

Strategic Thinking Tips

- 1. REFLECT.** Make a commitment to slow down and do some focused thinking. One easy way to do this is to schedule a time every day or week to simply spend time thinking. It doesn't have to be at work; it could be driving to work or going for a walk at lunch.
- 2. BROADEN YOUR HORIZONS.** Strategic thinking and curiosity are intrinsically linked. The more ideas and experiences you have, the more insights and connections you can make. Try to read about new ideas or new opinions, or explore new places to help stimulate the mind.
- 3. STEP INTO OTHERS' SHOES.** Discuss your ideas with other people. This is valuable because most likely the people around you think differently from you and can provide alternative perspectives to your ideas. Clients and customers also serve as a good source of inspiration for new ways of thinking.
- 4. ENCOURAGE OTHERS.** The more strategic minds generating ideas in an organization, the better. One effective way to encourage our team members to think strategically is to incorporate strategic thinking into their training and/or performance development plans.
- 5. MAKE DECISIONS.** Strategy is not just about thinking, it is also about executing. Generating ideas is valuable, but it can go to waste if a decision is not made about what to do with them. This is where budgeting, time, money, resources, and prioritizing come into focus.