

The **ENVISION™** Rating System





ZOFNASS PROGRAM
FOR SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE
Graduate School of Design
Harvard University

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:

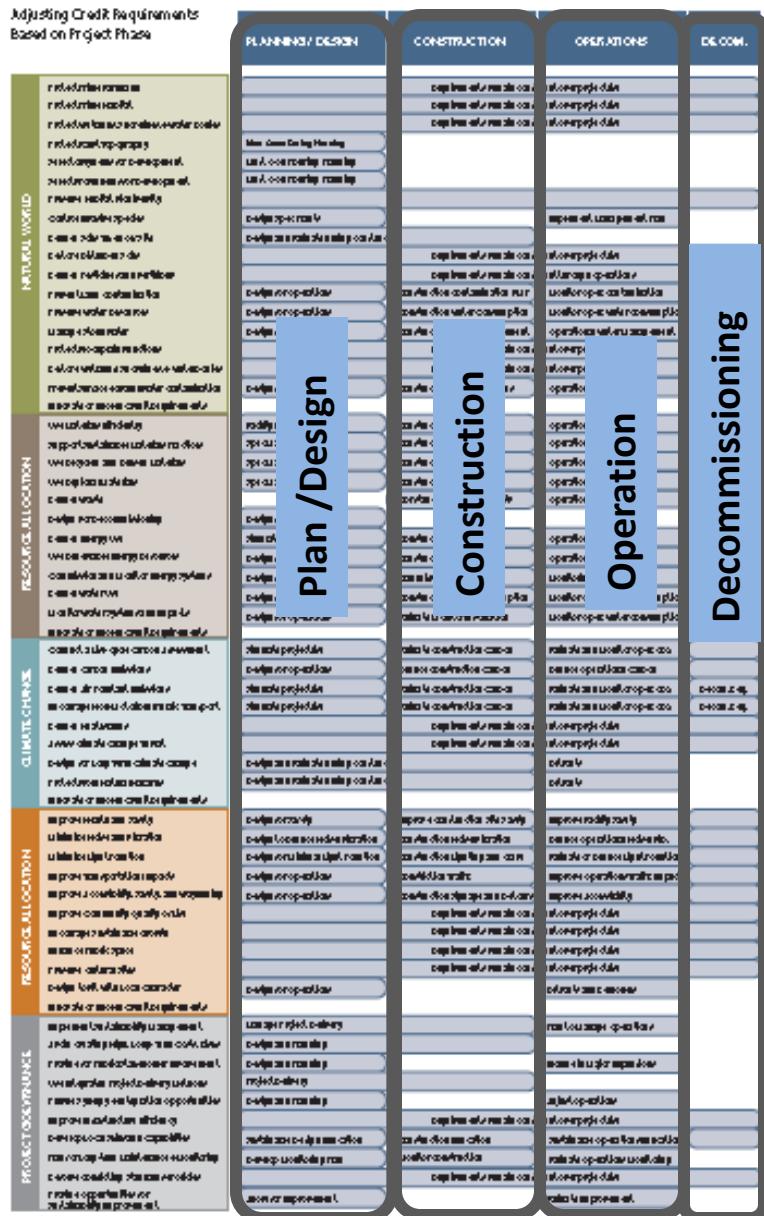
- A self assessment checklist
- The Envision Rating Tool
- A credential program for individuals
- A Project Evaluation and Verification Program
- A Recognition Program for Sustainable Infrastructure

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 outcomes, not intentions
- Five areas of achievement; 60 credits
- The business case for sustainability...why it is important

