Envision™ was developed in joint collaboration between the Zofnass Program for Sustainable Infrastructure at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design and the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure.

The Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure is a not-for-profit education and research organization founded by the American Public Works Association, the American Council of Engineering Companies and the American Society of Civil Engineers.
The Importance of Infrastructure

Planet Earth is a dangerous Place for Humans

Infrastructure provides:

• A measure of security

• A basis for Public Health

• A quality of Life Worth Living
The Realities of the World in Which We Live

- Population Growth
- Diminished Resources
- Climate Change
- Adaptation
A New Fact of Life...

It is no longer enough that infrastructure work, that it be constructed on time and within budget...or even that it last...it now must be SUSTAINABLE.
What do we mean by “Sustainable”?  

“...to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987
What is Envision?

Envision is a tool, which itself is part of a system, to help us evaluate the sustainability of civil infrastructure.

That system includes:

• A self assessment checklist

• The Envision Rating Tool

• A credential program for individuals

• A Project Evaluation and Verification Program

• A Recognition Program for Sustainable Infrastructure
What Makes Envision Unique?

- It applies to civil infrastructure
- It includes design, planning, construction and maintenance elements
- It is applicable at any point in an infrastructure project's life cycle
- It speaks to the triple bottom line: social, economic and environmental goals
- It is designed to keep pace with a changing concept of sustainability
Metrics Matter...

- Envision measures out comes, not intentions
- Five areas of achievement; 60 credits
- The business case for sustainability...why it is important
Five Levels of Achievement

- Improved - *Performance that is at/ above conventional*
- Enhanced - *Indications that superior performance is within reach.*
- Superior - *Sustainable performance that is noteworthy.*
- Conserving - *Performance that has achieved essentially zero impact.*
- Restorative - *Performance that restores natural or social systems.*
What types of infrastructure will Envision rate?

INFRASTRUCTURE CATEGORIES

- **ENERGY**
  - geothermal
  - hydroelectric
  - nuclear
  - coal
  - natural gas
  - oil/refinery
  - wind
  - solar
  - biomass
  - other

- **WATER**
  - potable water distribution
  - capture and storage
  - water reuse
  - stormwater management
  - flood control
  - other

- **WASTE**
  - solid waste
  - recycling
  - hazardous waste collection and transfer
  - other

- **TRANSPORTATION**
  - airports
  - roads/highways
  - bike/pedestrians
  - railways
  - public transit
  - ports
  - waterways
  - other

- **LANDSCAPE**
  - public realm
  - parks
  - ecosystem services
  - other

- **INFORMATION**
  - telecommunications
  - internet/phones
  - satellites
  - data centers
  - sensors
  - other
How will Envision improve sustainability?

- Team Chartering
- Understand/Integrate Community Needs
- Deliver as Part of Owner Organization
- Partner with Regulators

- Technology Advancement
- Performance Goals

- Whole System Design
- Reduce, reuse, recycle
- Phased development
- Adaptive
- Post-life
Envision Framework
A set of 60 criteria grouped in 5 categories by which infrastructure sustainability is measured.

Envision Tools
The criteria and organization of the envision framework are applied in different forms (tools), for different purposes, depending on the need.

**Checklist:** The checklist uses the 60 criteria to introduce sustainability principles at an early stage in the project. Checklist questions guide users in understanding important considerations that should be addressed early in a project without the commitment of detailed documentation. The checklist can also prepare users for the more detailed requirements in the Assessment Tool should they choose to pursue a rating.

**Assessment:** Uses the 60 criteria to measure improvement over a benchmark across the four phases of a project's life. The criteria take on different priorities and relative importance depending on the phase and their impacts. Each phase assessment relates directly to all the others in order to present a holistic view of the project. Assessments are conducted at the conclusion of each phase. The purpose of the Assessment Tool is to reward effort and improved performance toward overall sustainability. It results in an Assessment Rating.

