

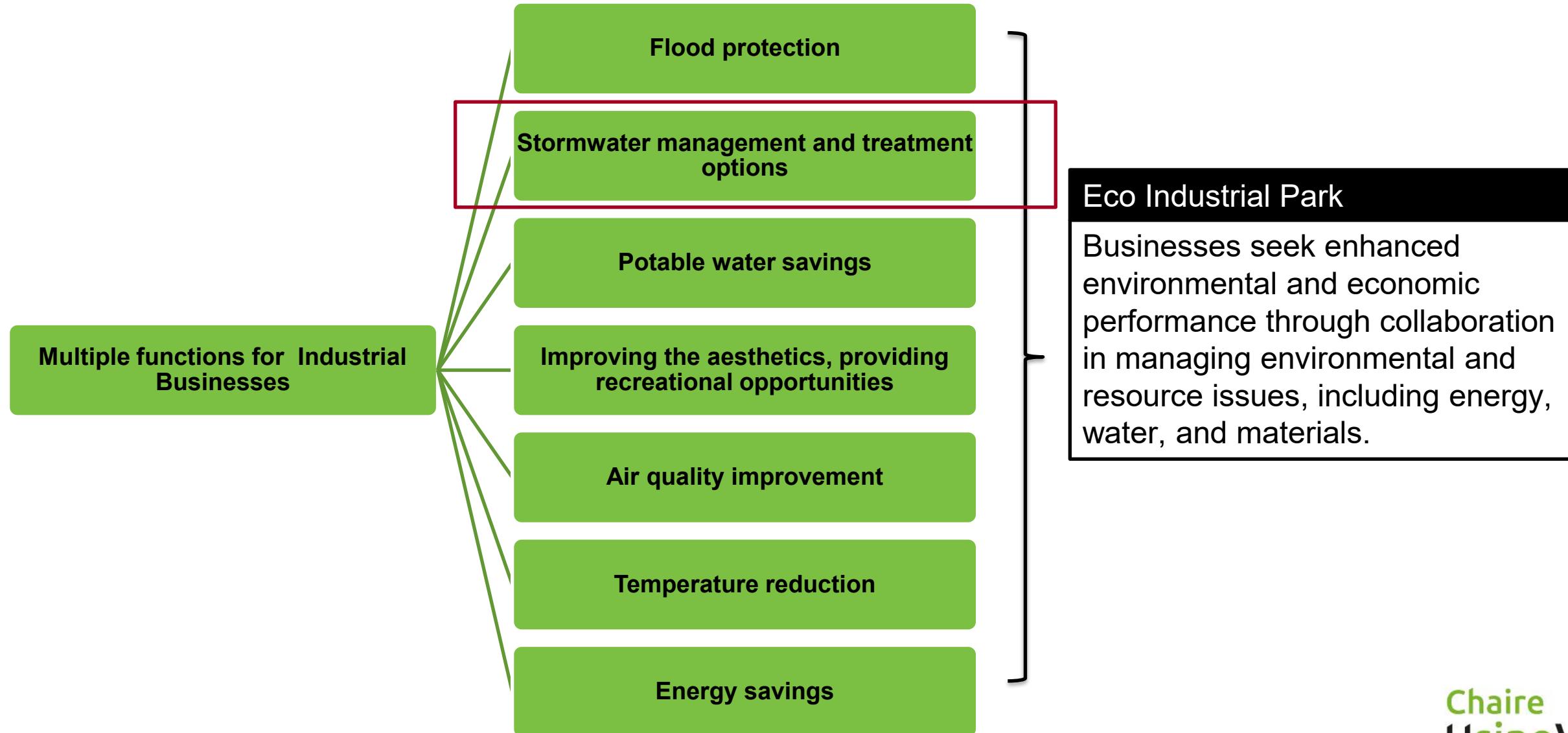
2nd Seminar of the UsinoVerT Chair
“Planning Green Infrastructures for Industrial Cities”
ESALQ-Piracicaba, Brazil & UniLaSalle-Rouen, France
November 27 - 28, 2025

Greening the Grey: Unlocking the Potential of Industrial Landscapes

Varuni Jaysooriya, PhD.

