

Collaborative Stewardship Starter & Builder Kit

Resource: Why Assess and Evaluate

In the start-up and building life stages, assessments and evaluations are mostly about learning and course correction, while also beginning to document early results and momentum.

Assessing Pulse for Continuous Learning – Pulse assessments focus on how the collaborative is coming together in real time. They help to:

- Check progress toward early goals, milestones, and basic functioning.
- Spot strengths and gaps in areas such as coordination, governance, communication, and partner engagement.
- Identify capacity needs such as staffing, partner time, technical expertise, or funding.
- Support day-to-day decisions about priorities, roles, and where to focus limited resources.
- Build transparency and trust by clarifying expectations and sharing progress.

Evaluating Impact or Change Over Time – Impact-focused assessments in these stages look at early signs that the collaborative is on the right track. They help to:

- Show improvements in collaboration, trust, and shared ways of working.
- Demonstrate growing capacity and readiness to take on more complex work.
- Document early stewardship wins or pilot outcomes.
- Capture lessons learned that inform future stages and scaling.

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The latest online toolkit is at: <https://calandscapestewardshipnetwork.org/collaborative-toolkit>.