**Audit:** Uses objective indicators connected to the 60 criteria. Indicator data is interpreted by comparing to projects of similar type, scale, and in similar context. Projects can rank themselves in terms of a percentile from the collected database of information. The Audit Tool is intended to give users an unbiased view of where a project falls in the sustainability continuum, indentifying where it is superior or deficient. It does not reward by effort or improvement it assesses only results.
1 PURPOSE
QL1.1 Improve Community Quality of Life
QL1.2 Stimulate Sustainable Growth & Development
QL1.3 Develop Local Skills & Capabilities

2 WELLBEING
QL2.1 Enhance Public Health & Safety
QL2.2 Minimize Noise & Vibration
QL2.3 Minimize Light Pollution
QL2.4 Improve Community Mobility & Access
QL2.5 Encourage Alternative Modes of Transportation
QL2.6 Improve Accessibility, Safety, & Wayfinding

3 COMMUNITY
QL3.1 Preserve Historic & Cultural Resources
QL3.2 Preserve Views & Local Character
QL3.3 Enhance Public Space
QL0.0 Innovate or Exceed Credit Requirements

1 COLLABORATION
LD1.1 Provide Effective Leadership & Commitment
LD1.2 Establish A Sustainability Management System
LD1.3 Foster Collaboration & Teamwork
LD1.4 Provide for Stakeholder Involvement

1 MATERIALS
RA1.1 Reduce Net Embodied Energy
RA1.2 Support Sustainable Procurement Practices
RA1.3 Use Recycled Materials
RA1.4 Use Regional Materials
RA1.5 Divert Waste From Landfills
RA1.6 Reduce Excavated Materials Taken Off Site
RA1.7 Provide For Deconstruction & Recycling

2 ENERGY
RA2.1 Reduce Energy Consumption
RA2.2 Use Renewable Energy
RA2.3 Commission & Monitor Energy Systems

3 WATER
RA3.1 Protect Fresh Water Availability
RA3.2 Reduce Potable Water Consumption
RA3.3 Monitor Water Systems
RA0.0 Innovate or Exceed Credit Requirements

3 BIODIVERSITY
NW3.1 Preserve Species Biodiversity
NW3.2 Control Invasive Species
NW3.3 Restore Disturbed Soils
NW3.4 Maintain Wetland & Surface Water Functions
NW0.0 Innovate or Exceed Credit Requirements

1 SITING
NW1.1 Preserve Prime Habitat
NW1.2 Protect Wetlands & Surface Water
NW1.3 Preserve Prime Farmland
NW1.4 Avoid Adverse Geology
NW1.5 Preserve Floodplain Functions
NW1.6 Avoid Unsuitable Development on Steep Slopes
NW1.7 Preserve Greenfields

2 RESILIENCE
CR2.1 Assess Climate Threat
CR2.2 Avoid Traps & Vulnerabilities
CR2.3 Prepare For Long-Term Adaptability
CR2.4 Prepare For Short-Term Hazards
CR2.5 Manage Heat Island Effects
CR0.0 Innovate or Exceed Credit Requirements

2 LAND + WATER
NW2.1 Manage Stormwater
NW2.2 Reduce Pesticide & Fertilizer Impacts
NW2.3 Prevent Surface & Groundwater Contamination

1 EMISSIONS
CR1.1 Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions
CR1.2 Reduce Air Pollutant Emissions

The Envision Rating System
QUALITY OF LIFE

13 Credits

Does the project preserve and enhance local resources?

Does the project help the surrounding community grow and develop?

Does the project make a minimal negative impact on the surrounding community?

Are there health risks for employees or nearby residents?

Is the project located near public transportation?

Are local residents employed?
1 PURPOSE

QL1.1 Improve Community Quality of Life
QL1.2 Stimulate Sustainable Growth and Development
QL1.3 Develop Local Skills and Capabilities

2 WELLBEING

QL2.1 Enhance Public Health and Safety
QL2.2 Minimize Noise and Vibration
QL2.3 Minimize Light Pollution
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QL2.6 Improve Accessibility, Safety & Wayfinding

3 COMMUNITY

QL3.1 Preserve Historic and Cultural Resources
QL3.2 Preserve Views and Local Character
QL3.3 Enhance Public Space

QL0.0 Innovate or Exceed Credit Requirements
LEADERSHIP

10 Credits

DOES THE PROJECT PURSUE SYNERGIES WITH BOTH PRODUCTS AND OTHER SYSTEMS?

ARE ALL STAKEHOLDERS ADEQUATELY INVOLVED?

DOES THE PROJECT PLAN FOR LONG-TERM MONITORING AND MAINTENANCE?

IS THERE A SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN PLACE?

