

Envision a Sustainable World #SustainOrExplain Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure Washington, D.C. | 202-991-1190 www.sustainableinfrastructure.org



In the aftermath of COVID-19, we need to double down on our commitment to building sustainable and resilient infrastructure. Envision can lead the way forward.

# Sustain it or Explain it

In the aftermath of COVID-19, governments all over the world are turning to the infrastructure industry to rebuild failing economies. That is exciting news for our industry. However, this is also a watershed moment for us— a time to double down on our commitment to designing and delivering sustainable and resilient infrastructure.

If COVID-19 has taught us anything it is that our health and well-being are interconnected with the natural world. To boost economies, protect the environment, and enhance societal health, we must cast aside outdated infrastructure practices and processes that may exacerbate future problems.

With Envision sustainability driving infrastructure forward, we can join forces, work together, and make a difference.

It is time to **sustain it or explain it!** The following are ways that sustainable and resilient infrastructure can mitigate looming risks.

## Safe Water

A staggering number of people around the world do not have safe drinking water or clean water to wash their hands, bathe, wash clothes or cook. And water contamination is leaving many susceptible to illness. Building sustainable and resilient infrastructure is crucial to reducing these adverse issues.

### Water & Food Scarcity

Shortages of water and food threaten human well-being. Delivering sustainable and resilient infrastructure is important to water-related industries and can help overcome ecological barriers.

### Wastewater

In some parts of the world, facial masks and other waste materials are ending up in wastewater systems. Resilient and sustainable infrastructure can address and alleviate these growing threats.



This is a watershed moment. ISI's sincere hope is that communities, owners, and nations concentrate on rebuilding with resiliency and sustainability in mind.

## Clean Energy

Clean energy enhances energy security, lowers the risk of fuel spills, and reduces the need for imported fuels.

Renewable energy also helps conserve the nation's natural resources.

## Carbon Emissions & Air Quality

COVID-19 has resulted in decreased air pollution worldwide, as citizens remain on lockdown. Unfortunately, if we continue designing and building infrastructure using outdated resources, air pollutants will come roaring back.

## **Global Warming**

Warming of the planet is causing a rise in mosquito populations and mosquito-borne diseases, which threaten the health of safety of people everywhere. Building resilient and sustainable infrastructure to protect the natural world can lessen these deleterious effects.

## Deforestation

Some experts believe Zoonotic diseases are related to an increase in deforestation and the subsequent increase in contact between humans and animals. Sustainable infrastructure can have conserving and restorative outcomes.

# **Envision Resilient Indicators**



### **Quality of Life**

Quality of Life addresses a project's impact on host and affected communities, including the health and well-being of individuals and the larger social network.



### **Climate and Resilience**

Amid COVID-19 flights have declined significantly, resulting in lower emissions. It is imperative that when we return to work, we consider ways to keep emissions down.



### **Natural World**

The natural world is irrefutably connected to our health. Global infrastructure projects have important impacts on the natural world around them, including habitats, species, and nonliving natural systems.



#### Leadership

Changing minds cannot happen without people to champion the cause. Project teams who communicate and collaborate can genuinely make a difference.



### **Resource Allocation**

The infrastructure we build today will establish the energy, material efficiencies, water and ecosystem impacts for decades to come. Therefore, whatever we build today needs to shape and reimagine a better tomorrow.