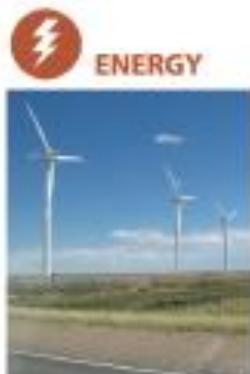


Five Levels of Achievement

- 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



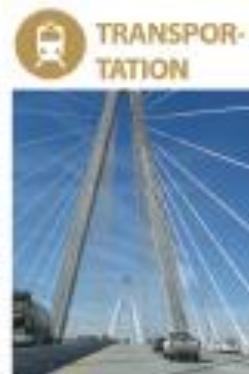
ENERGY



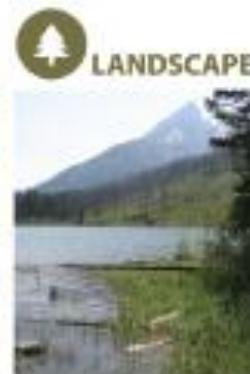
WATER



WASTE



TRANSPORTATION



LANDSCAPE



INFORMATION

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

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

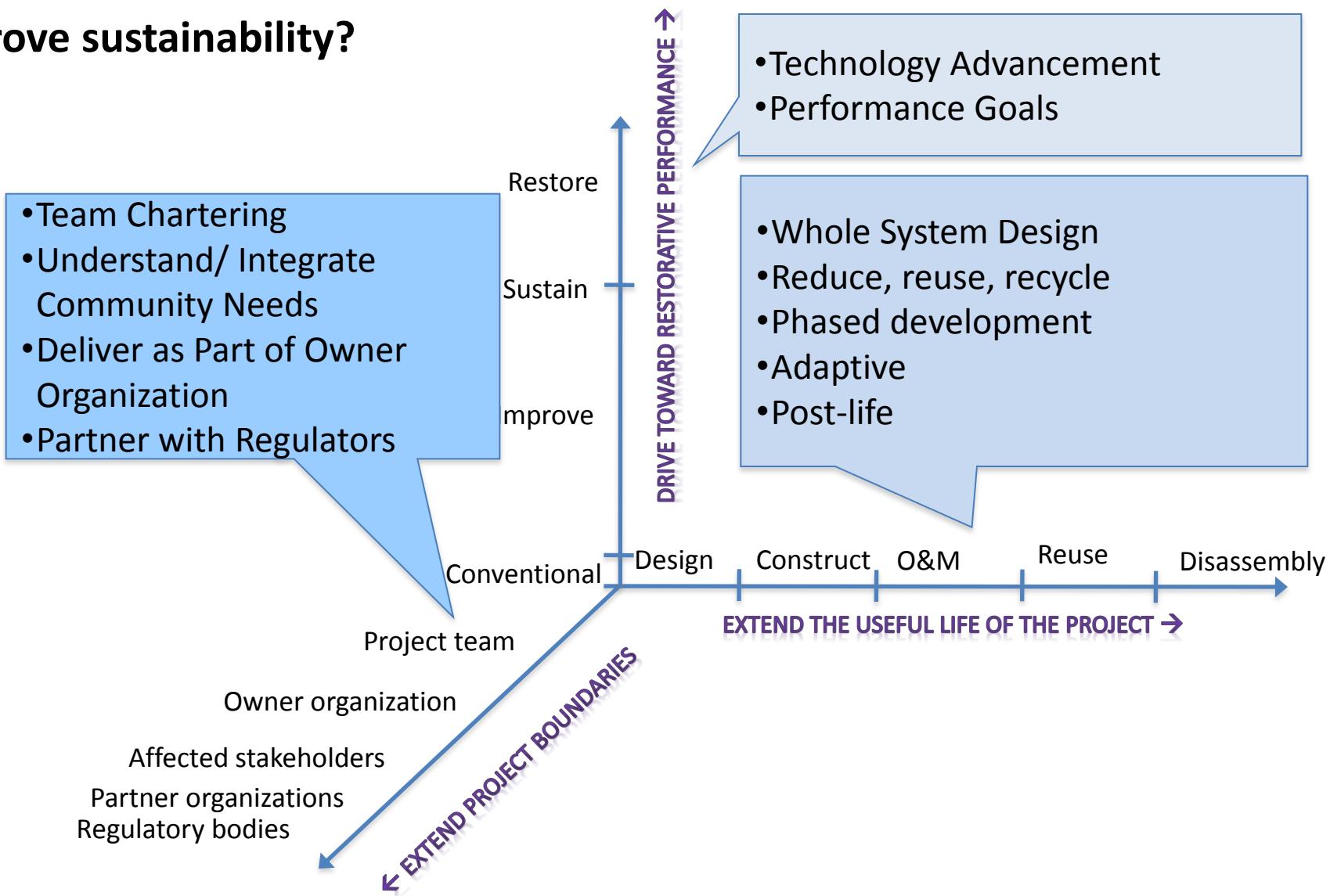
solid waste
recycling
hazardous waste
collection and transfer
other

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

public realm
parks
ecosystem services
other

telecommunications
internet /phones
satellites
data centers
sensors
other

How will Envision improve sustainability?



Envision

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.



QUALITY OF LIFE

13 Credits



LEADERSHIP

10 Credits



RESOURCE ALLOCATION

14 Credits



NATURAL WORLD

15 Credits



CLIMATE AND RISK

8 Credits

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 and 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

2 MANAGEMENT

LD2.1 Pursue By-Product Synergy Opportunities

LD2.2 Improve Infrastructure Integration

3 PLANNING

LD3.1 Plan For Long-Term Monitoring & Maintenance

LD3.2 Address Conflicting Regulations & Policies

LD3.3 Extend Useful Life

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

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 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

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 Requirement

3 BIODIVERSITY

NW3.1 Preserve Species Biodiversity

NW3.2 Control Invasive Species

NW3.3 Restore Disturbed Soils

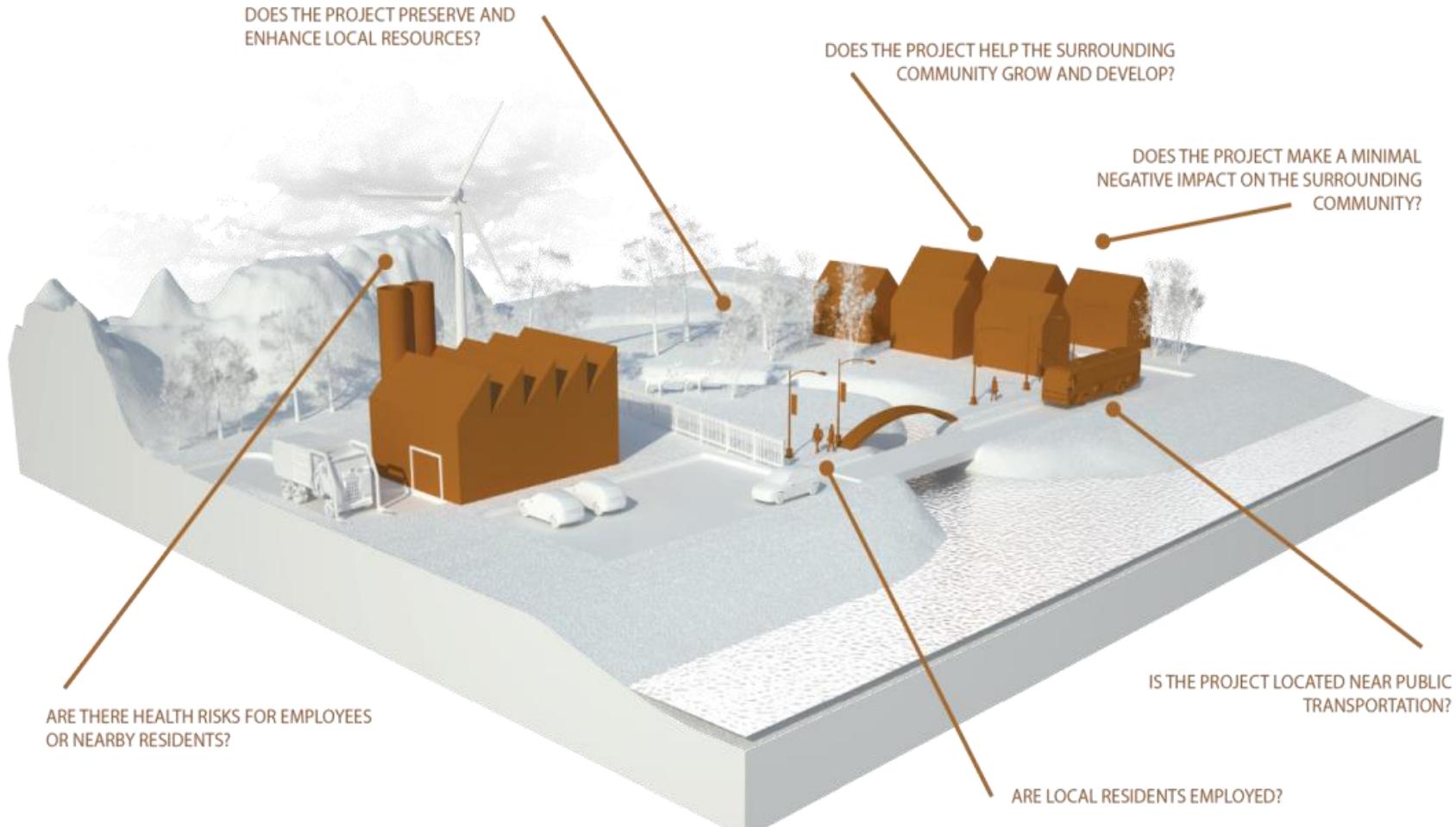
NW3.4 Maintain Wetland & Surface Water Functions