School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS)
University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Green Infrastructure (GI) – Role in Industrial Areas



GI & Cost Savings in Runoff Management

Location	Description of GI Used	Cost Savings through GI
Parking Lot Retrofit Largo, Maryland	One-half acre of impervious surface. Stormwater directed to central bioretention.	\$10,500–\$15,000
Old Farm Shopping Centre, Maryland	Site redesigned to reduce impervious surfaces, added bioretention, filter strips, and infiltration trenches.	\$36,230
OMSI Parking Lot Portland, Oregon	Parking lot incorporated bio-swales into the design, and reduced piping and catch basin infrastructure.	\$78,000
Light Industrial Parking Lot, Portland, Oregon	Site incorporated bio swales into the design, and reduced piping and catch basin infrastructure.	\$11,247
Point West Shopping Center, Lexana, Kansas	Reduced curb and gutter, reduced storm sewer and inlets, reduced grading, and used porous pavers, added bioretention cells, and native plantings.	\$168,898
Vancouver Island Technology Park Redevelopment British Columbia, Canada	Constructed wetlands, grassy swales and open channels, rather than piping to control stormwater. Also used native plantings, shallow stormwater ponds within forested areas, and permeable surfaces on parking lots.	\$530,000

**Annual Cost Savings
through Installing Green
Infrastructure (GI) as
Runoff Management
Strategies in commercial
and Industrial
Developments (US and
Canada)**

(Jayasooriya et al., 2020)

SWOT analysis

Strengths (S)	Weaknesses (W)	Opportunities (O)	Threats (T)
Requires low initial expenses and operating costs.	Large physical footprint required.	Stakeholder participation opportunities.	Susceptible to seasonal/extreme weather.
Less sensitive to increasing material and power costs.	Needs proper site investigation and maturation time.	Partnerships with local landowners.	Unforeseen stresses over lifetime.
Appreciates in value as it connects to local environment.	Long time to mature fully.	Resource-efficient multifunctionality (cooling, air quality, flood protection).	Challenges obtaining permits and approvals.

SWOT analysis on applications of GI for industrial and/or brownfield sites

Optimizing GI for Industrial Areas

Residential Area



Industrial Area



Optimal
selection and
sizing is
complex

- Limited space
- i.e. : Bioretention/rain garden, Swales, permeable pavements

- Considerably large surface areas
- High environmental demands
- Multiple functionalities for businesses
- i.e. : Wetlands, Bioretention/Rain garden, Retention ponds, Swales, Sedimentation Basins, Permeable Pavement, Green Roof, Green Walls

Problem: Runoff Treatment from Industrial Lands

Industrial Runoff Pollution - Sources

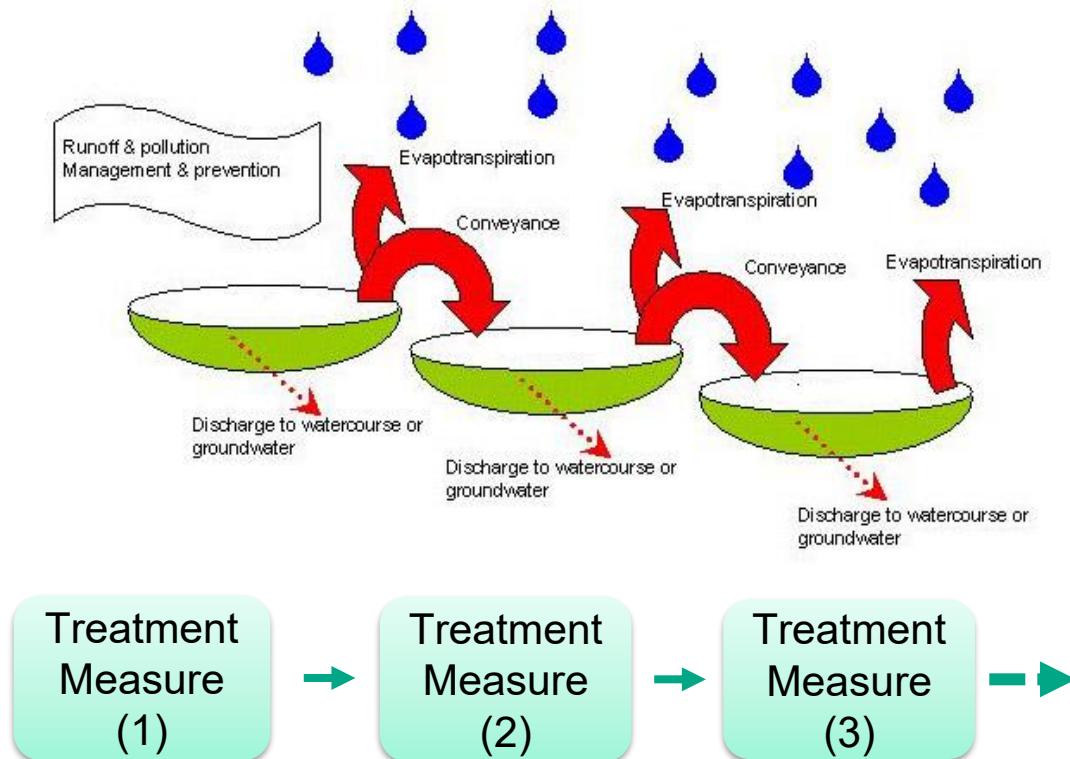
- Outdoor Material Storage
- Loading and Unloading Operations
- Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance
- Fueling Areas
- Outdoor Industrial Processing
- Waste Handling and Disposal
- Industrial Cleaning and Washdown
- Chemical Handling and Spills
- Storage Tanks and Pipelines
- Industrial Yard Traffic
- Construction and Earthmoving
- Roof and Building Runoff
- Stockpiled Finished Products
- Accidental Releases



