

**Summary**

Envision™ provides a holistic framework for evaluating and rating the community, environmental, and economic benefits of all types and sizes of infrastructure projects. It evaluates, grades, and gives recognition to infrastructure projects that use transformational, collaborative approaches to assess the sustainability indicators over the course of the project's life cycle.

**Certifying body:** Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI)

Applicable sectors					Award types				
General civil	Transport only	Buildings	Public realm	Community / precinct	Design	As built	Operation	Planning	Other

<b>Country</b>	United States	<b>Sustainability criteria</b>	<p>The Envision™ scheme has 60 sustainability criteria, called credits, divided into five categories and 16 subcategories (subcategories in brackets): 1. Quality of Life (purpose, wellbeing, community) - 13 credits 2. Leadership (collaboration, management, planning) - 10 credit 3. Resource Allocation (materials, energy, water) - 14 credits 4. Natural World (siting, land+water, biodiversity) - 15 credits 5. Climate and Risk (emissions, resilience) - 8 credits.</p> <p>There are 2 types of main credits: performance contribution and pathway contribution. Performance credits are associated with efficiency or effectiveness of a project. Pathway credits consider how the project aligns with the overall community needs and enhancing quality of life. In addition, there are bonus credits awarded for innovation (max. 5% of total points in each category).</p>
<b>Deployment &amp; developments</b>	<p>Founding partners of ISI are The American Society of Engineers, The American Council of Engineering Companies and The American Public Works Association. The Envision rating system is a collaboration between ISI in Washington. D.C., and the Zofnass Program for Sustainable Infrastructure at the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts. The design rating was released in 2012. The "as-built" and "operation" awards are currently under development.</p> <p>The Envision Economic Tool is also under development. This will provide economic metrics for supporting the business case and incentives for sustainable infrastructure development.</p>		
<b>Applicants</b>	Infrastructure owners, design teams, community groups, environmental organisations, constructors, regulators and policy makers are encouraged to use the tool.	<b>Assessment: scoring, performance levels, evidence collection</b>	<p>There are four levels of awards: Bronze (over 20% total applicable points gained), Silver (over 30%), Gold (over 40%), Platinum (over 50%)</p> <p>Achievement of each criteria is evaluated on a five-step scale: improved, enhanced, superior, conserving, restorative. Although credits do not always have five levels of achievement. The total point value is set at achieving the "conserving" level, where "restorative" points are possible additions.</p> <p>Evaluation criteria may include (but not limited to): performing calculations, creating an action plan, meetings with stakeholders, consulting experts.</p>
<b>Support to applicants</b>	<p>Within the manual, each Envision credit is described in a 2-page write-up that includes the intent, metric, levels of achievement, description, an explanation of how to advance to a higher achievement level, evaluation criteria and documentation, sources, and related credits. The Envision checklist is an educational tool to help users become familiar with the sustainability aspects of infrastructure project design.</p> <p>Envision Sustainability Professionals work on the project team to help guide higher levels of achievement.</p> <p>Once a project is registered, an online scoring sheet is used to track achievement of credits. Required data is to be collected by the project team.</p>		
<b>Tailoring</b>	Some credits may be omitted from the assessment. Project teams must justify reasons for omissions, which will be confirmed by the verifier.	<b>Fees</b>	<p>All projects are charged a \$1,000 application fee. Verification fees vary depending on project value. Fees range from \$2,400 for project value up to £2M, to \$33,000 for up to \$250M. Contact ISI to discuss fees for larger projects. There is a discount for ISI members (from 20% for small projects to 15% for larger projects). There is an appeals fee of \$500 per credit. Prices in \$US, as of July 2013.</p>

## Case study

Project name: Port of Everett Dolphin Berth Improvements  
 Location: Everett, Washington  
 Proponent: Port of Everett  
 Award: Pilot test, achieved 26.2% of total applicable points.

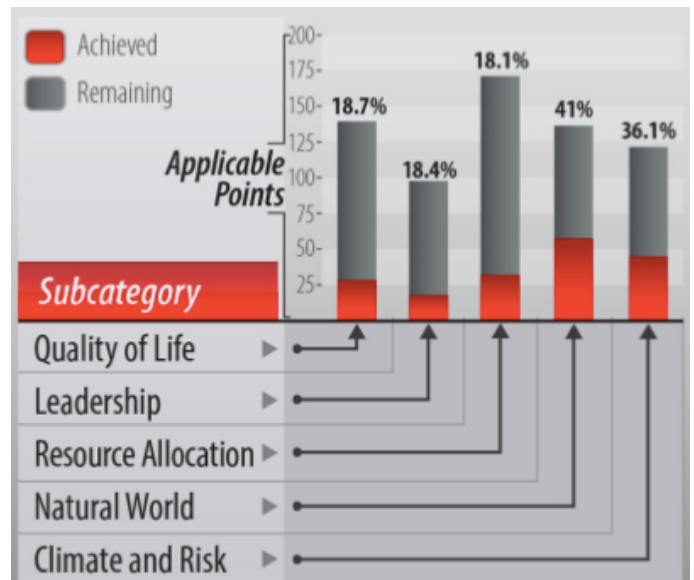
Brief project description: Port dolphin berth upgrade including: construction of one new berthing dolphin, repair & upgrade of existing collision-damaged dolphin, removal of creosote treated piles, upgrade the fender system elements on all dolphin berth structures.

The project scored the highest in the "Natural World" category. A "conserved" level of performance was achieved on credits NW1.7 Preserve Greenfields and NW3.4 Maintain Wetland and Surface Water Functions. This was helped by the project being developed on an existing site, therefore having minimal effect on existing ecosystems. An initiative that helped gain points in the quality of life section is that 2% of the project cost is allocated for waterfront improvement projects and programmes. Although a Bronze level was achieved, several small actions would improve the score on similar projects.

- Information from: BergerABAM, 2013, Envision Case Study - Port of Everett Dolphin Birth Improvements Available at: [http://www.portofeverett.com/home/index.asp?page=18&dc\\_id=51](http://www.portofeverett.com/home/index.asp?page=18&dc_id=51) [Accessed 5 Sep 2013].



The five core Envision categories



Port of Everett Dolphin Berth Improvement Envision score (scheme pilot test)