

ENVISION ACADEMIC GRANTS Advancing Sustainability in Higher Education through application of the Envision Framework



ACADEMIC GRANT APPLICATION 2026/2027

Overview

This initiative supports faculty engaged in sustainability-focused teaching and research, who incorporate the Envision Sustainable Infrastructure Framework developed by the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI) to guide and evaluate their work. Participants will receive a \$5,000 grant, professional development through ENV SP credential training, and opportunities to advance best practices in sustainable infrastructure and systems thinking across the curriculum. This award is intended as a fixed-amount project award. Funds are provided without allowance to institutional overhead.

As the climate and social equity challenges intensify, academia plays a critical role in preparing future engineers, planners, scientists, and policymakers to design resilient, sustainable infrastructure. Integrating Envision into coursework and research equips students with the tools needed to meet these challenges.

INITIATIVE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Primary goal: To support sustainability in higher education through the integration of the Envision framework into academic research and course content.

Specific objectives:

- Support faculty in incorporating Envision principles into existing and new courses.
- Encourage research projects that align with the Envision framework.
- Promote interdisciplinary collaboration centered on sustainability.
- Provide resources and training to deepen faculty understanding of Envision.

Benefits

- **Faculty Grants:** \$5,000 fixed-amount per project award to revise and/or develop courses and/or conduct research aligned with Envision. Funds are provided without allowance to institutional overhead.
- **Workshops and Training:** Credits to pursue the ENV SP credential.
- **Peer Learning Cohort:** Faculty recipients will participate in meetings to share progress, challenges, and resources.
- **Public Presentation:** Recipients will be encouraged to showcase their projects and student outcomes applying the Envision Framework at relevant conferences, including but not limited to ASEE and ISI.

Schedule

November 2026

Grant notifications

Winter 2026

Envision training workshop;
implementation of funded
courses/research

Spring 2027

Ongoing cohort meetings;
mid-point check-in

Fall-Winter 2027

Initiative wrap-up;
ISI Conference;
assessment report

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.



Envision is a holistic sustainability framework and rating system that guides and assesses the sustainability and resilience of all types of infrastructure. It is a comprehensive tool created to assist agencies, municipalities, consultants, contractors, and operators, in planning, designing, and delivering more sustainable infrastructure projects. The Envision framework is a decision-making tool that allows project teams to evaluate projects across a broad range of sustainability indicators, or "credits," that address environmental, social, and economic dimensions of sustainability to encourage systemic change. At its core, Envision is about supporting higher performance through better choices in infrastructure development.



Questions and Inquiries

Leslie Brunell

Education Director

(Brunell@sustainableinfrastructure.org)



Application Deadline:
September 25, 2026



Application Submittal:

Email completed application to
academic@sustainableinfrastructure.org

This project is a highly focused initiative on the application of the Envision framework within curriculum and research. The \$5,000 budget consists solely of direct, project-specific expenses including travel and registration to relevant conferences where the work will be presented. It does not generate or benefit from institutional overhead expenses, and therefore, no indirect costs are included in this budget request.

This initiative aims to strengthen ISI's engagement with the academic sector by supporting the application of the Envision framework in education and research. It seeks to build academic leadership across disciplines and reinforce ISI's commitment to advancing sustainable infrastructure education.

APPLICATION

Project Title _____

Institution

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State/Province _____ Country _____

Applicant(s)

Name _____

Email _____ Do you have an ISI Account? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Phone No. _____ Are you an ENV SP? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Name _____

Email _____ Do you have an ISI Account? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Phone No. _____ Are you an ENV SP? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Name _____

Email _____ Do you have an ISI Account? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Phone No. _____ Are you an ENV SP? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Signature

Type Name:

Date

- 1. Please describe your understanding of the Envision framework and give one or more examples of the way you currently use or plan to use it in your research and teaching. (1000 words max)**

2. How will you and/or your institution integrate Envision into the curricula? Feel free to include information about specific programs of study (i.e. majors, minors) and the courses offered that emphasize sustainability.

3. How will you engage institutional leadership to support your efforts? (600 words max)

- 4. How will the proposed addition of the Envision framework impact the students? Will other members of your institution be impacted? (600 words max)**

5. If applicable, do you anticipate an alignment with ABET criteria for your program? Provide some information on how the Envision framework will help address ABET criteria, include any anticipated indirect and direct assessments. (1000 words max)