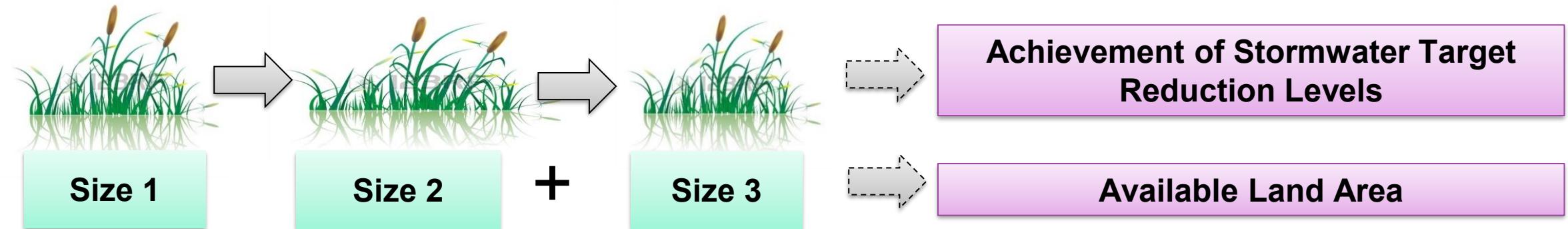
Treatment	Pollutants	Typical Treatment Measures
Primary Treatment	Gross pollutants and coarse sediments	Gross pollutant traps, Sedimentation basins, Vegetated swales
Secondary Treatment	Fine sediments and attached pollutants	Vegetated swales, Infiltration trenches, Permeable pavement, Bioretention
Tertiary Treatment	Nutrients and dissolved heavy metals	Bioretention, Bio-infiltration systems, Wetlands, Retention ponds

Advantages

- Enhanced pollutant removal with the number of different processes.
- Reduced risk of the system failure when one treatment device is failed.
- Ability of recreating the natural flow regime.
- Reduction of acute toxicity levels of stormwater for downstream aquatic ecosystems.
- Improvement of biodiversity.
- Improvement of liveability.



Challenges in Sizing of Treatment Trains



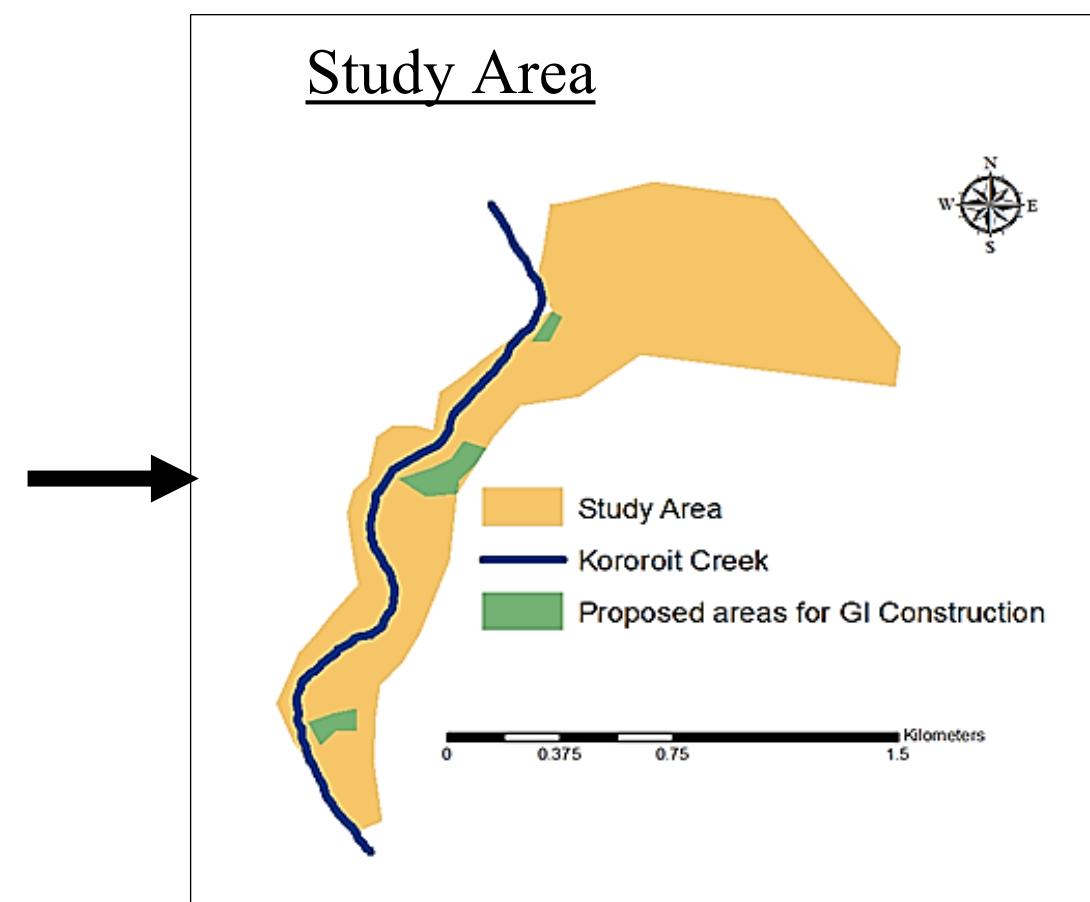
- Several treatment measures should be sized simultaneously.
- Different sizing combinations and difficulties in identifying which combination is the best.
- The availability of land.
- Costs associated with each of the treatment measures
- Achievement of target reduction levels.
- Other environmental, economic and social aspects.

