Part 1: The definition of *Innovation* and how innovation points are awarded

What is *Innovation within an IS Rating*?

Within the context of IS credit Inn-1, *Innovation* can be defined as project (or project team) initiatives that contribute something new or make a significant change to an existing product or process in an infrastructure project. A maximum of 10 initiatives can be submitted.

Innovation initiatives must address a valid sustainable development issue; show a significant sustainability benefit that is measurable, evidenced and capable of being objectively assessed; and be related to the design, construction or operation of the infrastructure project.

Awarding *Innovation*

Up to a maximum of 10 innovation points can be awarded within a single project.

Projects are rewarded for exceptional and quantified sustainability performance within at least one of four categories. If a project is unsure about how an innovation fits within the Inn-1 category criteria, they should speak to their IS Project Manager for clarification.

It is important to note that while innovation points are assessed by a Verifier, they are awarded at the discretion of the Infrastructure Sustainability Council. Specific evidence for meeting category requirements must be provided by the project as outlined in the Innovation Credit Guideline and an innovation must have been implemented by a project to achieve points.

Part 2: The Inn-1 Innovation Categories

- #### *Category 1: 'First' innovative technology, process or method*

The aim of this category is to reward the first* implementation of initiatives which use an innovative process, method or technology to deliver significant and measurable sustainability benefits within the project or asset context.

To be awarded points, you need to demonstrate that your innovative process, method or technology is a first* in that State or Territory or the North Island or South Island of New Zealand (1 point), in Australia or New Zealand (3 points), or in the world (5 points).

You must demonstrate that the initiative implemented addresses a valid sustainable development issue AND demonstrates a significant sustainability benefit.

*'First' in this context is explained in **Part 3** below.

- #### *Category 2: Market transformation*

The aim of this category is to reward the promotion and implementation of innovative initiatives that create a significant change in the market through facilitating the wider adoption of new ways of achieving sustainable outcomes.

To be awarded a point, your initiative does not necessarily need to be new, provided the way it is applied in the market is.

You must demonstrate that initiative implemented addresses a valid sustainable development issue AND demonstrates a significant sustainability benefit.

This category typically has no relationship with the 'first' category above.

- ○ **Category 3. Improving on credit benchmarks**

The aim of this category is to reward projects that demonstrate a substantial improvement to a specific benchmark that is addressed by an existing IS credit.

For your project to be awarded a point, your credit's top-level benchmark must be exceeded by at least a similar magnitude as the performance increment between Level 2 and Level 3. Data must be included in the innovation submission to justify assertions you make as to the benchmark criteria achieved.

This innovation category is only available for specific credits – see relevant IS Technical Manuals and/or Rulings.

- ○ **Category 4. Innovation Challenge**

Innovation Challenges reward the application of new concepts and practices in delivering sustainability benefits **not addressed by the existing IS credits**. Innovation Challenges allow the ISC to gather data on the uptake and implementation of new approaches and to test new performance benchmarks.

A recently added Innovation Challenge is on Circular Economy and rewards projects for using materials with recycled content (and measuring and reporting on their usage). This new Innovation Challenge also encourages the use of Materiality Circularity Indicators (MCI) a relatively new metric in the industry.

Part 3: Clarifying some recurring project challenges

When are projects able to claim the same innovation?

Multiple projects CAN apply to be rewarded for the same 'First technology, process or method' innovation (Category 1 above), within a defined timeframe.

In Category 1, the 'first' can mean never previously done before i.e. you are the first project to implement the innovation. It can also mean that the specific innovation has been claimed before but you have implemented that innovation within the time restrictions and sustainability requirements detailed in Ruling Inn-1.15. *(see IS Rulings for details)*

Why was my project 'innovation' not awarded?

As detailed above (Part 1), there is a very specific definition of Innovation within an IS Rating which includes meeting all the IS credit criteria. Sometimes project initiatives do not meet all aspects of the IS definition and/or may not provide sufficient evidence to prove compliance. The onus is on the project submission to do the project justice and clearly evidence how the credit criteria are met.

Part 4: IS documents/guidelines related to Inn-1

See ISAP Resources* (https://learn.iscouncil.org/mod/book/view.php?id=39) for relevant IS Technical Manuals, guidelines and rulings, including the relevant Innovation Credit Guideline and Innovation Challenge Appendices.

*Only available to licensed ISAPs