

Civil and Environmental Engineering

Present

Infrastructure Sustainability: Systemic Thoughts on Engineering Infrastructure for a Modern World

Speaker:

Robert M. Beinstein, P.E., ENV SP,

Volumes have been published about the role infrastructure plays in responding to climate change and thorny, related societal challenges. It's clear we must fundamentally change how our societies "do" infrastructure, yet progress has been incremental at best, insufficient at worst. As engineers, we're seen as masters of infrastructure, but does our training and knowledge fully prepare us to take the next steps? If not, what's missing? How does the concept of sustainable infrastructure alter the work society calls on engineers to perform? This talk will discuss the background and need for change, explore the drivers for revising how we conceive, plan, design, and execute infrastructure programs, and introduce Envision™, a rapidly promulgating tool that makes the amorphous concepts of "sustainability" actionable in civil society. The talk will be interactive, so come prepared to engage!

Robert M. Beinstein (Bob), P.E., ENV SP, has followed a distinctly non-linear path in his career to date. A mid-career graduate of UCONN (B.S., Civil and Environmental Engineering, 1998), Bob's has taken on technical and managerial roles in the commercial nuclear industry, managed environmental and smart growth programs in the Federal marketplace, and lead a diverse array of business development and client service-related work in the engineering consulting business. He served on the Sustainable Infrastructure Advisory Board for the Zofnass Program for Sustainable Infrastructure at the Harvard Graduate School of Design from its inception, helping develop the Envision Sustainable Infrastructure Rating system. In another career "left turn", Bob recently spent four months in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, managing a temporary power team in the wake of Hurricane Maria. Helping the people of Puerto Rico keep water and wastewater plants, hospitals, and other major infrastructure operating during this dire time was one of the most rewarding adventures of his life.

Friday, April 05, 2019
12:20 – 1:10 PM
Castleman - Room 212