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Title: Building Better Teams: An Overview of Prosocial for Cooperative Groups and Why It Matters in our Action Against Climate Change

Abstract: Scientists have long predicted the effects of climate change that are having devastating impacts on the safety and well-being of the population on a global scale. Mitigating the effects of climate change requires multi-disciplinary and diverse efforts; scaling up these efforts will require a network of teams to be adaptive, resilient, and work effectively together. Methods based in contextual behavior science, most notably the Prosocial initiative, offer tools of analysis that can help groups identify common values and pinpoint behaviors most critical to gaining optimal outcomes (Ciarrochi, Fisher, & Lane, 2011; Skinner, 1971). The Prosocial method is rooted in robust research from economics, evolutionary theory, and contextual behavior science and aims to facilitate cooperation and equitable sharing of work and community resources (Wilson, Ostrom, & Cox, 2013). Using Acceptance and Commitment Training (Polk, Schoendorff, Webster, & Olaz, 2016) and an analysis of Elinor Ostrom's Core Design Principles (CDPs) for group interaction), this functional blueprint helps groups clarify common purpose, build flexibility, identify actionable goals, and cultivate collaborative relationships for group wellbeing and improved performance of the team (Atkins, 2018). In this talk, we will provide a brief overview of the components of Prosocial and considerations for measurement of these principles to scale up behavior change and collaboration within and across groups. In the interest of proactive growth and resilient response to crisis, adopting evidence-based methods to build effective, cooperative teams is critical to mitigating and adapting to the challenges that climate change presents.