



Getting started: Service overview

Because thorny, complex environmental problems cross sectors, organizations and jurisdictional lines, working across these boundaries makes sense. Working together can amplify our efforts – extending our reach, broadening our scale, strengthening our voices for better results. When it works, it’s magic!

But, where to start? We’re so accustomed to “someone” being in charge that even when we truly want to collaborate and co-create, it’s often not clear what to do. Scoping and defining what you want to achieve and with whom are fundamental to starting off of the right foot.

Most successful collaborations have “how to collaborate” support – particularly in the beginning. **envision** would love to provide that support as you navigate the early days of your effort. We help you figure out the general notion of what you want to accomplish, learn how to involve the right people and decide if a collaborative effort is really appropriate.

Options for working together

Do it yourself -- with support. You get worksheets and templates to get you started along with a kick off phone call with **envision**, where we’ll walk through all the materials.

Get full, external expertise. Here, **envision** leads you through early conversations about a possible collaborative, enabling you to offer your brilliance instead of worrying about the process or meeting details. In this option, you get:

- A customized agenda, worksheets and materials
- As needed, completed telephone interviews with potential collaborators
- Meeting design and facilitation
- Debriefs about the meetings so you can assess whether proceeding is appropriate
- As desired, documentation of the session(s)

Build your own capacity. In this option you participate in on-line or in-person workshops where **envision** teaches you the fundamentals of getting started with a collaborative effort.

Don’t see the right option? Get in touch and we will figure out the right approach for your situation.

Contact us: charlotte@envision-synergy.net or 416-778-4713. We’d be pleased to help!



Example projects

Collaborating for ecosystem health in western Lake Ontario

As the receiving waters for one of Canada's most highly populated areas, the western Lake Ontario region – from Cobourg to Niagara-on-the-Lake – has a long history of water quality and ecosystem health concerns, with pollutant and nutrient loads from the land impacting the lake. Yet, organizations and governments with the ability to link efforts on the land to improvements within the lake are largely disconnected.

In this project, **envision** designed and led a workshop for nearly 30 organizations to get started – exploring whether a collaborative approach made sense for improved ecosystem health across western Lake Ontario.¹

Creating an “Urban Water Centre”

As the world becomes increasingly urbanized, a healthy urban water cycle becomes ever more important. **envision** worked with four disparate faculties across a University to build coherence across the faculties and set a collective direction for future action in order to create an Urban Water Centre².

Fostering environmental collaboration in Western New York

Despite western New York's reputation from Love Canal's environmental challenges and others, the region also boasts internationally known resources such as Niagara Falls and many of Frank Lloyd Wright's architecturally significant buildings.

envision supported nearly 200 groups in learning to better collaborate to prepare priorities for the region. The results included an improved ability to work together on regional environmental issues.³

envision SYNERGY – environmental solutions, together – amplifies the effectiveness of groups, organizations and companies working for healthy air, land, water and communities.

Along the way, **envision** builds strong organizations that can effectively carry out their work for greater positive impact and are well poised for collaborative approaches.

Charlotte Young, Ph.D., an environmental psychologist, leads **envision**.

¹Client: Toronto and Region Conversation Authority and Credit Valley Conservation Authority

²Client: Ryerson University

³Client: Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo/Institute for Conservation Leadership