

THE ENVISION™ RATING SYSTEM





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

THE REALITIES OF THE WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE

A NEW FACT OF LIFE

Planet Earth is a dangerous place for humans.
Infrastructure provides:

- A basis for public health
- Physical Security
- A quality of life worth living

- Population Growth
- Diminished Resources
- Climate Change
- Adaptation

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 larger system, developed to help evaluate the sustainability of civil infrastructure.

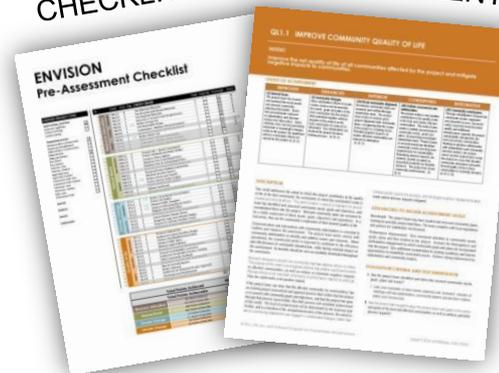
This system includes:

- 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

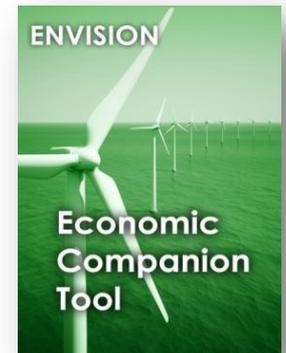
PHASE TOOLKITS



PRE-ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST



COMPANION TOOLS



FRAMEWORK & TOOLS

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

ENVISION

CHECKLIST

- 60 criteria to introduce sustainability principles
- Questions guide users in understanding important considerations
- Checklist can prepare users for detailed requirements in the Assessment Tool

ASSESSMENT

- Uses 60 criteria to measure improvement over four phases of a projects life
- Assessments are conducted at conclusion of each phase
- Meant to reward effort and improve performance toward overall sustainability

AUDIT

- Uses objective indicators connected to the 60 criteria
- Gives users an unbiased view of where a project falls relative to similar projects
- Does not reward effort or improvement, only results

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

Adjusting Credit Requirements Based on Project Phase

	PLANNING / DESIGN	CONSTRUCTION	OPERATIONS	DECOM.
NATURAL WORLD	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit	
	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit	
	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit	
	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit	
	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit	
	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit	
RESOURCE ALLOCATION	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit	
	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit	
	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit	
	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit	
	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit	
	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit	
CLIMATE CHANGE	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit	
	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit	
	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit	
	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit	
	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit	
	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit	
RESOURCE ALLOCATION	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit	
	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit	
	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit	
	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit	
	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit	
	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit	
PROJECT PERFORMANCE	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit	
	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit	
	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit	
	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit	
	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit	
	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit	

Plan / Design

Construction

Operation

Decommissioning

FIVE LEVELS OF ACHIEVEMENT

IMPROVED

Performance that is at or 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 CAN ENVISION™ RATE?



ENERGY

Geothermal
Hydroelectric
Nuclear
Coal
Natural Gas
Oil/Refinery
Wind
Solar
Biomass



WATER

Potable water
distribution
Capture/Storage
Water Reuse
Storm Water
Management
Flood Control



WASTE

Solid waste
Recycling
Hazardous
Waste
Collection &
Transfer



TRANSPORT

Airports
Roads
Highways
Bikes
Pedestrians
Railways
Public Transit
Ports
Waterways