HOW LONG IS THE USEFUL LIFE OF THE SYSTEM?
1 COLLABORATION

LD1.1  Provide Effective Leadership & Commitment
LD1.2  Establish a Sustainability Management System
LD1.3  Foster Collaboration and Teamwork
LD1.4  Provide for Stakeholder Involvement

2 MANAGEMENT

LD2.1  Pursue By-Product Synergy Opportunities
LD2.2  Improve Infrastructure Integration

3 PLANNING

LD3.1  Plan Long-Term Maintenance and Monitoring
LD3.2  Address Conflicting Regulations and Policies
LD3.3  Extend Useful Life

LD0.0  Innovate or Exceed Credit Requirements
RESOURCES ALLOCATION

14 Credits

Does the project minimize the use of fossil-fuel based energy?

Does the project utilize local materials?

How is waste from the project handled?

Does the project use sustainable materials, such as recycled, reused, or certified materials?

Does the project consider the life cycle of the materials used, and plan for their end-of-life?

Does the project protect freshwater availability by minimizing its potable water use?
1 MATERIALS

RA1.1 Reduce Net Embodied Energy
RA1.2 Support Sustainable Procurement Practices
RA1.3 Use Recycled Materials
RA1.4 Use Regional Materials
RA1.5 Divert Waste from Landfills
RA1.6 Reduce Excavated Materials Taken Off Site
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NW3.4 Maintain Wetland and Surface Water Functions
NW0.0 Innovate or Exceed Credit Requirements
The Envision Rating System

CLIMATE AND RISK
8 Credits

DOES THE PROJECT MINIMIZE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS?

DOES THE PROJECT REDUCE AIR POLLUTANT EMISSIONS?

DOES THE PROJECT MANAGE HEAT ISLANDS?

DOES THE PROJECT PREPARE FOR SHORT-TERM HAZARDS?

DOES THE PROJECT PREPARE FOR LONG-TERM ADAPTABILITY?
1 EMISSIONS
CR1.1 Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions
CR1.2 Reduce Air Pollutant Emissions

2 RESILIENCE
CR2.1 Assess Climate Threat
CR2.2 Avoid Traps and Vulnerabilities
CR2.3 Prepare For Long-Term Adaptability
CR2.4 Prepare for Short-Term Hazards
CR2.5 Manage Heat Island Effects

CR0.0 Innovate or Exceed Credit Requirements
## QL1.1 IMPROVE COMMUNITY QUALITY OF LIFE

**INTENT:**

Improve the net quality of life of all communities affected by the project and mitigate negative impacts to communities.

### LEVELS OF ACHIEVEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IMPROVED</th>
<th>ENHANCED</th>
<th>SUPERIOR</th>
<th>CONSERVING</th>
<th>RESTORATIVE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(2) Internal ties, e.g., local communities, owners of the property, and decision-makers are regularly consulted. The project's impact on the community is monitored and feedback is obtained.</td>
<td>(3) Community involvement, e.g., local communities, owners of the property, and decision-makers are regularly consulted and feedback is obtained in a structured manner.</td>
<td>(4) Broad community alignment, e.g., local communities, owners of the property, and decision-makers are actively involved and the project's impact on the community is monitored and feedback is obtained in a structured manner.</td>
<td>(5) Holistic assessment and collaboration, e.g., local communities, owners of the property, and decision-makers are actively involved and the project's impact on the community is monitored and feedback is obtained in a structured manner.</td>
<td>(6) Community ownership, e.g., local communities, owners of the property, and decision-makers are actively involved and the project's impact on the community is monitored and feedback is obtained in a structured manner.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### DESCRIPTION

This credit addresses the extent to which the project contributes to the quality of life of the host community: the community in which the constructed works is situated and affected. This determination is based on what the project team has identified and assessed community needs, goals and objectives, and incorporated them into the project. Relevant community plans are assumed to be a valid expression of these needs, goals, objectives, and aspirations. In a real sense, they are the community's expression of their desired quality of life.

Communications with community stakeholders are essential to fulfill and improve the assessment. The project team works closely with community representatives and stakeholders to identify and address issues and concerns. When operational, the constructed works is expected to contribute to the efficiency and effectiveness of community infrastructure, while having minimal impact on the environment. Its benefits should be such as to be equitably distributed throughout the community.

A project designed to improve community quality of life may have adverse effects on others. The purpose of this credit is to evaluate projects that provide significant benefits to affected communities, as well as reduce or eliminate negative impacts. Positive effects or important dimensions of performance may not be practical.

### ADVANCING TO HIGHER ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS

Benchmarks: The project team may have individual and institutional community plans, looking for possible project local benefits. The project complies with local regulations and policies for stakeholders involvement. Performance improvement: Given increased attention to community needs, goals, plans and their relation to the project, increases the thoroughness and participation by which community needs and plans are incorporated into the project. To achieve additional consideration to existing conditions and look for opportunities to enhance community assets. Achieving strong engagement by stakeholders and community leaders.

