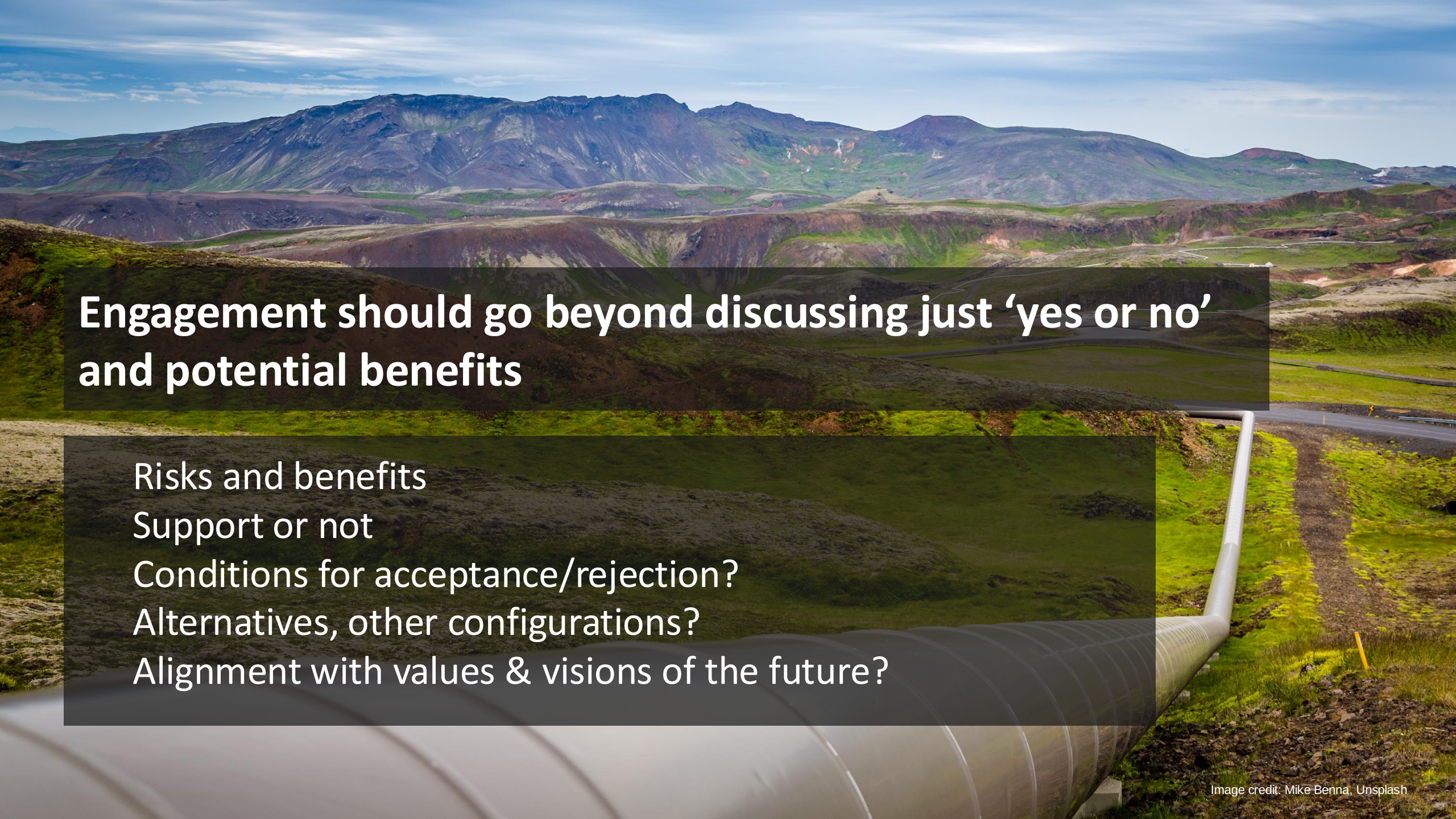

Engagement should go beyond discussing just ‘yes or no’ and potential benefits

Risks and benefits
Support or not
Conditions for acceptance/rejection?
Alternatives, other configurations?
Alignment with values & visions of the future?

Image credit: Mike Benna, Unsplash

Image credit: Sinjin Thomas, Unsplash

Taking a step back: What is wrong with our current approach to community engagement?

- Project-by-project
- Developer-led
- Engagement as a way to push projects through

Image credit: Shane McLendon

Is a different way to do community engagement possible? Necessary?

- **What?** Regional-level body to engage across tech for climate + energy transition
- **Who?** Tap existing (and develop new) regional networks

Engagement as independently led, coordinated effort

Thank you and please be in touch!

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