Review of: "Participatory budgeting for public involvement in environmental sustainability at a Thai university"

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Based on a case of participatory budgeting in a Thai university and using thematic coding, the manuscript answers two questions about public involvement: (1) How do participants select projects?, and (2) How do participants feel about the process? The manuscript addresses essential questions and is concise, clear, and to the point. The below-outlined concerns have primarily to do with the implications of the manuscript.

1. I agree that evaluating self-selected PB participants' considerations and reactions is a valuable question. However, it may be helpful to state more explicitly that we cannot be sure that a different (f.e., more representative) sample of participants will select projects in similar ways and feel similarly about the process.

2. Codes are grounded in participants' responses, which is certainly one way to approach the research questions. However, a large body of literature has been accumulated on both motivations for policy selection and feelings about the process. It is perhaps too late to make this a study that tests some pre-specified hypotheses. Still, it may be worth discussing how the findings compare to the results from past research.

3. It would help me if i could get more information on how the coding software operates. For example, how is the optimum number of themes is decided? Some themes appear very related to each other. For example, "budget" and "value, worth" sound about the same to me.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this exciting manuscript!