NW0.0 Innovate or Exceed Credit Requirements



QUALITY OF LIFE

13 Credits



1 PURPOSE

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



**QUALITY
OF LIFE**
13 Credits

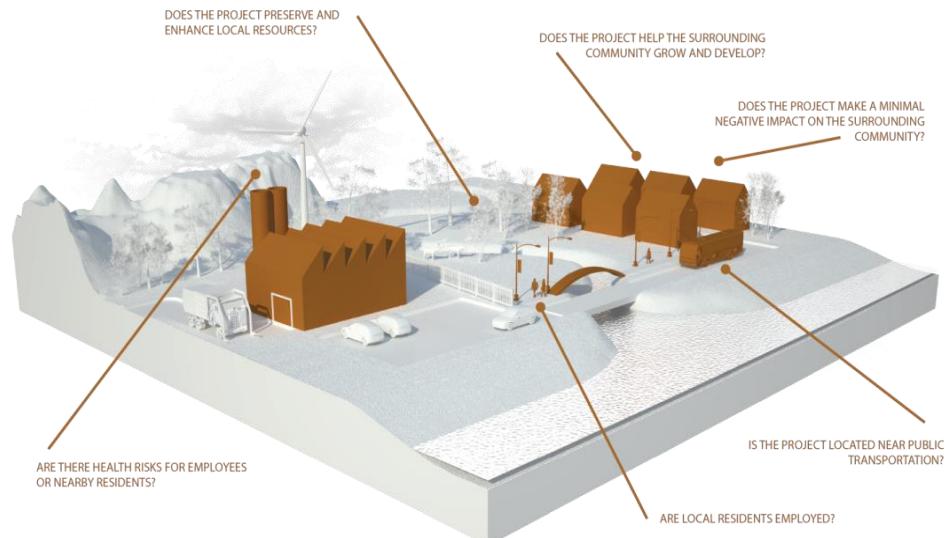
2 WELLBEING

- QL2.1 Enhance Public Health and Safety
- QL2.2 Minimize Noise and Vibration
- QL2.3 Minimize Light Pollution
- QL2.4 Improve Community Mobility and Access
- QL2.5 Encourage Alternative Modes of Transportation
- 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

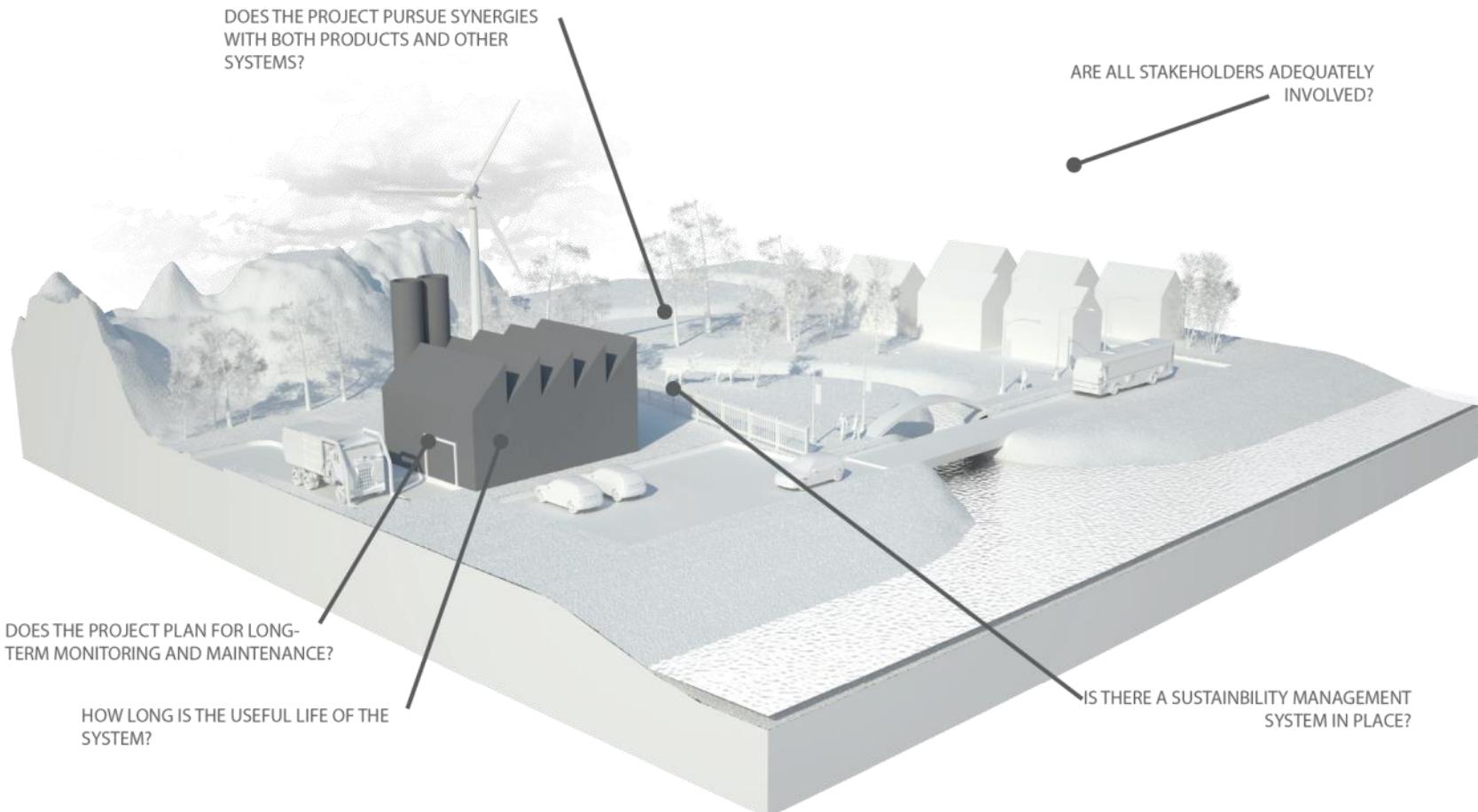
QL0.0 Innovate or Exceed Credit Requirements