LANDSCAPE

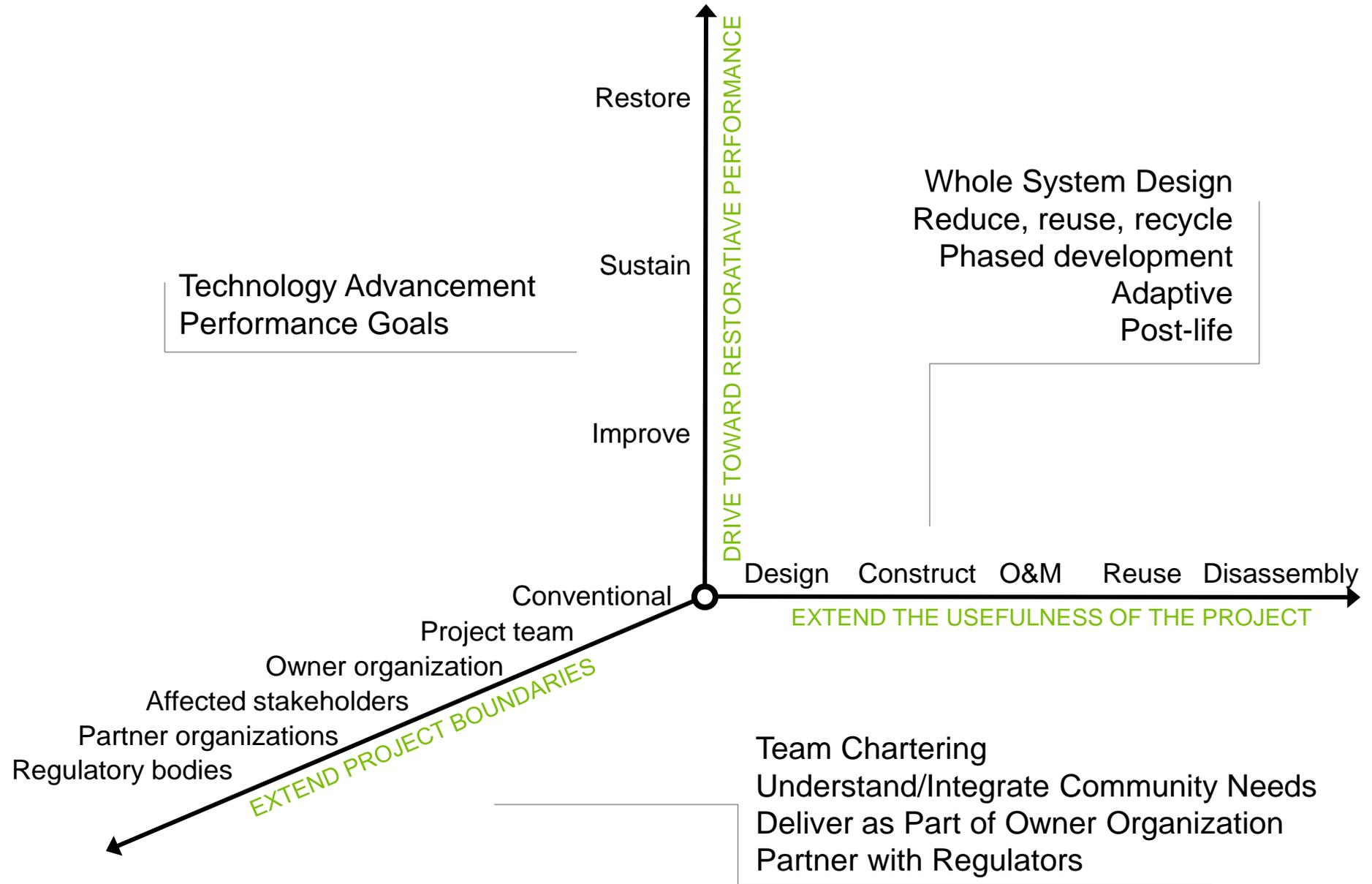
Public Realm
Parks
Ecosystem
Services



INFORMATION

Telecommunications
Internet
Phones
Satellites
Data Centers
Sensors

HOW WILL ENVISION IMPROVE SUSTAINABILITY?



CATEGORIES



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

- LD0.0 Innovate or Exceed Credit Requirements



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

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 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



QUALITY OF LIFE

DOES THE PROJECT PRESERVE AND ENHANCE LOCAL RESOURCES?