Current Approach in Treatment Train Sizing

- Trial and Error
- Using Simulation Models
- Professional Judgment

Case Study- Industrial Zone in Melbourne, Australia

Study Area – Brooklyn Industrial Precinct



Potential GI practices

- Sedimentation Basin
- Vegetated Swale
- Bioretention
- Wetland
- Retention Pond

Treatment Trains

Combining Primary
Secondary and Tertiary
treatment measures

Converting treatment train sizing into a mathematical optimization problem

Treatment Train Sizing as a Single Objective Optimization Problem

Objective Function

Minimizing the costs associated throughout the life cycle of the treatment train

Minimise $f(x_i)$ $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$

Subject to $g_{TSS}(x_i) \geq TR_{TSS}$
 $g_{TP}(x_i) \geq TR_{TP}$
 $g_{TN}(x_i) \geq TR_{TN}$
 $h(x_i) \leq LAA$

Where,

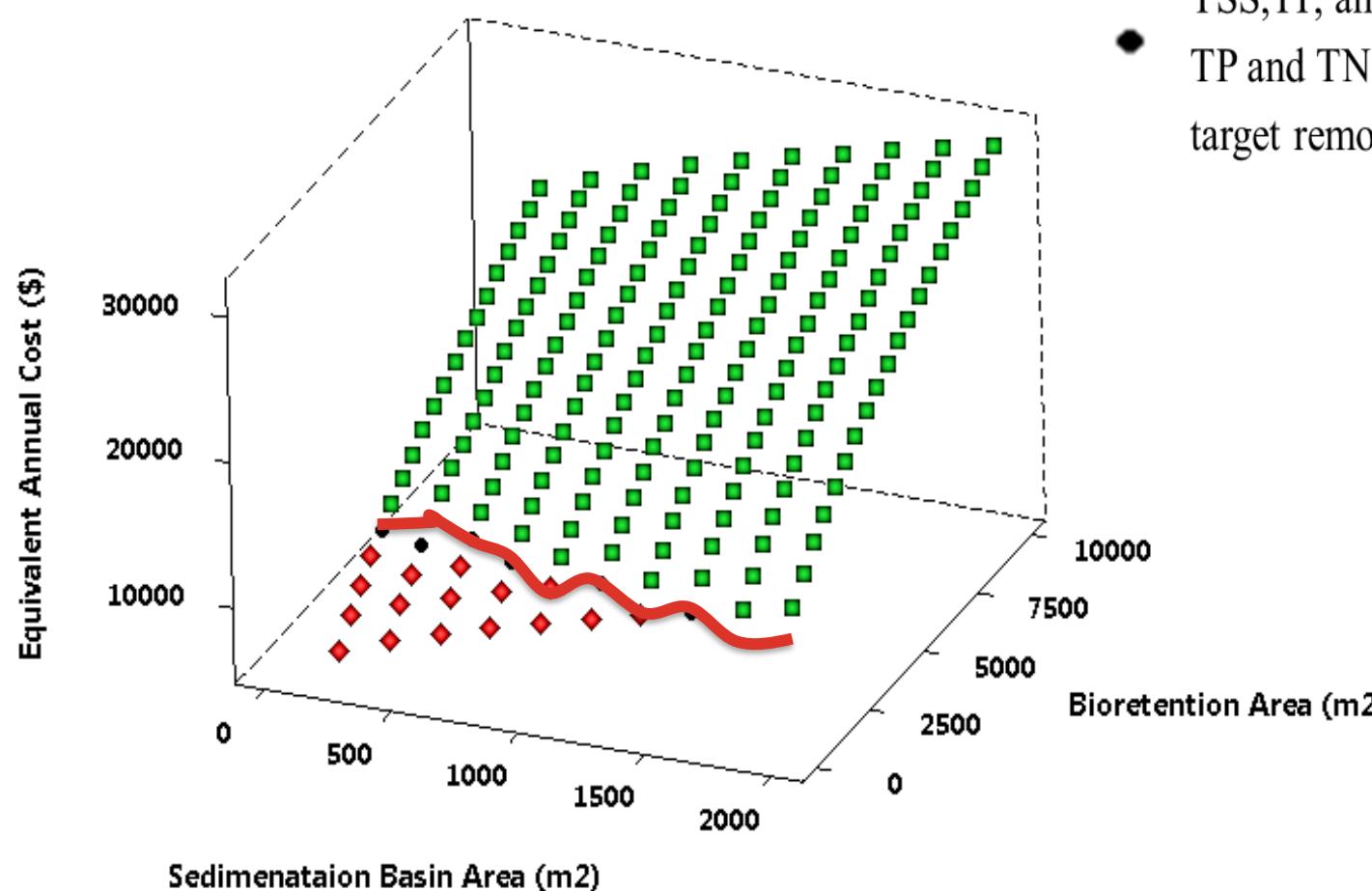
I = sizing combination
f(x) = Equivalent Annual Cost (EAC) of the treatment train
g(x) = treatment train effectiveness
TR = target reduction level
h(x) = land area required for GI to achieve target reduction level
LAA = land area available.