LEADERSHIP

10 Credits



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

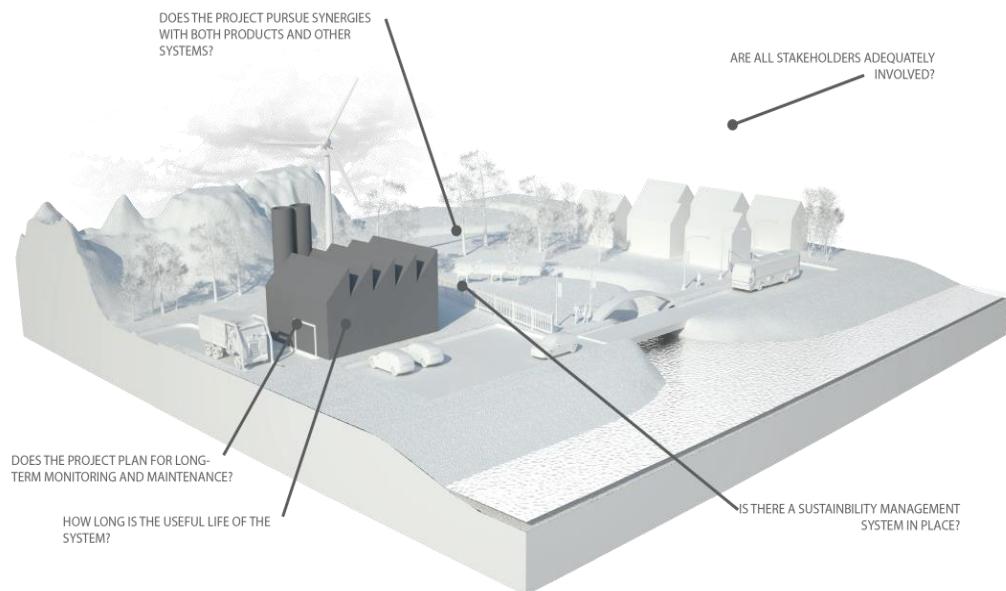
- LD3.1 Plan Long-Term Maintenance and Monitoring
- LD3.2 Address Conflicting Regulations and Policies
- LD3.3 Extend Useful Life