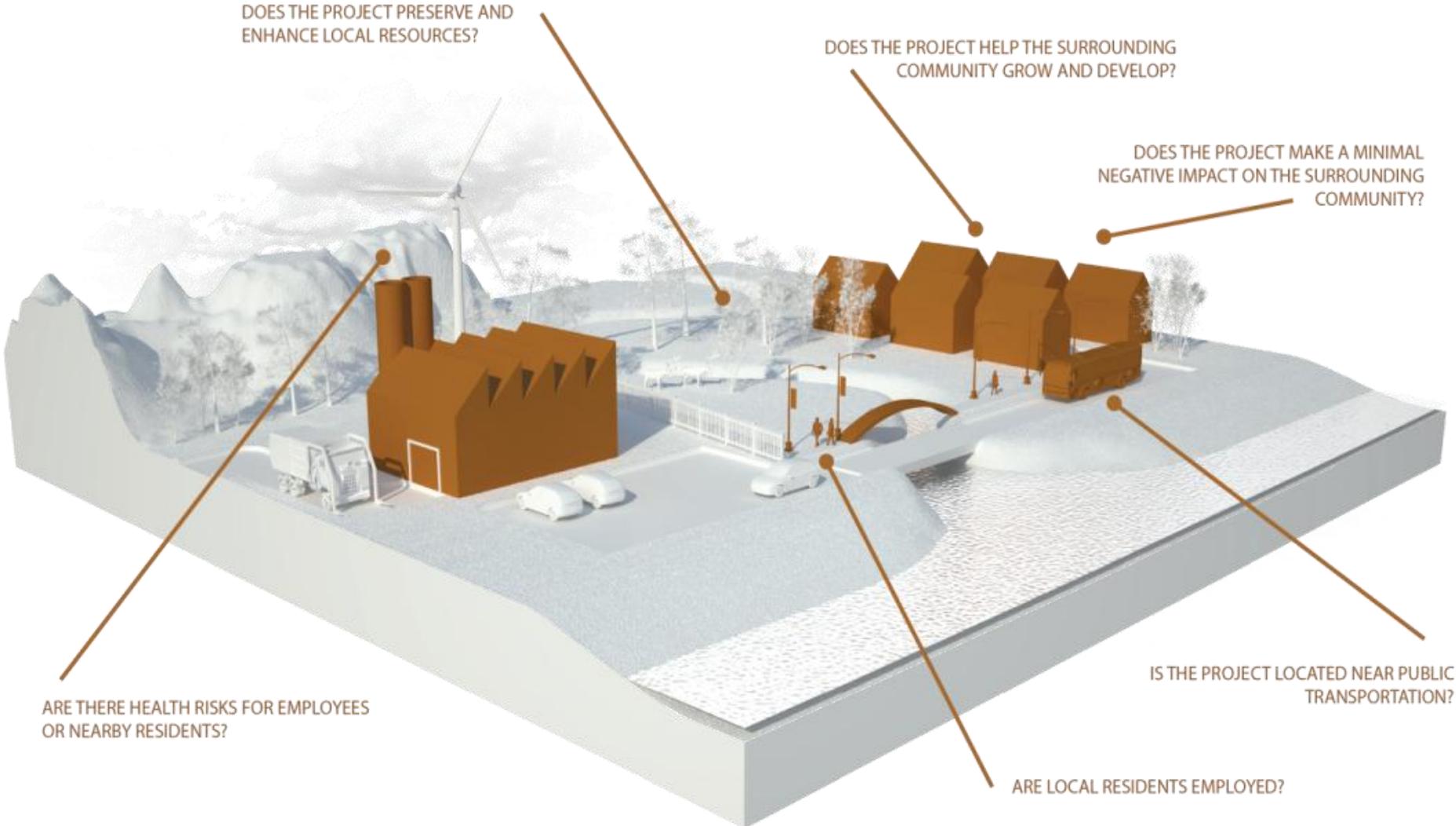
DOES THE PROJECT HELP THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY GROW AND DEVELOP?

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?