Target Reduction Levels - TSS – 80% , TP -45%, TN- 45%

Treatment Train Configurations

Primary and Secondary Treatment	Primary and Tertiary Treatment	Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Treatment
<input type="checkbox"/> Sedimentation Basin and Vegetated Swale	<input type="checkbox"/> Sedimentation Basin and Retention Pond	<input type="checkbox"/> Sedimentation Basin, Vegetated Swale and Bioretention <input type="checkbox"/> Sedimentation Basin, Vegetated Swale and Retention Pond <input type="checkbox"/> Sedimentation Basin, Vegetated Swale and Wetland
<input type="checkbox"/> Sedimentation Basin and Bioretention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sedimentation Basin and Wetland	<input type="checkbox"/> Sedimentation Basin, Bioretention and Retention Pond <input type="checkbox"/> Sedimentation Basin, Bioretention and Wetland
<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetated Swale and Bioretention	<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetated Swale and Wetland <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetated Swale and Retention Pond	<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetated Swale, Bioretention and Retention Pond <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetated Swale, Bioretention and Wetland

Results



- TSS,TP, and TN target removal rates are achieved
- ◆ TSS,TP, and TN target removal rates are not achieved
- TP and TN target removal rates are achieved; TSS target removal rate is not achieved

Near optimal Solutions- Single Objective Optimization

- Treatment Trains with Two Treatment Measures
 - **66** Potential Sizing Combinations
- Treatment Trains with Three Treatment Measures
 - **219** Potential Sizing Combinations

Sample Treatment Train (Sedimentation Basin and Bioretention)

Near optimal Sizing Combinations for the treatment train – Sedimentation Basin and Bioretention

Sizing Combination	Sedimentation Basin Area (m ²)	Bioretention Area (m ²)	TSS Removal Efficiency (%)	TP Removal Efficiency (%)	TN Removal Efficiency (%)	Equivalent Annual Cost (\$)
1	2000	500	80.6	69	52.6	14569
2	1800	500	80.2	66.3	50.1	13822
3	1600	1000	81.9	67.0	52.9	14680
4	1400	1000	81.2	63.9	50.3	13881
5	1200	1500	82.9	64.2	52.5	14365
6	1000	1500	80.6	61.6	49.5	13493
7	800	2000	81.7	60.6	51.7	13723
8	600	2500	82.7	60.0	53.5	13778
9	400	3000	82.7	58.8	53.8	13652
10	200	3000	80	55.4	50.7	12354

Performance Measures- Sample Treatment Train (Sedimentation Basin and Bioretention)

