Agile Practices Help Sheet

Burn Charts

- **Burn Charts** are an extremely powerful tool and are frequently used by Agile teams to asses progress against predictions, identify potential dysfunctions, view scope change trends and highlight any inherit planning risks. Most importantly, they provide a simple yet reliable basis for decision making and course correction.

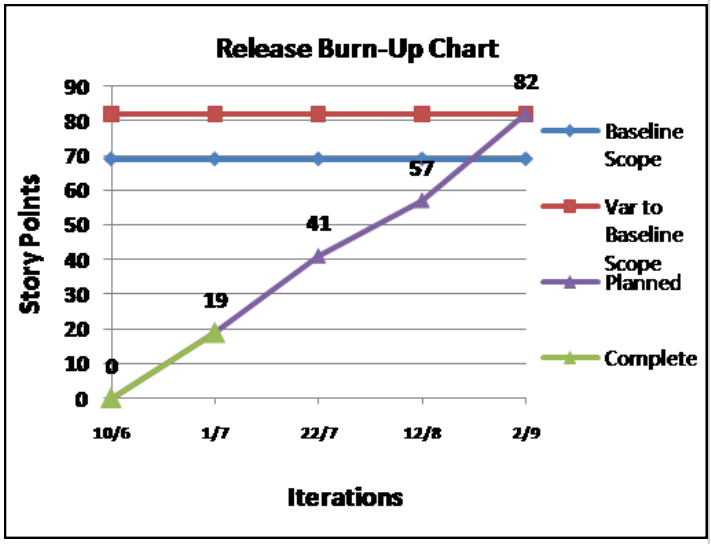
- A **Burn Up Chart** is a specific **B**ig **V**isible **C**hart that is used to show progress for a release or iteration. The horizontal axis represents Time and the vertical axis represents Scope. For a release burn up the horizontal axis is used to represent iterations while for an iteration burn up it is used for days.

- For a **release burn up chart** (*shown*) the team plots the scope of the release, any changes to scope, the planned delivery and the actual delivery. This gives an unambiguous report on when the release scope will be completed.

- Some teams prefer to use **burn down charts**, either direction is fine if the chart is an honest report and used as an *information radiator*.

TIPS:

- Be completely honest and transparent.
- Place the chart next to the story wall.
- Make the chart BIG!
- Make sure the team has a clear "*Definition of Done*" and only update the chart based on what is *"Done"*.



Example of a Iteration Burn up chart

REFERENCE:

- For more information on Big Visible Charts or what the Definition of Done means, make sure you also collect our ***Big Visible Charts*** and ***Definition of Done*** Agile Practice Help Sheets.