



Presented by Michael F. Bloom, PE, ENV SP
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The Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI) is a 501 (c) (3) not for profit organization that developed and maintains a sustainability rating system for civil infrastructure in the United States. That system, called **Envision™**, was created by ISI in Washington, DC and the Zofnass Program for Sustainable Infrastructure at the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. ISI was founded by the [American Council of Engineering Companies](#) (ACEC), the [American Public Works Association](#) (APWA), and the [American Society of Civil Engineers](#) (ASCE). The founding organizations of ISI have a combined membership of over 250,000 professionals and they represent public sector project owners, designers, planners, and engineers. The rating system can be briefly described as “LEED for horizontal projects.”

Envision includes two main elements. First, it includes a professional credentialing program which allows professional designers, planners, engineers to become Envision Sustainability Professionals through an educational program and test. Second, it includes a project recognition program which may be used by project sponsors to seek and obtain one of four project award levels: Verified, Silver, Gold, and Platinum, depending upon the number of credits the project secures from among the 60+ credits available in quality of life, leadership, resource allocation, natural world, and climate and resilience categories.

The presentation will provide background on the creation of ISI; an overview of the Envision rating system; highlights of the credits available; and a description of how project sponsors can seek ISI recognition; and how individuals can become credentialed. The presentation will also highlight recent developments in Texas and the Houston area regarding the use of Envision to design projects, select consultants, award engineering contracts, and guide design competitions.

Biography

Michael provides sustainability consulting services. Since 1991 he has helped restore environmentally impacted sites, plan and design resilient public infrastructure facilities, and helped communities looking to realize enhanced economic, social, and environmental project outcomes. He became an Envision Sustainability Professional (ENV SP) in 2013, an Envision Verifier in 2014, and an Envision Trainer in 2019. Since spring of 2019 Michael, along with Liz Parent of 5engineering, has provided ENV SP credentialing training to over 200 professionals in the Harris County / Houston region of Texas, after Harris County officials decided to move forward with the use of Envision. Michael is a Certified Floodplain Manager, a Board-Certified Environmental Engineer, and a Professional Engineer in Texas and seven other states.