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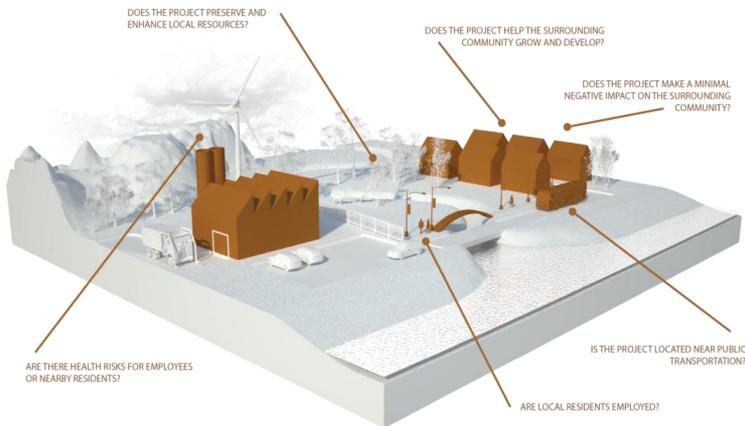
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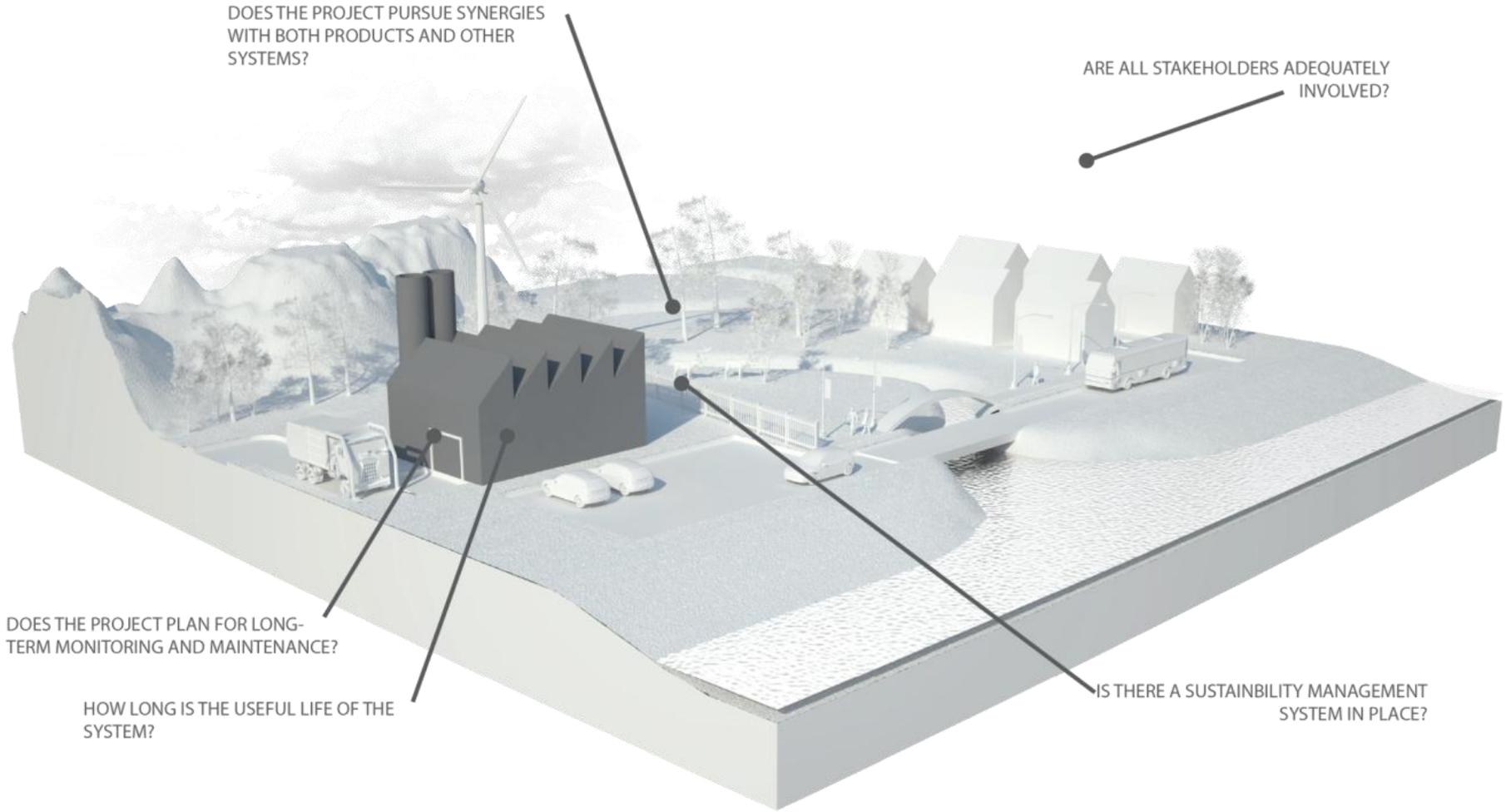




LEADERSHIP

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?

HOW LONG IS THE USEFUL LIFE OF THE SYSTEM?

IS THERE A SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN PLACE?