- LD0.0 Innovate or Exceed Credit Requirements



LEADERSHIP

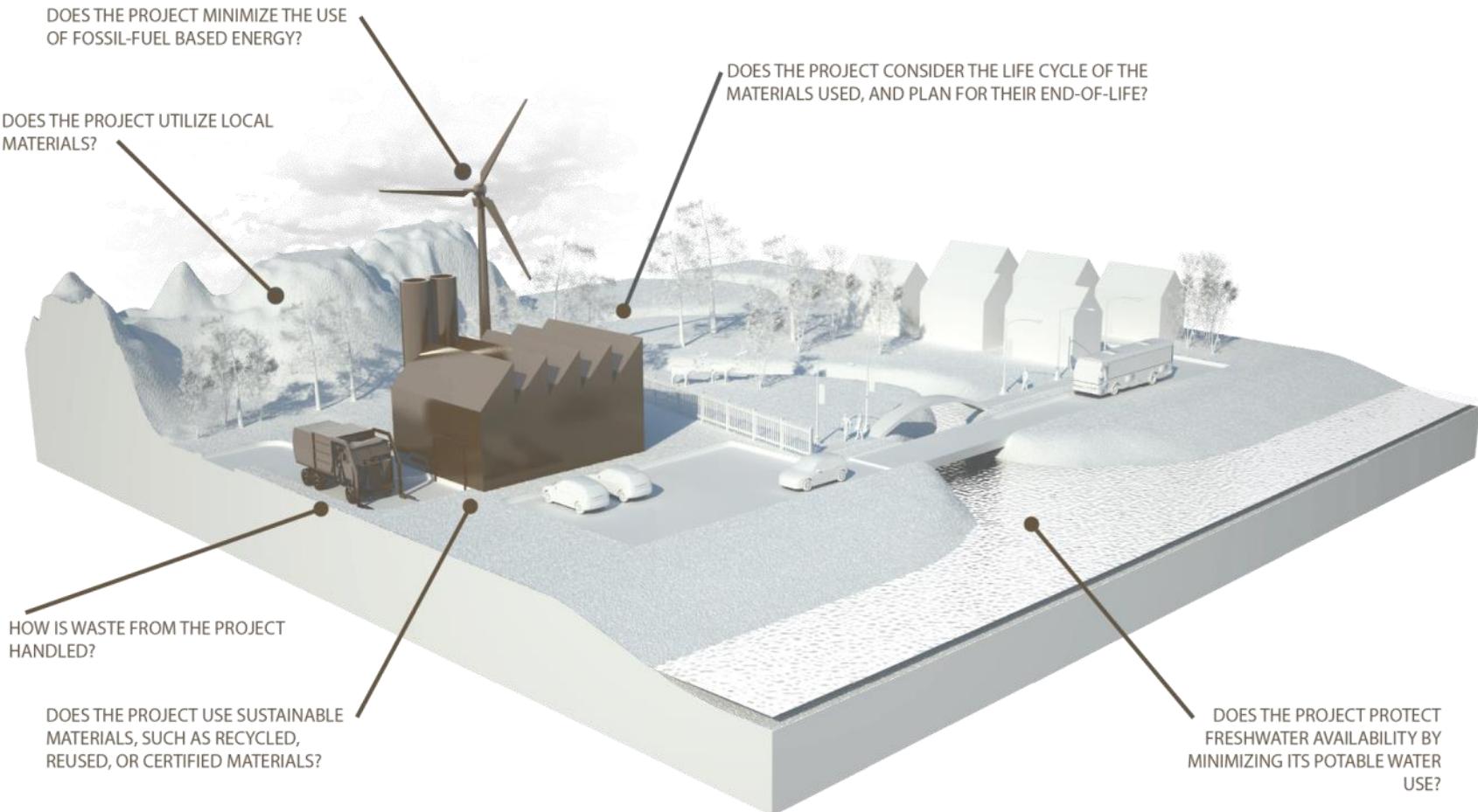
10 Credits





RESOURCE ALLOCATION

14 Credits



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 and Recycling



RESOURCE ALLOCATION

14 Credits

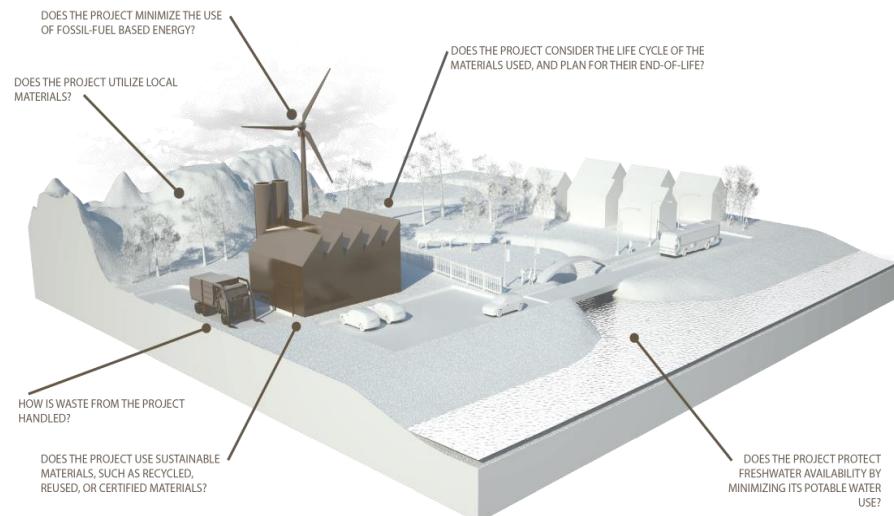
2 ENERGY

- RA2.1 Reduce Energy Consumption
- RA2.2 Use Renewable Energy
- RA2.3 Commission and Monitor Energy Systems

3 WATER

- RA3.1 Protect Fresh Water Availability
- RA3.2 Reduce Potable Water Consumption
- RA3.3 Monitor Water Systems

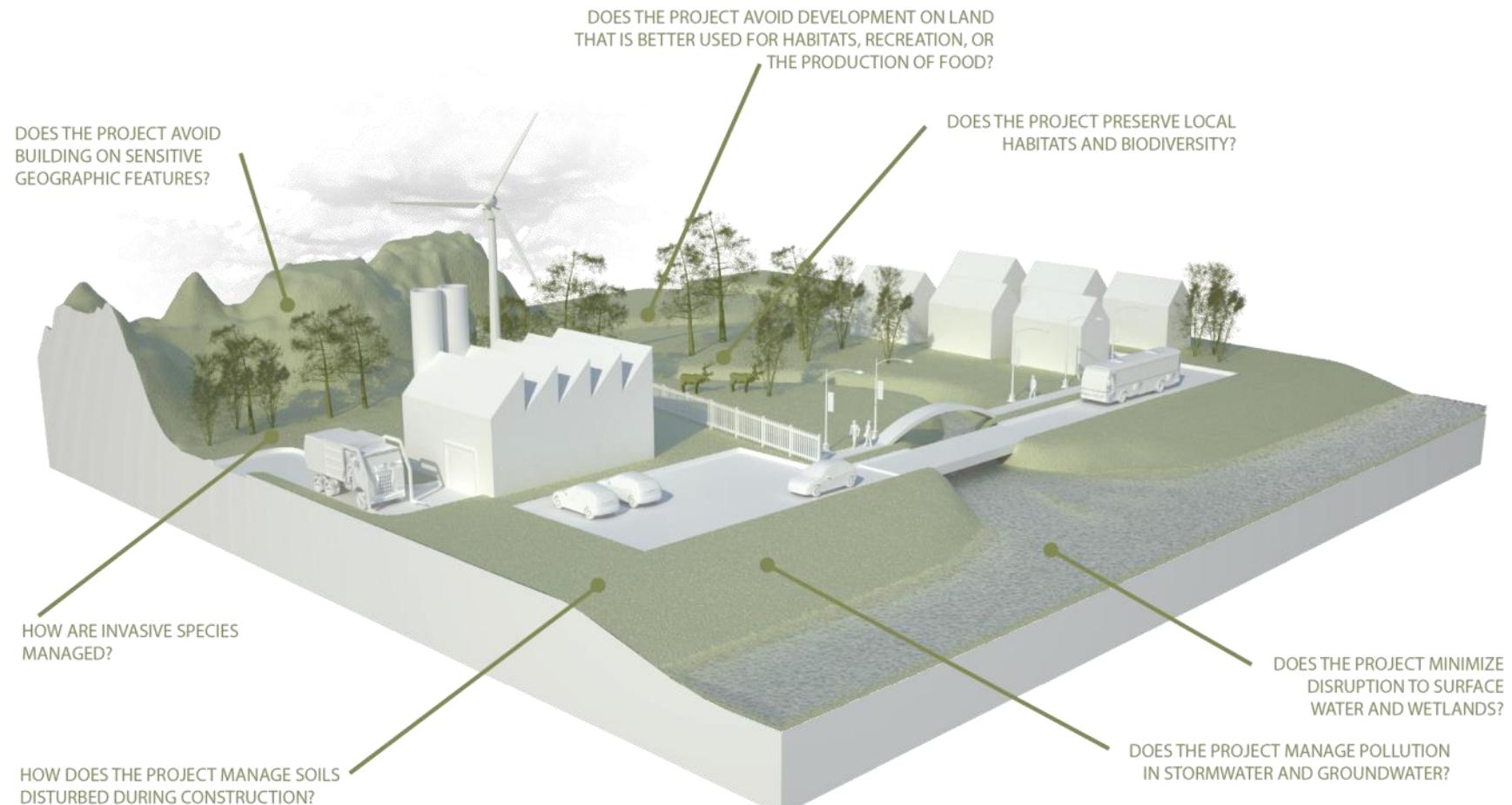
- RA0.0 Innovate or Exceed Credit Requirements





NATURAL WORLD

15 Credits



1 SITING

- NW1.1 Preserve Prime Habitat
- NW1.2 Preserve Wetlands and 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



