

Envision® for the Water Sector

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Envision | THE BLUEPRINT FOR SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE



The Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure is an education and research nonprofit (a 501c3) based in Washington DC. It was established in 2010 by the American Public Works Association (APWA), the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), and the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC). Responding to the need for a comprehensive sustainability framework and rating system suitable for use in civil infrastructure development, ISI collaborated with the then Zofnass Program for Sustainable Infrastructure at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design to develop Envision.

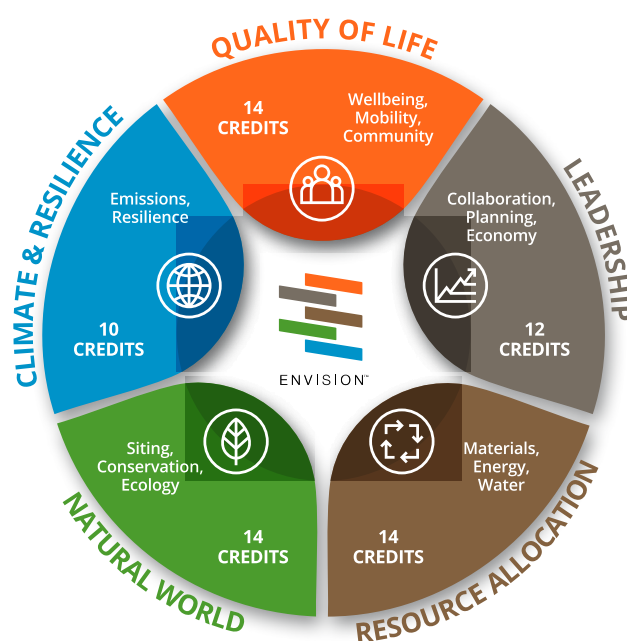
What is Envision?

ENVISION IS A HOLISTIC SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK AND RATING SYSTEM THAT GUIDES AND ASSESSES THE SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE OF ALL TYPES OF INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING WATER PROJECTS.

It is a comprehensive tool created to assist agencies, municipalities, consultants, contractors, and operators, in co-creating and delivering reliable and resilient water infrastructure that can account for climate change, prioritize public health and safety, promote healthy watersheds, and cultivate environmental justice, while emphasizing collaboration and spurring economic benefits. Envision is your organization's playbook to achieve these outcomes via a peer-reviewed scorecard to assess your infrastructure project's impacts and benefits across 64 sustainability indicators organized within five categories of impact.

Envision Helps Address Water Sector Issues

- ✓ Aging Infrastructure
- ✓ Climate Change/Resiliency
- ✓ Community Expectations
- ✓ Water Availability/Access to Water
- ✓ Emergency Preparedness
- ✓ Water Reuse
- ✓ Increasing Regulations
- ✓ Water/Energy Nexus
- ✓ Social Justice & Equity



The Water Sector is a Strong Community of Envision Users

70

Water-related public agencies are
ISI members —municipal, county, state

39%

of projects in the verification program
are water-related

\$51
BILLION

of water-related projects in the verification
program—verified, in review & registered

Feb 2026 data

Envision Application Examples [Find more on ISI's [Envision Policy Map](#)]



City of Richmond, VA, Sustainable Design Standards

Project milestones must include an Envision charrette and project registration during schematic design, Envision design submittal as part of construction documents, and Envision construction submittal upon construction completion.



California Department of Water Resources

Strategic Plan Goals & Actions specific to Envision: Example language from Objective 3 - Implement Sustainability Best Practices: "By 2026, conduct a complete Envision evaluation of all new infrastructure projects that require an Environmental Impact Report."



City of Westminster, CO, Water 2025 Treatment Facility CMAR RFP

RFP states: "The City will be pursuing Envision certification for the project and desires the assistance of the Contractor in meeting the general intent of Envision with regards to a sustainable project."



Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

Design & Construction Standards: The port authority's Sustainable Infrastructure Guidelines specifically call for use of Envision.