LEADERSHIP

1 COLLABORATION

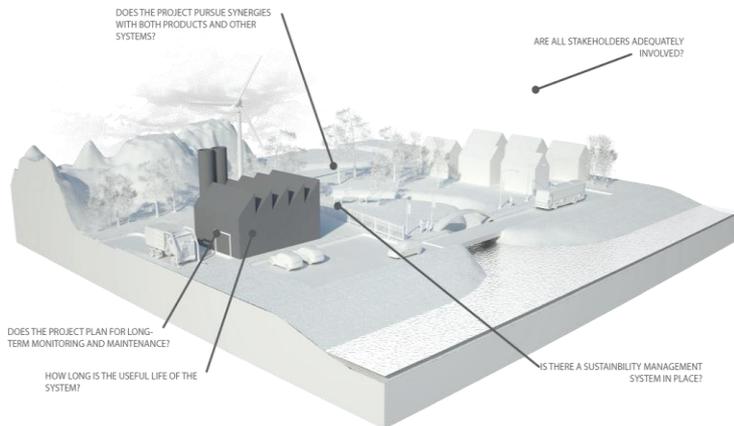
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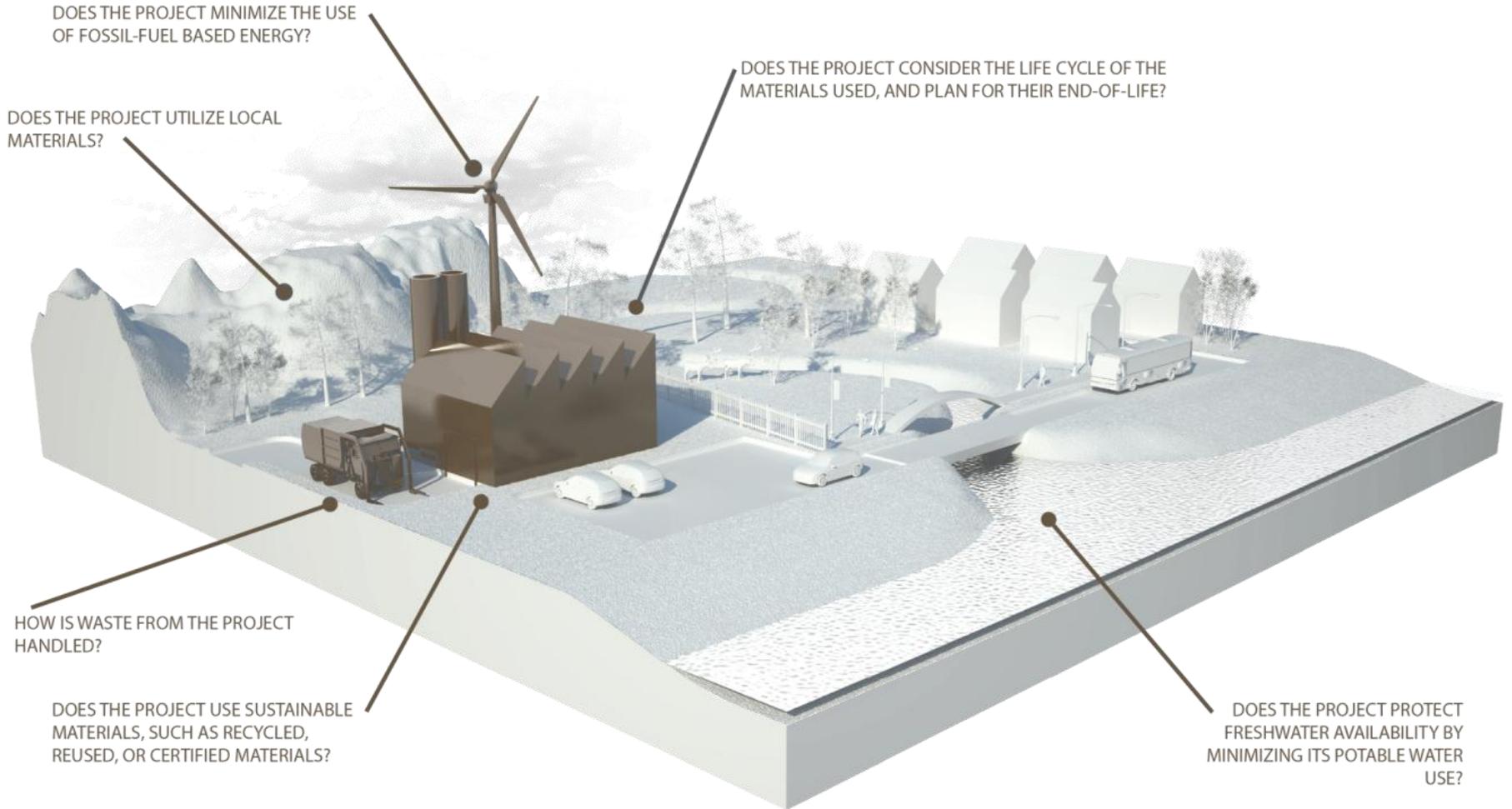
3 PLANNING

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



DOES THE PROJECT MINIMIZE THE USE OF FOSSIL-FUEL BASED ENERGY?

DOES THE PROJECT UTILIZE LOCAL MATERIALS?

DOES THE PROJECT CONSIDER THE LIFE CYCLE OF THE MATERIALS USED, AND PLAN FOR THEIR END-OF-LIFE?

HOW IS WASTE FROM THE PROJECT HANDLED?

DOES THE PROJECT USE SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS, SUCH AS RECYCLED, REUSED, OR CERTIFIED MATERIALS?

DOES THE PROJECT PROTECT FRESHWATER AVAILABILITY BY MINIMIZING ITS POTABLE WATER USE?