**NATURAL
WORLD**
15 Credits

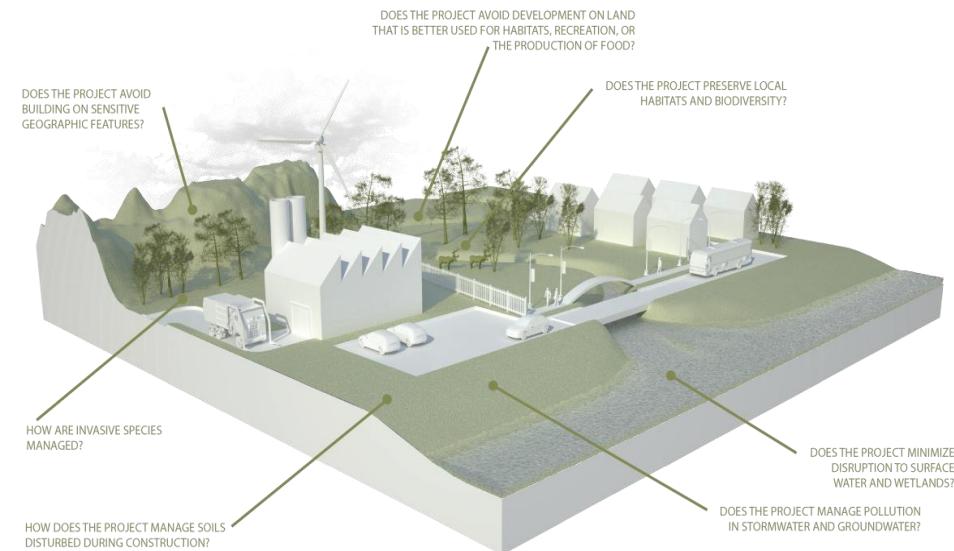
2 LAND + WATER

- NW2.1 Manage Stormwater
- NW2.2 Reduce Pesticides and Fertilizer Impacts
- NW2.3 Prevent Surface and Groundwater Contamination

3 BIODIVERSITY

- NW3.1 Preserve Species Biodiversity
- NW3.2 Control Invasive Species
- NW3.3 Restore Disturbed Soils
- NW3.4 Maintain Wetland and Surface Water Functions

NW0.0 Innovate or Exceed Credit Requirements

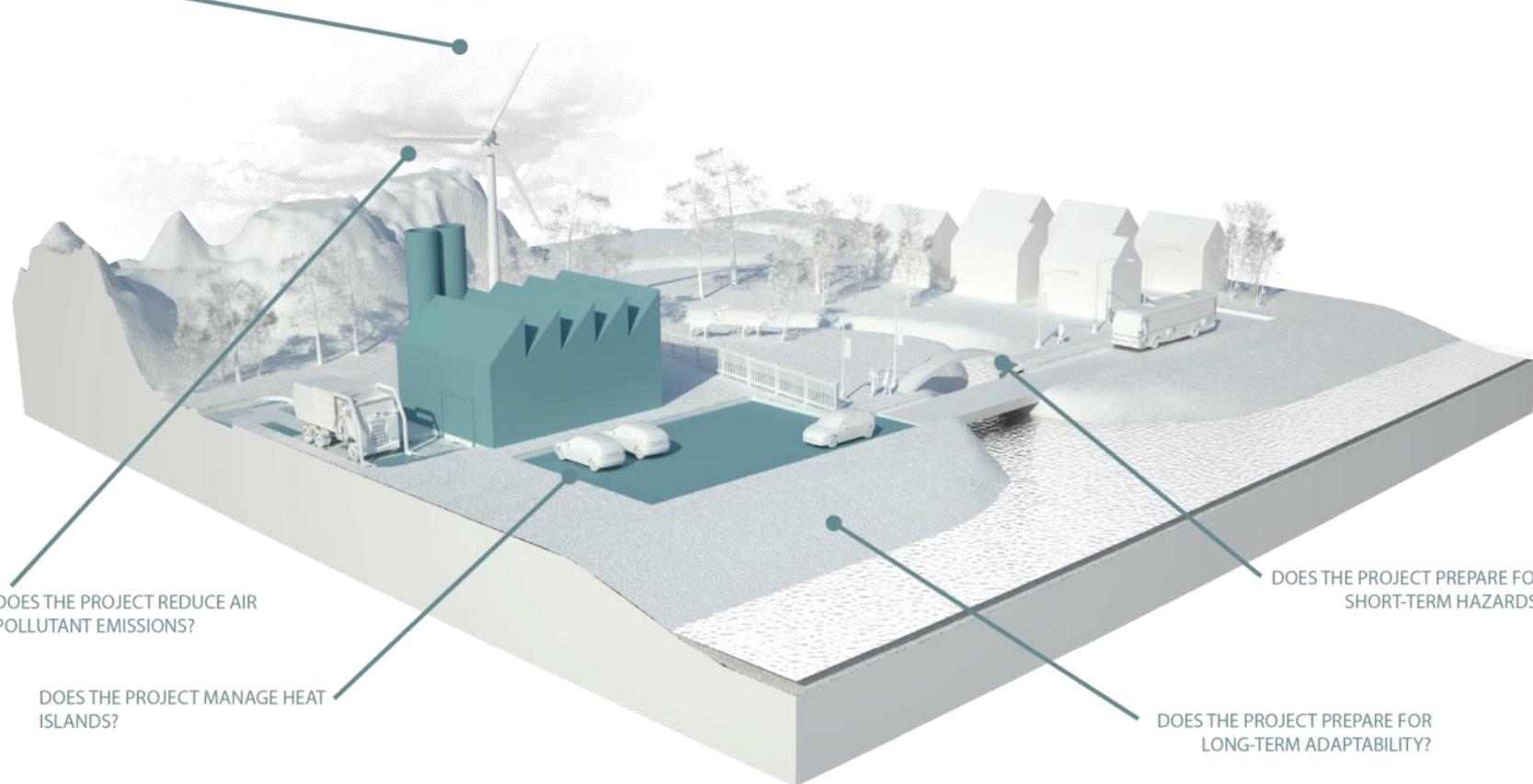




CLIMATE AND RISK

8 Credits

DOES THE PROJECT MINIMIZE GREENHOUSE
GAS EMISSIONS?