X_{\max} is better than X_{\min} for maximizing

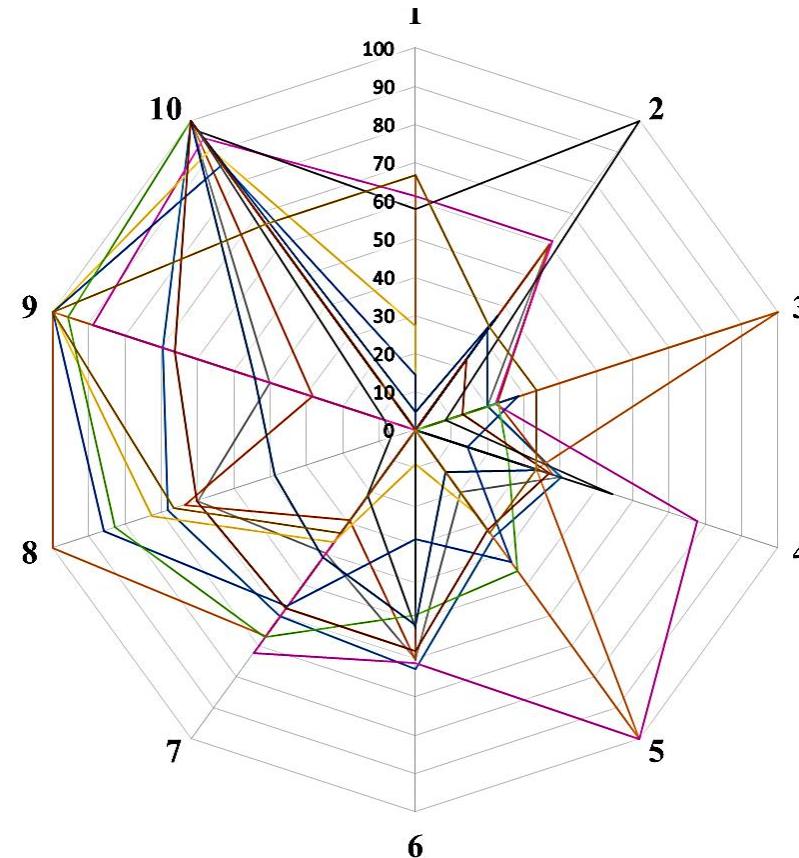
-

$$\frac{(X - X_{\min})}{(X_{\max} - X_{\min})} * 100 \quad \text{When } X = X_{\max}, 100 \text{ and } X = X_{\min}, 0$$

X_{\min} is better than X_{\max} for minimizing

-

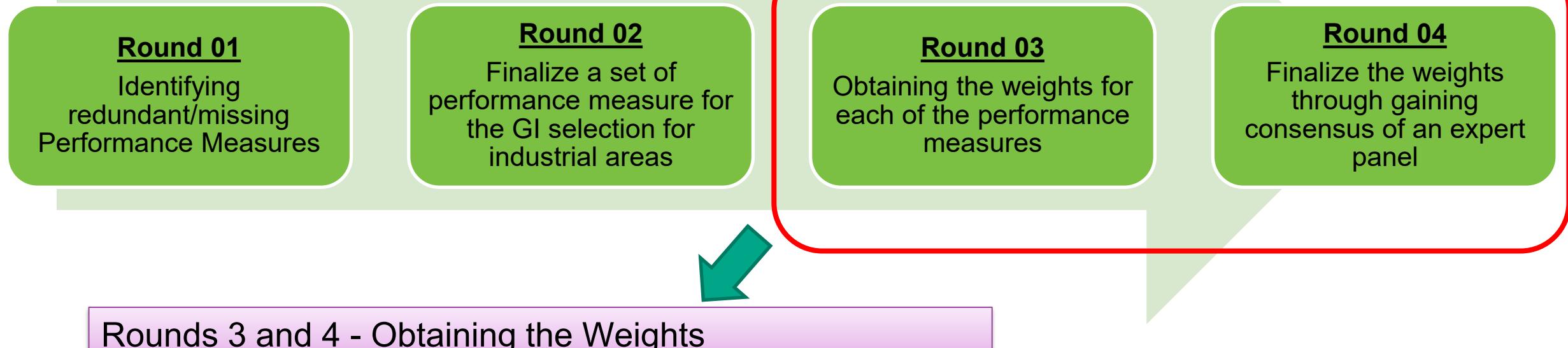
$$\frac{-(X - X_{\max})}{(X_{\max} - X_{\min})} * 100 \quad \text{When } X = X_{\min}, 100 \text{ and } X = X_{\max}, 0$$



Sedimentation Basin and Bioretention

- Annual TSS Load Reduction (Kg/Yr)
- Annual TN Load Reduction (Kg/Yr)
- Zn Removal (%)
- Habitat Creation
- Equivalent Annual Cost (\$)
- Annual Operation and Maintenance Cost (\$)
- Annual TP Load Reduction (Kg/Yr)
- Cu Removal (%)
- Peak Flow Reduction (%)
- Portable Water Savings (ML/yr)
- Capital Cost (\$)
- Improvement of Liveability