### EVALUATION CRITERIA AND DOCUMENTATION

A. Has the project team identified and taken into account community needs, goals, plans and issues?
   1. List and examples of documents obtained and reviewed, minutes of meetings with key stakeholders, community leaders and decision-makers, interviews and memos.
   2. Has the project team sought to align the project and goals to the needs and goals of the host and affected communities as well as additional potential adverse impacts?

### SOURCES

- Adapted from The Sustainable Sites Initiative: Guidelines and Performance Benchmarks 2009, Credit 6.1, Promote equitable site development, Credit 6.2, Promote equitable site use.

### RELATED CREDITS

QL1.2 Stimulate Sustainable Growth and Development
QL1.3 Develop Local Skills and Capabilities
QL1.4 Provide for Meaningful Stakeholder Involvement
The Complete Package

Phase Toolkits

Pre-Assessment Checklist

Recognition Assessment

Companion Tools

The Envision Rating System
Building Tomorrow's Infrastructure Today

envison™ Rating System

Join ISI

What Would You Like to Do Today?

- Join ISI
- Learn more about sustainable infrastructure
- Learn About the New Rating System
- Login to download and comment
- Ask a Question

Latest Industry News:

- Release of Envision™ on Monday, January 16, 2012...details
- New Appointed National Chair of ISI Accreditation Committee...details
- ISI and Infrastructure Program for Sustainable Infrastructure at Harvard Establish Partnership...details
- Scoring Modules Added for Stages One and Two...details
- Garnett Fleming Latest ISI Charter Member...details
- ISI Rating Tool Now Available for Public Comment...details
- Parsons Named First Chairman of the Institute for

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Email: info@sustainableinfrastructure.org
www.sustainableinfrastructure.org

www.sustainableinfrastructure.org
Envision™ Sustainable Infrastructure Rating System

"Prairie Waters Project"

Envision™ Stage 2 User's Guide

The Envision™ Sustainable Infrastructure Rating System is an objective framework of criteria and performance achievements. It is designed to help users identify ways in which sustainable approaches can be used to plan, design, construct and operate infrastructure projects. The goal is to improve the sustainable performance of infrastructure projects in terms of not only the technical performance but also from a social, environmental and economic perspective. Envision™ provides an opportunity for infrastructure owners and designers to provide higher performing solutions by using a lifecycle approach, by working with communities and by using a restorative approach to infrastructure projects.

The rating system includes a matrix calculator of objectives and performance levels along with associated Guidance documents, references, glossaries and case studies that illustrate practical applications where sustainability performance has been enhanced.

Envision™ Stage 2 Instructions

The Envision™ Sustainable Infrastructure Rating System, Version 2.0, Stage 2, (Envision™ Stage 2) is designed to help users consider the array of objectives that enhance the sustainability performance of an infrastructure project. Consideration of those objectives is measured against a ranking of increasing sustainable achievements that will develop a numeric indicator of overall performance.

The Envision™ Stage 2 toolkit (released for public use in January, 2012) is designed primarily for use in the assessment of infrastructure projects during the design and planning phase.
Input Portal:

Envision™ Sustainable Infrastructure Rating System

“Prairie Waters Project”

Section Menu

Please click on the links to take you to the relevant sections:
### Scoring Module:

#### Envision™ Sustainable Infrastructure Rating System

**Prairie Waters Project**

**Section 1: QUALITY OF LIFE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>QL.1: Improve community quality of life. Improve the net quality of life of all communities affected by the project and mitigate negative impacts to communities.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Improved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QL.2: Stimulate sustainable growth and development. Support and stimulate sustainable growth and development, including improvements in job growth, capacity building, productivity, business attractiveness and liveability.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Improved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QL.3: Develop local skills and capabilities. Expand the knowledge, skills and capacity of the community workforce to improve their ability to grow and develop.</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### QL1.1 IMPROVE COMMUNITY QUALITY OF LIFE

**INTENT:**
Improve the net quality of life of all communities affected by the project and mitigate negative impacts to communities.