RESOURCE ALLOCATION

1 MATERIALS

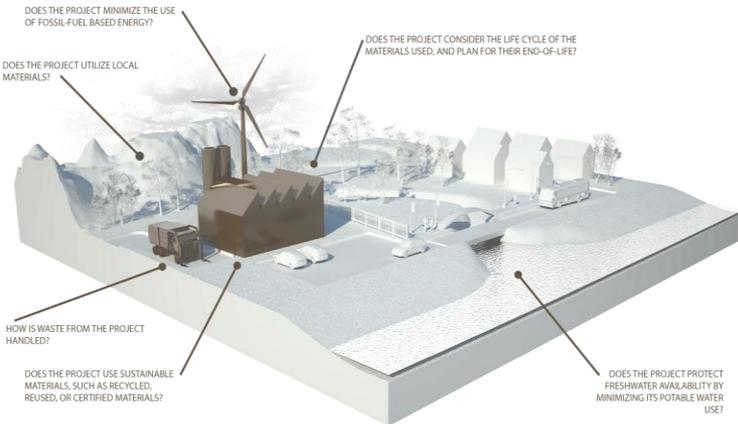
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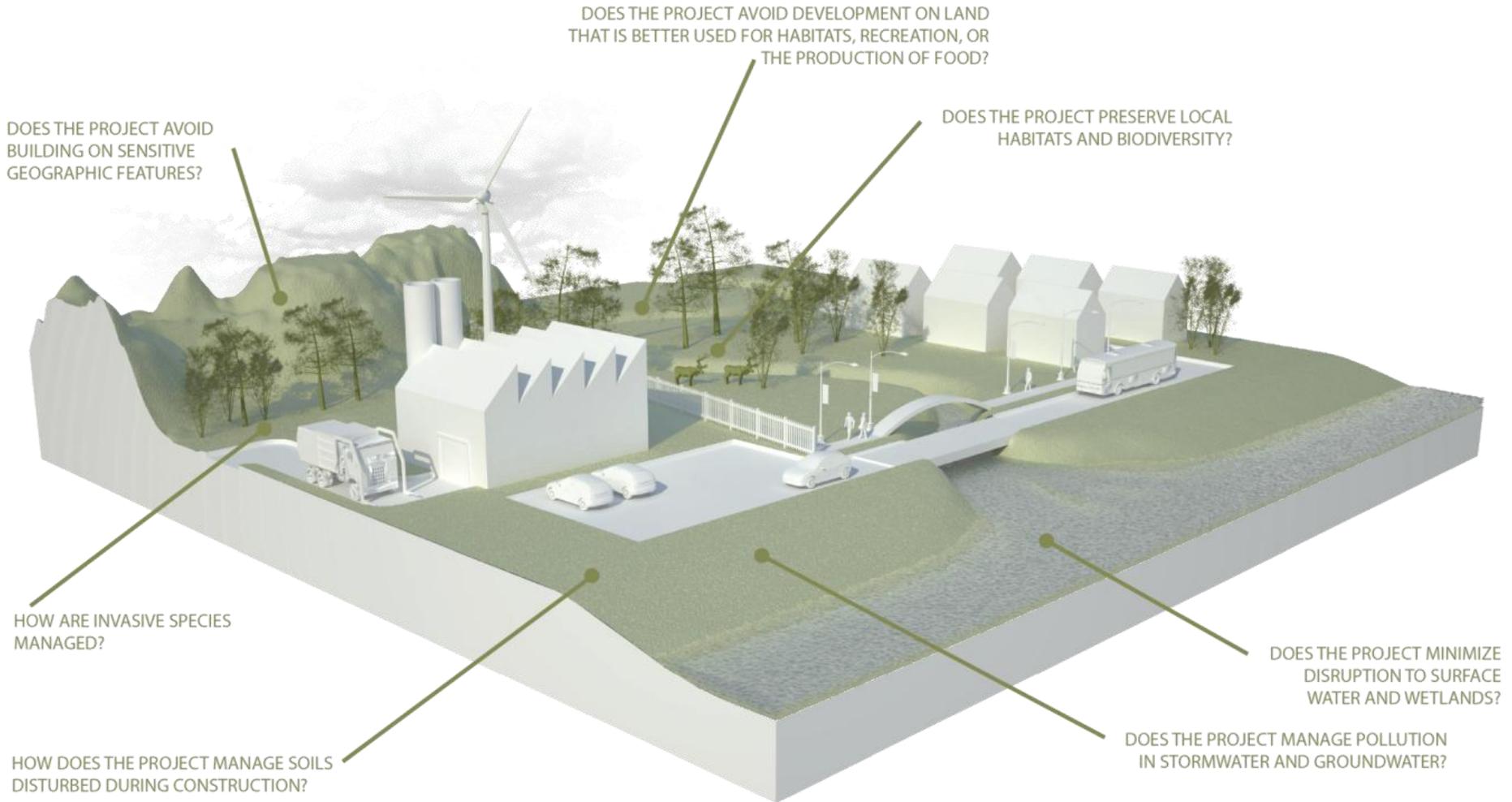
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- RA3.2 Reduce Potable Water Consumption
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NATURAL WORLD