Delphi Survey – 4 rounded iterative questionnaire series



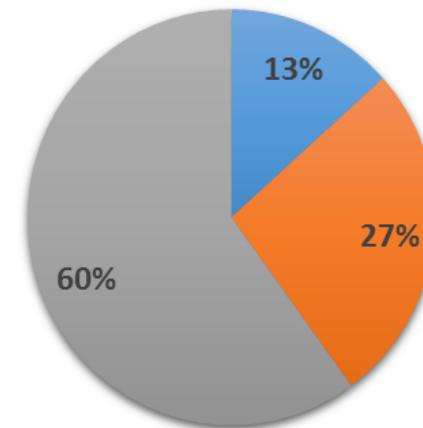
SWING Weighting Method

- Most Important Performance Measure – 100 points
- The weights for other performance measures – Based on this reference point

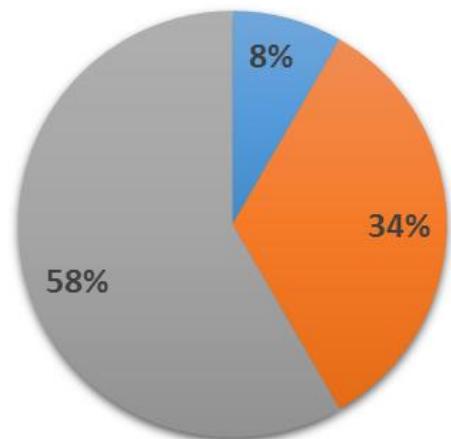
Expert Panel - Profile

ID	Expert Designation	Current Organization Type
1	Project Manager	Public Water Utility
2	Environmental Engineer	Consultancy
3	Senior Design Engineer	Local Government
4	Research Fellow	University
5	Water Resources Engineer	State Government
6	Strategic Supply Planner	Public Water Utility
7	Project Manager	Public Water Utility
8	Water Resources Planner	State Government
9	Senior Water Resource Analyst	Public Water Utility
10	Research Fellow	University
11	Senior Associate	Consultancy
12	Project Manager	Public Water Utility
13	Senior Drainage Engineer	Local Government
14	Technical Director - Water	Consultancy
15	Design Engineer	Local Government
16	Water Resources Engineer	Local Government

Round	Invited	Completed	Response Rate (By round)
Round 1	16	15	94%
Round 2	15	15	100 %
Round 3	15	13	87%
Round 4	13	12	92%



Start of the Survey



End of the Survey

Delphi Survey- Measuring Consensus of the Expert Panel

Rounds 1 and 2

Objectives

- Investigating the environmental, economic and social performance measures important in GI selection for industrial areas
- Identify redundant or missing performance measures

Rounds 3 and 4

Objectives

- Weight elicitation for finalized performance measures
- Obtaining SWING weights for Performance measures

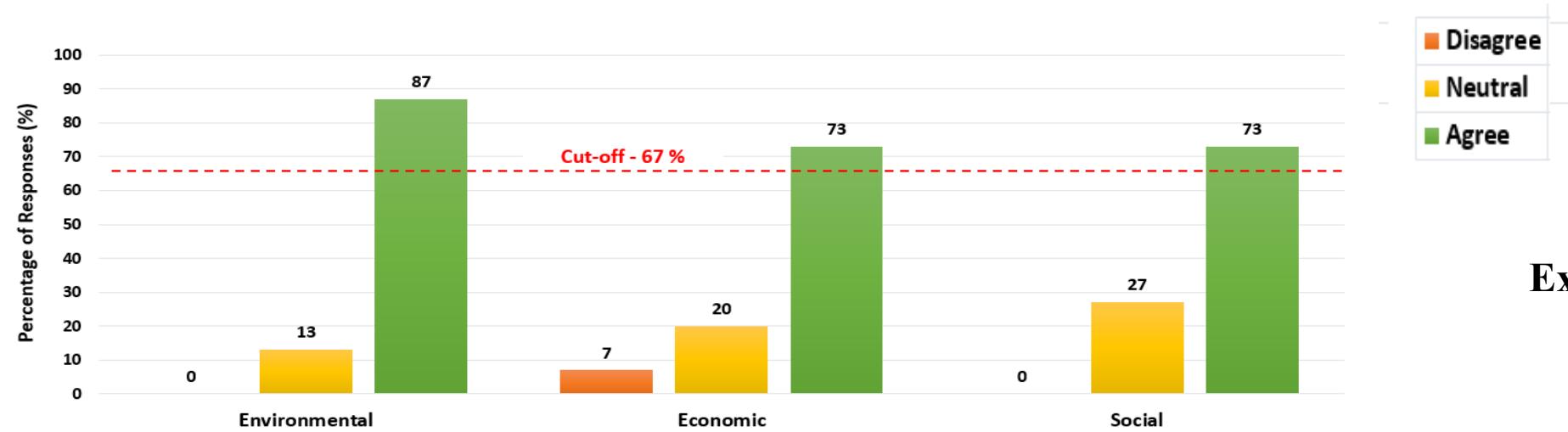
Certain Level of Agreement – Two thirds of the panel