1 EMISSIONS

CR1.1 Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

CR1.2 Reduce Air Pollutant Emissions



CLIMATE AND RISK

8 Credits

2 RESILIENCE

CR2.1 Assess Climate Threat

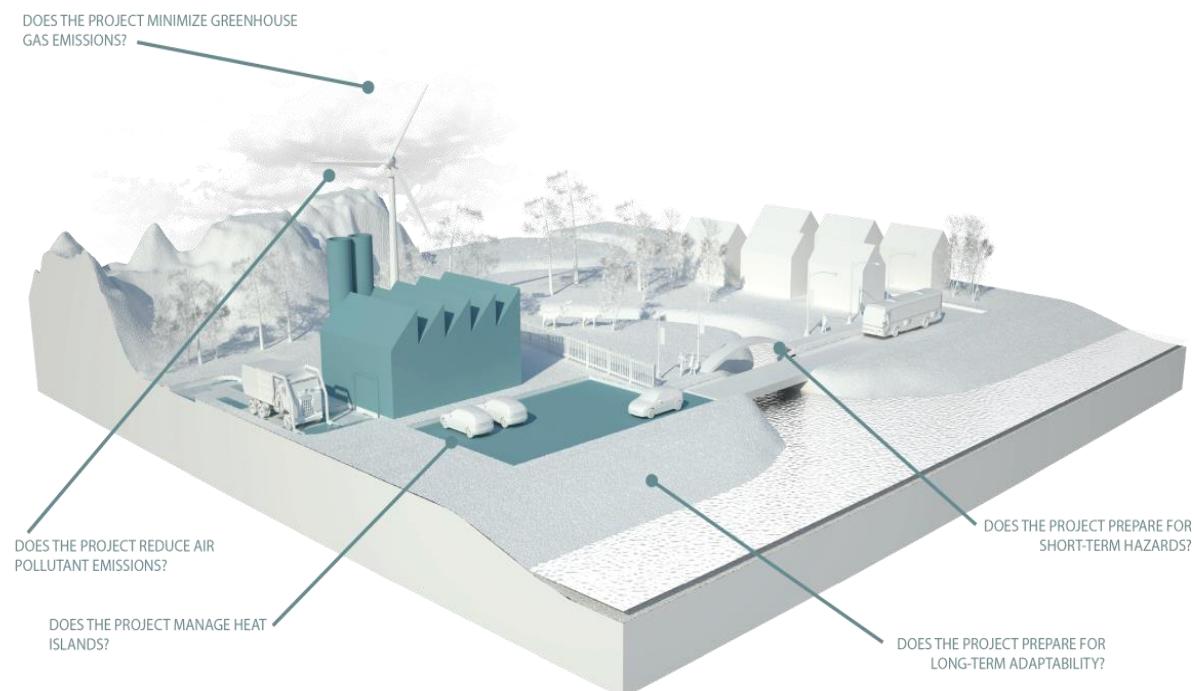
CR2.2 Avoid Traps and Vulnerabilities

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



Sample Credit:

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

IMPROVED	ENHANCED	SUPERIOR	CONSERVING	RESTORATIVE
(2) Internal focus. The project team has located and reviewed the most recent and relevant community planning information. Some, but not systematic outreach to stakeholders and decision makers has taken place. Some relatively easy, but not particularly important or meaningful changes made to the project. No significant adverse community effects are caused by the project (A, B, C).	(5) Community linkages. More substantive efforts to locate, review, assess and incorporate the needs, goals and plans of the host community into the project. Most potential negative adverse impacts of the project on the host community are reduced or eliminated. Key stakeholders are involved in the project decision-making process. (A, B, C)	(10) Broad community alignment. All relevant community plans are reviewed and verified through stakeholder input. The project team works to achieve good project alignment with community plans, recognizing that the scope of the project is a limiting factor. Potential negative impacts on nearby affected communities are reduced or eliminated. (A, B, C)	(20) Holistic assessment and collaboration. The project makes a net positive contribution to the quality of life of the host and nearby affected communities. The project team makes a holistic assessment of community needs, goals and plans, incorporating meaningful stakeholder input. Project goals or exceeds important identified community needs and long-term requirements for sustainability. Remaining adverse impacts are minimal, mostly accepted as reasonable tradeoffs for benefits achieved. The project has broad community endorsement. (A, B, C)	(25) Community resilience. Through rehabilitation of important community assets, upgraded and extended access, increased safety, improved environmental quality and additional infrastructure capacity, the project substantially reenergizes the host and nearby communities. Working in genuine collaboration with stakeholders and community decision-makers, the project owner and the project team shape the project in a way that elevates community awareness and pride. Overall quality of life in these communities is markedly elevated. (A, B, C, D)

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 directly affects. This determination is based on how well 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 viable expression of those needs, goals, objectives and aspirations. In a real sense, they are the community's expression of their desired quality of life.

Communication and interactions with community stakeholders is essential to reaffirm and improve the assessment. The project team works closely with community 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 seen as equitably distributed throughout the community.

A project designed to benefit one community may have adverse effects on others. The purpose of this credit is to recognize projects that provide significant benefits to affected communities, as well as reduce or eliminate negative impacts. Positive effects on all important dimensions of performance may not be practical. Thus the credit seeks a net positive impact.

If the project team can show that the affected community (or communities) has an existing project assessment and approval process that verifies that the project is in concert with community goals and objectives, and that the project has gone through that process successfully, then that success will constitute achievement of this credit. The level of achievement will be determined by the Assessor and Verifier, and is a function of the comprehensiveness of the process, the extent to which community stakeholders are engaged in collaborative dialogue (rather than

merely outside input to the process), and the degree to which improvements were made and/or adverse impacts mitigated.

ADVANCING TO HIGHER ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS

Benchmark: The project team may have located and reviewed community plans, looking for possible project fatal flaws. The team complies with local regulations and policies for stakeholder involvement.

Performance improvement: Give increased attention to community needs, goals, plans and their relation to the project. Increase the thoroughness and participatory engagement by which community goals and plans are incorporated into the project. Give additional consideration to existing conditions and look for opportunities to rehabilitate community assets. Achieve strong endorsement 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. Lists and examples of documents obtained and reviewed, minutes of meetings with key stakeholders, community leaders and decision-makers, letters and memoranda.

B. Has the project team sought to align the project vision and goals to the needs and goals of the host and affected communities as well as address potential adverse impacts?

20 POINTS

QUALITY OF LIFE



METRIC:

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

1. Comprehensive impact assessments conducted, identifying and evaluating the positive and negative impacts of the project on affected communities. Planned actions for mitigating adverse impacts.

2. Minutes of meetings, letters and memoranda with key stakeholders, community leaders and decision-makers for obtaining input and agreement regarding the impact assessment and planned actions.

C. To what extent has the affected communities been meaningfully engaged in the project design process?

1. Reports and documented results of meetings, design charrettes and other activities conducted with representatives of affected communities.

2. Evidence of project processes for collecting, evaluating and incorporating community input into the project designs. Demonstration of the thoroughness of the evaluation and incorporation into the designs.