NATURAL WORLD

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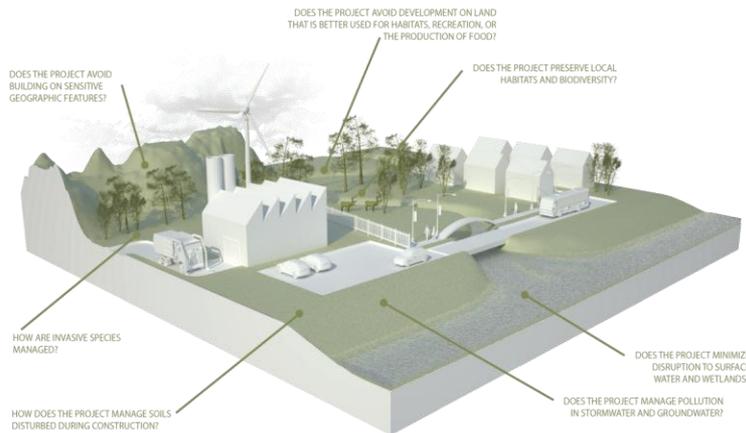
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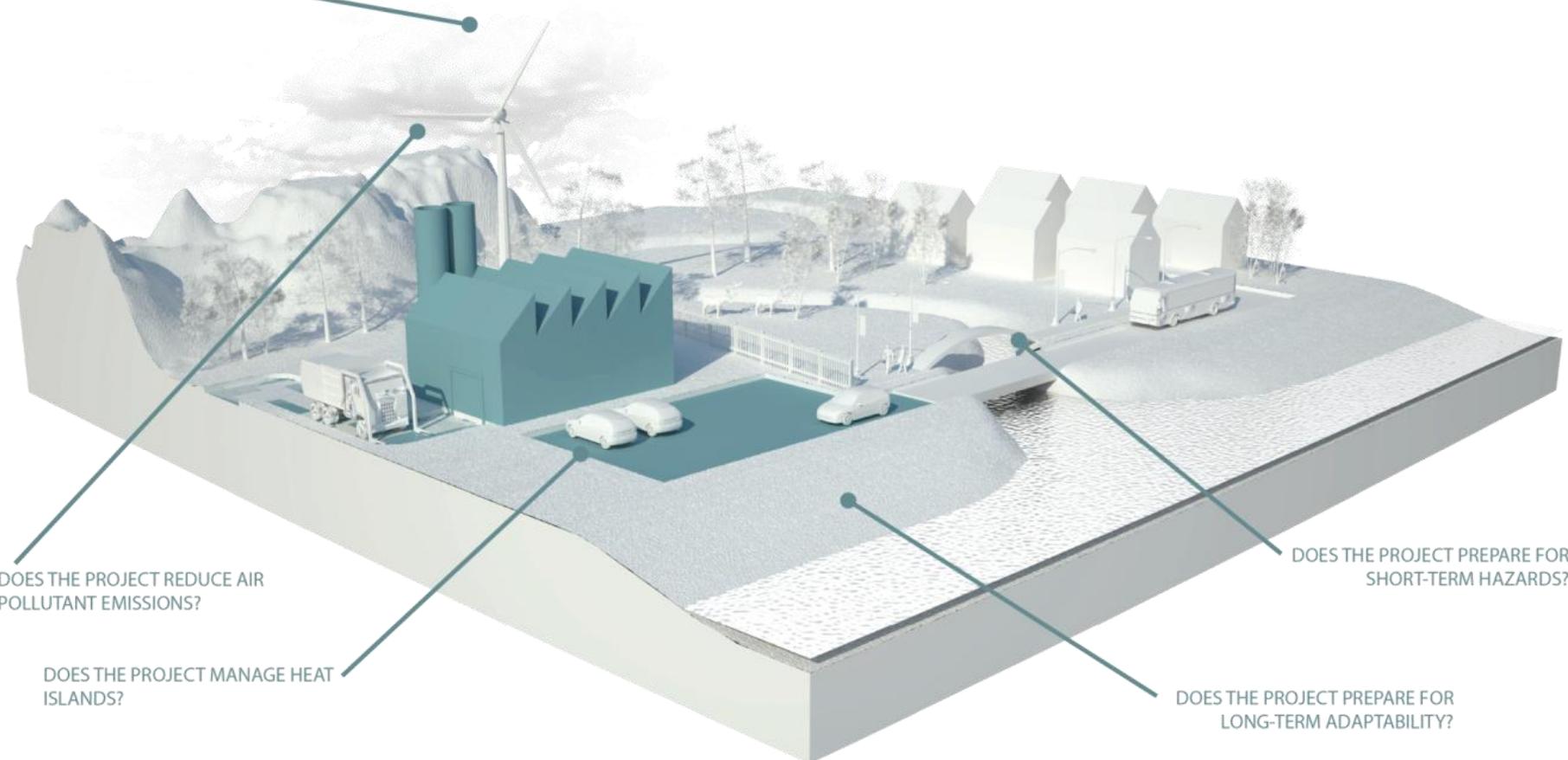
NW0.0 Innovate or Exceed Credit Requirements





CLIMATE AND RISK

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?



