

ENVISION CANADA

Gordie Howe International Bridge, Envision Platinum

Envision Canada is a partnership between the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering (CSCE) and the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI).

The purpose of this partnership is to advance sustainable infrastructure practices in Canada by accelerating the use of the Envision® framework.



ENVISION
CANADA

Canadian Society for
Civil Engineering



Société canadienne
de génie civil



Institute for
Sustainable
Infrastructure



ENVISION

Envision is a holistic sustainability framework and rating system that enables a thorough examination of the sustainability and resiliency of all types of infrastructure. It is the only comprehensive tool in North America that can assist government agencies and their consultants and contractors in delivering infrastructure that tackles the climate crisis, addresses public health and safety needs, cultivates social equity and justice, creates jobs, and spurs economic recovery.

ENVISION INCLUDES:






- A guidance manual.
- Project assessment tools.
- Third-party project verification.
- Professional training and credentialing.

Envision has been used in Canada since it was first released in 2012 and is being applied to dozens of projects across the country. To date, 17 projects in Canada, collectively worth \$3.3 billion in infrastructure development, have completed third-party verification and earned Envision Awards. Another \$5.8 billion in development is currently registered for or undergoing review.

Some of the signature Envision-verified projects in Canada include:

- Centerm Terminal Expansion Project and South Shore Access Project
- STM's New Entrance Building to the Vendôme metro station
- York Region's 2nd Concession Project
- Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority's Gordie Howe International Bridge
- Montreal's Samuel De Champlain Bridge Corridor
- Vancouver's Northeast False Creek Renewal and Development Project
- Surrey's Biofuel Facility

Envision sets the standard for what constitutes sustainable infrastructure and incentivizes higher performance goals beyond minimum requirements. The framework includes 64 sustainability and resilience indicators—called credits—which are divided across five categories (and 14 subcategories):

-  Quality of Life (Wellbeing, Mobility, Community)
-  Leadership (Collaboration, Planning, Economy)
-  Resource Allocation (Materials, Energy, Water)
-  Natural World (Siting, Conservation, Ecology)
-  Climate and Resilience (Emissions, Resilience)

Each credit includes evaluation criteria which outline what needs to be done to meet the intent of the credit. Credit achievements range from Improved (performance that is slightly above conventional) to Restorative (performance that restores degraded natural or social systems).

Projects that proceed through an independent, third-party verification process and demonstrate they have achieved sufficient credits earn public recognition for their accomplishment in the form of Envision Awards. There are four award levels: Verified, Silver, Gold, and Platinum.

FAQ

WHY WAS ENVISION CANADA LAUNCHED?

Communities across Canada are looking for solutions to combat the climate crisis and build back better and stronger post-COVID-19. CSCE and ISI believe Envision is a tool that can help address these challenges and support the attainment of a range of other vital sustainability and resiliency goals. Working together with Envision as the blueprint, we can build a climate-resilient future for Canada.

HOW ARE CSCE AND ISI WORKING TOGETHER?

Envision Canada is a partnership between CSCE and ISI to accelerate the use of Envision in Canada. The CSCE-ISI Joint Task Force meets monthly to discuss initiatives to achieve three main goals:

- **Improving awareness:** promoting the use of Envision and its benefits to the Canadian civil engineering industry, and the a/e/c industry more broadly.
- **Capacity building:** ensuring there are sufficient resources to successfully apply the Envision framework in Canada.
- **Fostering innovation:** demonstrating how Envision fits in the Canadian context and represents Canadian needs and values.

IS THE ENVISION FRAMEWORK IN CANADA DIFFERENT THAN THE ENVISION FRAMEWORK USED ELSEWHERE?

Envision in Canada is the same framework that is widely used in the United States and elsewhere. Envision was initially developed for use in the United States and Canada and since its inception, it has been successfully applied to projects in Canada, the US, Italy, and elsewhere. To access the complete *Envision Guidance Manual*, create a free account on [EnvisionCanada.com](https://www.envisioncanada.com) and from there, you will be able to download an English or French version from your dashboard.

HOW CAN I BECOME TRAINED IN ENVISION?

Those trained in the use of Envision are called Envision Sustainability Professionals. To earn your ENV SP credential, first create an account through the Envision Canada website. ENV SP training is offered as an online course or facilitated workshop. Completion of the course is a prerequisite for taking the exam. The exam is available immediately upon completion of the course. It's an online, open-book exam with 75 multiple-choice questions. Visit [EnvisionCanada.com](https://www.envisioncanada.com) to learn more.

ARE TRAINING DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE?

Envision Canada members receive training discounts. If your organization is a member and listed as an **Envision Supported Agency** or **Envision Qualified Company**, check with your organization to see if training is available and whether your organization has training packages or credits available.

If your organization is not already an Envision Canada member, you can become an individual member and receive training discounts.

Full-time students and faculty receive further discounts on training.

Visit [EnvisionCanada.com](https://www.envisioncanada.com) to see a complete list of training fees and discounts.





Lacombe Main Street Program, Envision Silver

HOW CAN I BECOME AN ENVISION CANADA MEMBER?