3. Evidence showing the extent to which options were identified, and needed and reasonable changes to project were made in accordance with community needs, plans.

4. Acknowledgments and endorsements by the community that the design participation process was helpful and that their input was appropriately assessed and incorporated into the project design.

D. Has the project owner and the project team designed the project in a way that improves existing community conditions and rehabilitates infrastructure assets?

1. Plans, designs, meeting minutes with community stakeholders and decision-makers demonstrating an understanding of community conditions and assets, and substantive efforts to rehabilitate.

2. Evidence of community satisfaction and endorsement of plans.

SOURCES

- W. A. Wallace, Project Sustainability Management Guidelines, Unpublished manuscript, September 2010.
- 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

LD1.4 Provide for Meaningful Stakeholder Involvement

The Complete Package

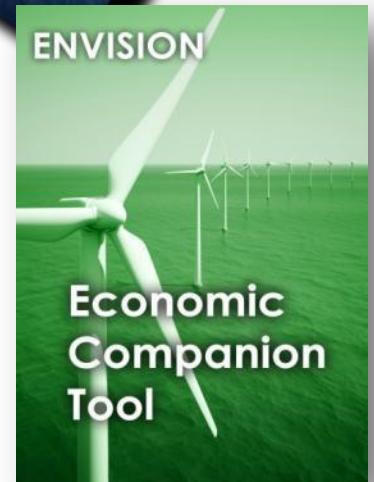
Phase Toolkits



Pre-Assessment
Checklist



Recognition
Assessment



Companion
Tools

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envision™ Rating System

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Join ISI today and work with a single comprehensive system for transforming tomorrow's infrastructure.

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

Harrison Appointed National Chair of ISI Accreditation Committee...details

ISI and Zofnass Program for Sustainable Infrastructure at Harvard Establish Partnership...details

Scoring Modules Added for Stages One and Two...details

Gannett Fleming Latest ISI Charter Member...details

ISI Rating Tool Now Available for Public Comment...details

Psomas Named First Chairman of the Institute for

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



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Project Verification

Envision™ Sustainable Infrastructure Rating System

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[Report](#)

"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

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Project Verification

Envision™ Sustainable Infrastructure Rating System

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Report

"Prairie Waters Project"

Section Menu

Please click on the links to take you to the relevant sections:

QUALITY OF LIFE **LEADERSHIP** **RESOURCE ALLOCATION** **NATURAL WORLD** **CLIMATE AND RISK**

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Scoring Module:

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Project Verification

Envision™ Sustainable Infrastructure Rating System

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"Prairie Waters Project"

Section 1: QUALITY OF LIFE

Score: 16 Max Score: 155

Section and Objective Number	Objectives	Required for Project	Level of Achievement	Score	Objective Available Points
QL1.1	Improve community quality of life. Improve the net quality of life of all communities affected by the project and mitigate negative impacts to communities. details / guidance	YES	Improved	2	25
QL1.2	Stimulate sustainable growth and development. Support and stimulate sustainable growth and development, including improvements in job growth, capacity building, productivity, business attractiveness and livability. details / guidance	YES	Improved	1	16
QL1.3	Develop local skills and capabilities. Expand the knowledge, skills and capacity of the community workforce to improve their ability to grow and develop. details / guidance	Assessor Decision Exclude <input type="checkbox"/>	No Added Value <input type="checkbox"/>	--	--

QUALITY OF LIFE

Online Guidance Manual



Envision Tool Portal

« Guidance Manual Home

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

IMPROVED	ENHANCED	SUPERIOR	CONSERVING	RESTORATIVE
(2) Internal focus. The project team has located and reviewed the most recent and relevant community planning information. Some, but not systematic outreach to stakeholders and decision makers has taken place. Some relatively easy, but not particularly important or meaningful changes made to the project. No significant adverse community effects are caused by the project (A, B, C)	(5) Community linkages. More substantive efforts to locate, review, assess and incorporate the needs, goals and plans of the host community into the project. Most potential negative adverse impacts of the project on the host community are reduced or eliminated. Key stakeholders are involved in the project decision-making process. (A, B, C)	(10) Broad community alignment. All relevant community plans are reviewed and verified through stakeholder input. The project team works to achieve good project alignment with community plans, recognizing that the scope of the project is a limiting factor. Potential negative impacts on nearby affected communities are reduced or eliminated. (A, B, C)	(20) Holistic assessment and collaboration. The project makes a net positive contribution to the quality of life of the host and nearby affected communities. The project team makes a holistic assessment of community needs, goals and plans, incorporating meaningful stakeholder input. Project meets or exceeds important identified community needs and long-term requirements for sustainability. Remaining adverse impacts are minimal, mostly accepted as reasonable tradeoffs for benefits achieved. The project has broad community endorsement. (A, B, C)	(25) Community renaissance. Through rehabilitation of important community assets, upgraded and extended access, increased safety, improved environmental quality and additional infrastructure capacity, the project substantially reinvigorates the host and nearby communities. Working in genuine collaboration with stakeholders and community decision-makers, the project owner and the project team scope the project in a way that elevates community awareness and pride. Overall quality of life in these communities is markedly elevated. (A, B, C, D)

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

Scoring Summary

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Section 1 choices updated.

"Prairie Waters Project"

Section Totals Summary

Section	Maximum Possible Score	Section Points	Innovation Points	Total Points Earned
QL	155	11	5	16
LD	121	10	1	11
RA	182	29	0	29
NW	203	46	8	54
CR	122	12	0	12
Total Project Points	783	108	14	122



Report Output

Project Verification

Envision™ Sustainable Infrastructure Rating System

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"Prairie Waters Project"

Report (All Sections)

See only Notes

Section and Objective Numbers	Objectives	Required/Applicable?	Level Of Achievement	Score	Max Available Points
QUALITY OF LIFE					
QL	QL1.1 Improve community quality of life. Improve the net quality of life of all communities affected by the project and mitigate negative impacts to communities.	REQUIRED	Improved	2	25
	Notes:				
	QL1.2 Stimulate sustainable growth and development. Support and stimulate sustainable growth and development, including improvements in job growth, capacity building, productivity, business attractiveness and livability.	REQUIRED	Improved	1	16
Notes:					
QL	QL1.3 Develop local skills and capabilities. Expand the knowledge, skills and capacity of the community workforce to improve their ability to grow and develop.	EXCLUDE	-----	--	--
	Notes:				

For Further Information

www.sustainableinfrastructure.org

Bill Bertera, Executive Director

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