

Sustainable by design: A strategic advantage

Delivering high-performance, future-ready infrastructure

Infrastructure owners face growing pressure to deliver resilient, resource-efficient and publicly defensible assets without compromising cost, schedule or performance. Sustainable by design integrates sustainability where it has vast impact: early in planning and design, when decisions matter most.

By embedding sustainability into design, clients can:

- Proactively manage climate, regulatory and stakeholder risk
- Strengthen funding, permitting, insurability and public acceptance
- Make smarter design decisions earlier, when influence is highest and costs are lowest
- Improve whole-life performance, reliability and adaptability
- Deliver measurable, defensible outcomes that meet stakeholder expectations and strengthen long-term asset value

Our teams translate sustainability objectives into practical, design-ready actions — not aspirational checklists.

Our sustainable by design framework

Powered by Envision® and built to work with your priorities

Black & Veatch's sustainable by design approach is anchored in the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure's Envision framework, a globally recognized system for evaluating sustainability alongside traditional project drivers such as cost, safety, quality and schedule.

Unlike one-dimensional sustainability tools, Envision provides a comprehensive, outcomes-based lens that:

- Integrates environmental, social and economic performance
- Supports infrastructure-specific decision-making
- Drives measurable, defensible outcomes across the asset life cycle

Sustainable design in practice

Reducing carbon while exceeding performance expectations

A substation project supporting a data center achieved a roughly 12% reduction in embodied carbon while meeting — and exceeding — performance requirements. Black & Veatch applied sustainable by design principles to evaluate embodied carbon across major design components, enabling targeted material and specification changes during design when cost and risk impacts were lowest.

Our end-to-end Envision capabilities support clients from early sustainability strategy and design integration through formal certification and independent verification. Our Envision sustainability professionals (ENV SP) and experienced practitioners help teams:

- Identify high-value credits and prioritize effort where it delivers the greatest return
- Integrate requirements seamlessly into design and construction
- Manage documentation and coordinate the verification process

For clients using other frameworks, our approach remains flexible. Envision can align with systems such as LEED® or BREEAM®, complementing existing programs while addressing infrastructure-specific risks and opportunities.

We also help clients determine the right level of rigor — from informal alignment to full third-party certification — based on project value, risk profile and strategic objectives.

How we deliver sustainable by design

Focused effort. Measurable results.

Sustainable by design is integrated across the project life cycle, with the greatest impact realized during planning and design. Using Envision, projects can achieve outcomes across five core focus areas:

				
RESOURCE ALLOCATION	NATURAL WORLD	CLIMATE AND RESILIENCE	QUALITY OF LIFE	LEADERSHIP
■ Reduce energy, water and material intensity ■ Evaluate alternatives early ■ Lower operating and maintenance costs	■ Support responsible siting ■ Protect and restore habitats ■ Integrate nature-based solutions	■ Assess climate risk ■ Reduce emissions ■ Design assets to perform under future conditions	■ Support public health, safety, equity and mobility ■ Delivering tangible community benefits	■ Strengthening governance and stakeholder engagement ■ Enhance long-term economic value

Design efforts intentionally are focused on high-value opportunities, often identifying cost-neutral or low-cost improvements that deliver measurable benefits to both the project and the community.

Partnering for your success

Today's infrastructure must balance speed to market, community engagement and long-term business performance. Our sustainable by design approach helps investments move faster — and remain resilient, efficient and defensible well into the future.

Whether your goal is to secure community buy-in, support certification, strengthen ESG alignment or simply deliver better-performing assets, we partner with clients to turn project goals into engineered outcomes

Building a world of difference through sustainable design.

Delivering Envision® Platinum

Turning strategy into recognized outcomes

Alliant Energy's Upland Prairie and English Farms wind projects — part of the Alliant Wind Farm program — achieved Envision Platinum recognition for delivering measurable environmental, social and economic benefits to host communities. Black & Veatch led the Envision strategy and coordination.



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