CLIMATE AND RISK

1 EMISSIONS

CR1.1 Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

CR1.2 Reduce Air Pollutant Emissions

2 RESILIENCE

CR2.1 Assess Climate Threat

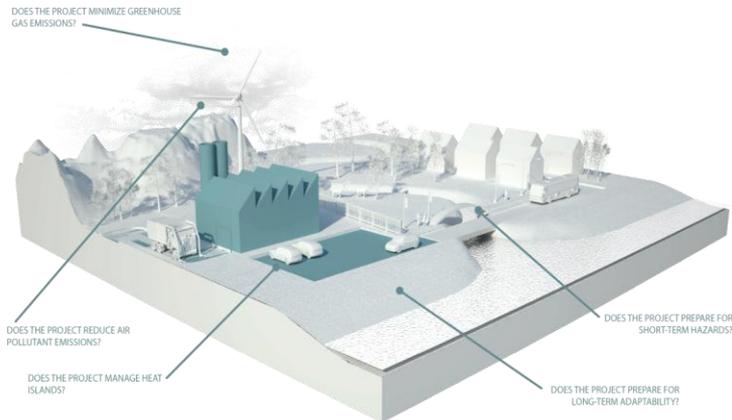
CR2.2 Avoid Traps and Vulnerabilities

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



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
<p>(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)</p>	<p>(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)</p>	<p>(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)</p>	<p>(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)</p>	<p>(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)</p>

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

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Building Tomorrow's Infrastructure Today

ISI Sustainable Infrastructure Rating System

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Envision™ 2.0



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accepted to participate.

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Project Application

Envision™ Sustainable Infrastructure Rating System

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"Bridge"

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.

INPUT PORTAL

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Project Application

Envision™ Sustainable Infrastructure Rating System

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"Bridge"

Section Menu

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

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SCORING MODULE

Section 1: QUALITY OF LIFE

Score: 23 Max Score: 181

Section and Objective Numbers	Objectives	Required for Project	Level Of Achievement	Score	Objective Available Points
QUALITY OF LIFE					
QL1	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	Superior	10	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. details / guidance	YES	Improved	1	16
Notes:					
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 Include	Conserving	12	15
Notes:					

ONLINE GUIDANCE MANUAL

Envision Tool Portal

[« Guidance Manual Home](#)

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SCORING SUMMARY

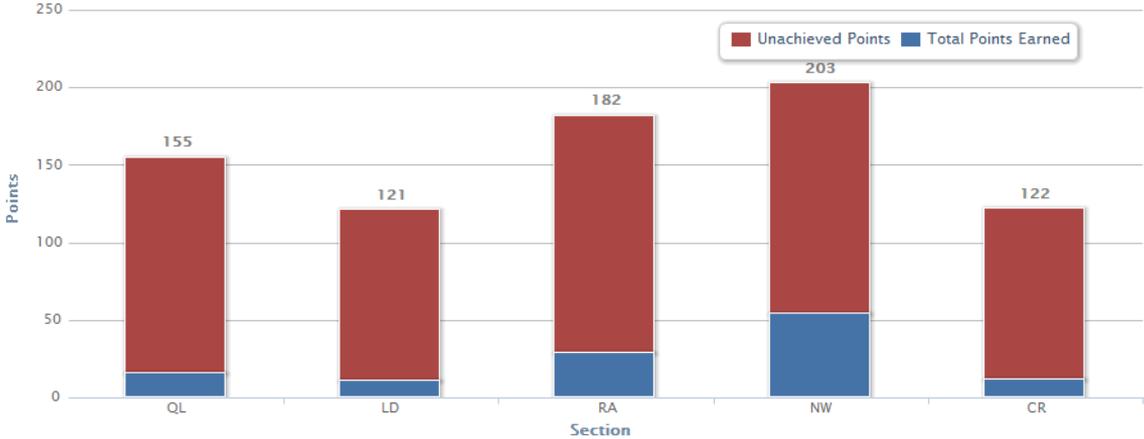
Section 1 choices updated.

"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

Envision™ Section Scores



Highcharts.com

REPORT OUTPUT

Project Verification

Envision™ Sustainable Infrastructure Rating System

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Section Totals Summary

Report

"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						
QL1	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:						
	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:						
	QL2.1	Enhance public health and safety.	REQUIRED	Improved	2	16

FOR MORE
INFORMATION
ABOUT **ENVISION™**

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