Examples of Water Organizations Using Envision

- ✓ California Department of Water Resources
- ✓ City of Atlanta – Department of Watershed Management
- ✓ DCa Water and Sewer Authority
- ✓ East Bay Municipal Utilities District
- ✓ Gwinnett County Dept. of Water Resources
- ✓ Hampton Roads Sanitation District
- ✓ Kansas City Water
- ✓ King County Wastewater Treatment Division
- ✓ Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
- ✓ Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District
- ✓ Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- ✓ NEW Water (Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District)
- ✓ New York City Department of Environmental Protection
- ✓ Ontario Clean Water Agency
- ✓ Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission
- ✓ Prince William Water
- ✓ Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority
- ✓ Tarrant Regional Water District
- ✓ The Philadelphia Water Department
- ✓ Western Virginia Water Authority

The Value of Envision

Envision provides **enhanced transparency and credibility** for your projects and their sustainability outcomes through third-party auditing and verification.

Envision **demonstrates good governance that instills confidence** in voters, taxpayers, and/or ratepayers that project funds are being spent in their best interest while contributing to local, regional, and global sustainability.

Envision provides a **holistic approach** for addressing a wide range of social, economic, and environmental indicators to promote community well-being and cohesion.

From inception of Denver Water's **Northwater Treatment Plant (NTP)**, sustainability was a primary objective, along with modularity, quality, safety, and ease of maintenance, among others. Pursuing Envision verification was one of the means set out by the project's executive sponsors and project management team to validate the project's sustainability achievement.



"The Envision guidance provided by our design and sustainability consultant, AECOM, combined with a talented team of engineers and architects from multiple local firms, really pushed our team to make smart decisions and enhance the project's sustainability in impressive ways."

JILL CROCKETT, PROJECT MANAGER, JACOBS

The 140-acre **Bee Ridge Water Reclamation Facility (BRWRF)** is being transformed into a state-of-the-art water reclamation facility, which will increase treatment capacity by 50%, while implementing advanced wastewater treatment technologies. The project was driven by a community-wide commitment to improve water quality in response to harmful red tide events that had significantly impacted Sarasota County's waterways and coastal areas.



"Sarasota County's achievement of Envision Gold highlights their pioneering approach to sustainable infrastructure development. This project goes beyond expanding capacity; it sets a new benchmark for sustainable water management and environmental stewardship. It exemplifies how innovative engineering and a commitment to sustainability can create a facility that meets current demands and paves the way for a resilient and adaptive water future for decades to come."

JODY BARKSDALE, CAROLLO PROJECT MANAGER

The **Eastern Regional Infrastructure Project** addresses critical community needs related to water, sewer, and trail infrastructure. The new sewer infrastructure allows for future decommissioning of several wastewater pump stations, improving overall efficiency while also improving system resilience. The new five-mile trail system is co-located with the gravity sewer line, effectively integrating civil infrastructure with a community recreation asset.



"The Eastern Regional Infrastructure project serves as the foundation for smart, environmentally conscious growth in eastern Gwinnett. We're proud to be recognized with Envision verification for this project, which demonstrates our commitment to innovative solutions that benefit both our residents and the environment. By providing essential infrastructure and promoting smart growth, we're cultivating a vibrant and sustainable community for generations to come."

NICOLE LOVE HENDRICKSON, GWINNETT COUNTY CHAIRWOMAN

Is Envision Right for your Organization?



Does your organization have strategic sustainability or resilience goals?



Do key issues facing your organization include increasing regulations, climate action and resilience, water availability and reliability, emergency preparedness, and aging infrastructure?



Do your stakeholders have expectations about sustainability, diversity, and social and environmental justice?

Interested in learning more?

Visit sustainableinfrastructure.org/next-steps or scan the QR Code for more information and ways to engage.

- ✓ Learn about ISI membership benefits
- ✓ Explore training opportunities
- ✓ Find information on making projects more sustainable and resilient