Fill out a short application, and pay the appropriate fee. There are three membership categories: corporate/private-sector, public-sector (includes academic institutions), and individual.

Only corporate/private-sector and individual members pay an annual fee. Visit [EnvisionCanada.com](https://www.envisioncanada.com) to learn more.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A MEMBER OF ENVISION CANADA?

Membership signals your commitment to creating a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable world. Members also receive discounts on Envision training and project verification.

Members of Envision Canada who employ one or more ENV SPs on staff are listed on the Envision Canada website as an **Envision Supported Agency** or **Envision Qualified Company**. Envision Canada members are also listed on the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure website ([SustainableInfrastructure.org](https://www.sustainableinfrastructure.org)) accordingly.

WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR ENVISION VERIFICATION AND HOW DO I GET MY PROJECT VERIFIED?

Verification is available to all types of infrastructure, including energy projects, water/wastewater projects, transportation projects, landscape projects, waste projects, industrial projects, food/agricultural projects, and more.

Please review the Verification page on [EnvisionCanada.com](https://www.envisioncanada.com) for details as well as the *Guide to Envision Verification for Applicants* linked there.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED WITH ENVISION CANADA AND STAY ON TOP OF LATEST DEVELOPMENTS?

There are many ways to get involved:

- Become a member (corporate/private-sector, public-sector, or individual).
- Become an ENV SP.
- Join a CSCE or ISI committee.
- Advocate for the use of Envision within your organization.
- If you're a member of CSCE, sign up for webinars on sustainability, resiliency, and Envision.
- Sign up for free Envision webinars hosted by ISI.
- Participate in CSCE's annual conference and/or ISI's annual virtual conference.
- Follow CSCE and ISI on LinkedIn to stay abreast of the latest news.
- Sign up for CSCE and ISI e-newsletters.
- Reach out to and connect with other ENV SPs in your area to learn from their experiences and share your own.

WILL SOMEONE PRESENT ENVISION TO MY ORGANIZATION?

Yes! If you are interested in learning more about Envision and its many benefits, please contact us and we will be happy to arrange an Introduction to Envision webinar.



WHO CAN I CONTACT TO LEARN MORE?

For questions about Envision Canada or the use of Envision, email info@sustainableinfrastructure.org.

To contact the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering, email info@csce.org.



ENVISION USE IN CANADA

INDIVIDUALS

In Canada, there are more than 800 credentialed Envision Sustainability Professionals (ENV SPs) trained in the use of Envision. These professionals are employed in public agencies, private companies, or are students or faculty members at academic institutions. The ENV SP credential is increasingly important for anyone involved in infrastructure including civil engineers, planners, designers, consultants, architects, CEOs, CFOs, contractors, and procurement professionals.

PUBLIC AGENCIES

Many public agencies in Canada recognize or use Envision to guide infrastructure development. A few of the Envision Supported Agencies delivering better infrastructure using Envision include: Aéroports de Montréal, City of Red Deer, Halifax Harbour Bridges, Halifax Port Authority, Hydro-Québec, Metrolinx, Metro Vancouver, Regional Municipality of Durham, Société de transport de Montréal, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, and more.

PRIVATE COMPANIES

Many large and small firms employ one or more Envision Sustainability Professionals (ENV SPs) and are members of Envision Canada. They are referred to as Envision Qualified Companies and notably include: Ellis Don, Pomerleau, SNC-Lavalin, Stantec, WSP, and more.

ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

Academic institutions in Canada are finding innovative ways to integrate Envision sustainability concepts and approaches in the classroom. For example, McMaster University's W Booth School of Engineering: Practice and Technology launched a Sustainable Infrastructure: Design and Engineering certificate course in partnership with CSCE Ontario and ISI that includes Envision training as part of the curriculum. Envision has also been introduced to students studying infrastructure and climate change at the University of British Columbia, University of Toronto, York University, St. Francis Xavier University, University of New Brunswick, and more.

INFRASTRUCTURE CANADA

Envision is a recognized methodology to assess climate change risk and resilience in Infrastructure Canada's Climate Lens guidance. Climate Lens is a requirement applicable to several of Infrastructure Canada's programs including the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund, and Smart Cities Challenge. Climate Lens has two components: a greenhouse gas mitigation assessment, and a climate change resilience assessment. Many projects seeking federal funding need to complete one or both assessments and Envision is a tool that supports this.



Vendôme Metro Station, Envision Gold

© STM – Julien Perron-Gagné, courtesy of the archives of the Société de transport de Montréal

CSCE is a not-for-profit learned society created to develop and maintain high standards of civil engineering practice in Canada and to enhance the public image of the civil engineering profession. CSCE's national office is in Surrey, British Columbia.

ISI is a nonprofit education and research organization based in Washington, DC. ISI was established in 2010 by the American Public Works Association, the American Society of Civil Engineers, and the American Council of Engineering Companies.

CSCE and ISI are equally committed to improving civil infrastructure. This includes providing training and tools such as Envision to the civil engineering profession to advance the sustainability, equity, and resiliency of the built environment.



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