**METRIC:**
Measures taken to assess community needs and improve quality of life while minimizing negative impacts.

### LEVELS OF ACHIEVEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IMPROVED</th>
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<th>SUPERIOR</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internal focus. The project team has located and reviewed the most</td>
<td>Community linkages. More substantive efforts to locate, review, assess</td>
<td>Broad community alignment. All relevant community plans are reviewed and</td>
<td>Holistic assessment and collaboration. The project makes a net positive</td>
<td>Community renaissance. Through rehabilitation of important community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>recent and relevant community planning information. Some, but not</td>
<td>and incorporate the needs, goals and plans of the host community into the</td>
<td>verified through stakeholder input. The project team works to achieve</td>
<td>contribution to the quality of life of the host and nearby affected</td>
<td>assets, upgraded and extended access, increased safety, improved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>systematic outreach to stakeholders and decision makers has taken place.</td>
<td>project or the host community are reduced or eliminated. Key stakeholders</td>
<td>good project alignment with community plans, recognizing that the scope</td>
<td>communities. The project team makes a holistic assessment of community</td>
<td>environmental quality and additional infrastructure capacity, the project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some relatively easy, but not particularly important or</td>
<td>are involved in the project decision-making process. (A, B, C)</td>
<td>of the project is a limiting factor. Potential negative impacts on nearby</td>
<td>needs, goals and plans, incorporating meaningful stakeholder input. Project</td>
<td>substantially reinvigorates the host and nearby communities. Working in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meaningful changes made to the project. No significant adverse</td>
<td>(5) Community linkages.</td>
<td>affected communities are reduced or eliminated. (A, B, C)</td>
<td>meets or exceeds important identified community needs and long-term</td>
<td>genuine collaboration with stakeholders and community decision-makers, the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>community effects are caused by the project (A, B, C)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>requirements for sustainability. Remaining adverse impacts are minimal,</td>
<td>project scope the project in a way that elevates community awareness and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Internal focus. The project team has located and reviewed the most</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>mostly accepted as reasonable tradeoffs for benefits achieved. The project</td>
<td>pride. Overall quality of life in these communities is markedly elevated. (A,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>community planning information. Some, but not systematic outreach to</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>has broad community endorsement. (A, B, C)</td>
<td>B, C, D)</td>
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<td>stakeholders and decision makers has taken place. Some relatively easy,</td>
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<td>(20) Holistic assessment and collaboration. The project makes a net</td>
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<td>but not particularly important or meaningful changes made to the</td>
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<td></td>
<td>positive contribution to the quality of life of the host and nearby</td>
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<td></td>
<td>affected communities. The project team makes a holistic assessment of</td>
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<td>community needs, goals and plans, incorporating meaningful stakeholder</td>
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<td>input. Project meets or exceeds important identified community needs and</td>
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<td>long-term requirements for sustainability. Remaining adverse impacts are</td>
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<td>minimal, mostly accepted as reasonable tradeoffs for benefits achieved.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>The project has broad community endorsement. (A, B, C)</td>
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<tr>
<td>the project. No significant adverse community effects are caused by</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(25) Community renaissance. Through rehabilitation of important community</td>
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<td>the project (A, B, C)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>assets, upgraded and extended access, increased safety, improved</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(A, B, C, D)</td>
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Scoring Summary

"Prairie Waters Project"

Section Totals Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Maximum Possible Score</th>
<th>Section Points</th>
<th>Innovation Points</th>
<th>Total Points Earned</th>
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<tr>
<td>QL</td>
<td>155</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>LD</td>
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<td>CR</td>
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<td>Total Project Points</td>
<td>783</td>
<td>108</td>
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<td>122</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Envision™ Section Scores

- QL: 155
- LD: 121
- RA: 182
- NW: 203
- CR: 122

Section 1 choices updated.
### Envision™ Sustainable Infrastructure Rating System

**Prairie Waters Project**

Report (All Sections)

See only Notes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section and Objective Numbers</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Required/Applicable?</th>
<th>Level Of Achievement</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Max Available Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>QL.1.1 Quality of Life</td>
<td><strong>Improve community quality of life.</strong> Improve the net quality of life of all communities affected by the project and mitigate negative impacts to communities.</td>
<td>REQUIRED</td>
<td>Improved</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QL.1.2</td>
<td><strong>Stimulate sustainable growth and development.</strong> Support and stimulate sustainable growth and development, including improvements in job growth, capacity building, productivity, business attractiveness and livability.</td>
<td>REQUIRED</td>
<td>Improved</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QL.1.3</td>
<td><strong>Develop local skills and capabilities.</strong> Expand the knowledge, skills and capacity of the community workforce to improve their ability to grow and develop.</td>
<td><strong>EXCLUDE</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For Further Information

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