- Not Important (1)
- Slightly Important (2)
- Moderately Important (3)
- Very Important (4)
- Extremely Important (5)

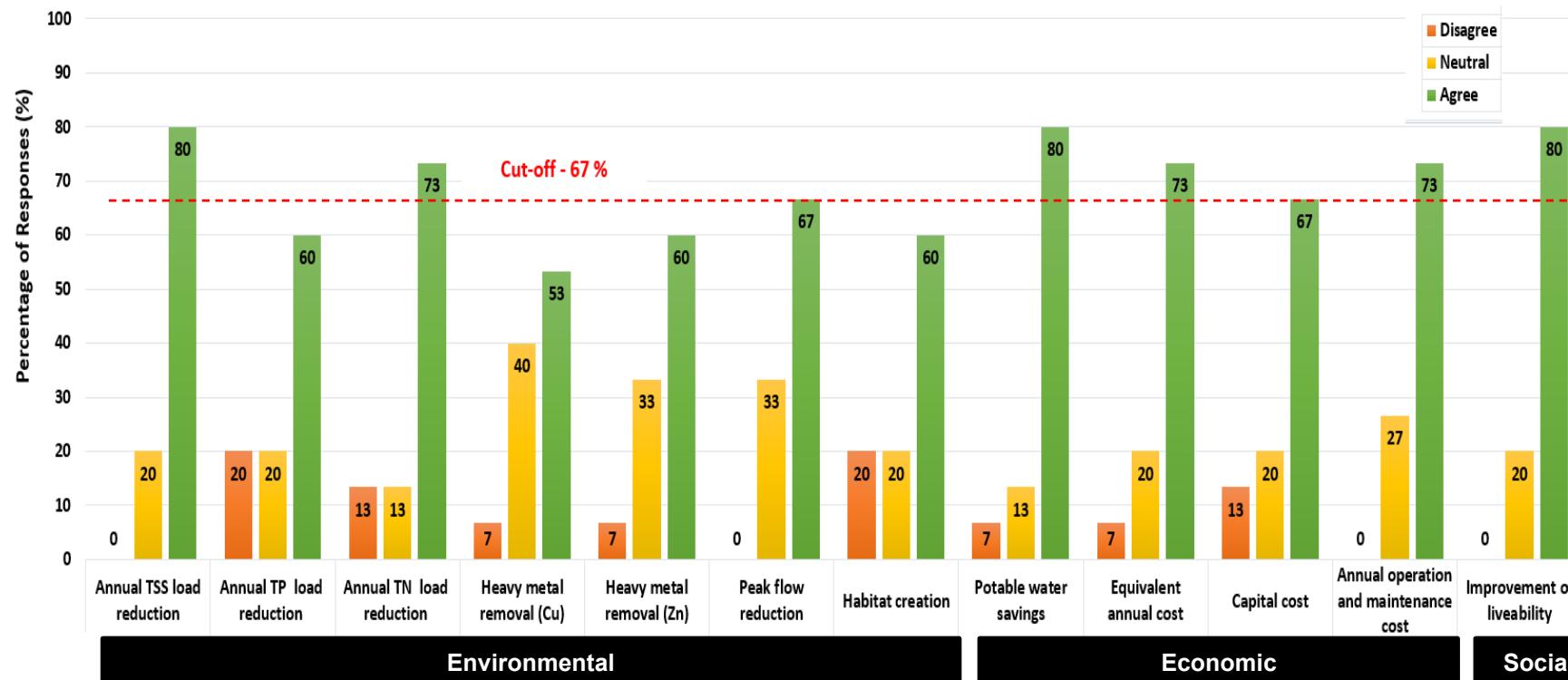
Coefficient of Variation of Weights

Coefficient of Variation (C_V)	Decision Rule
$0 < C_V \leq 0.5$	Good degree of consensus. No need for additional round.
$0.5 < C_V \leq 0.8$	Less than satisfactory degree of consensus. Possible need for additional round.
$C_V > 0.8$	Poor degree of consensus. Definite need for additional round.

Delphi Results – Round 1



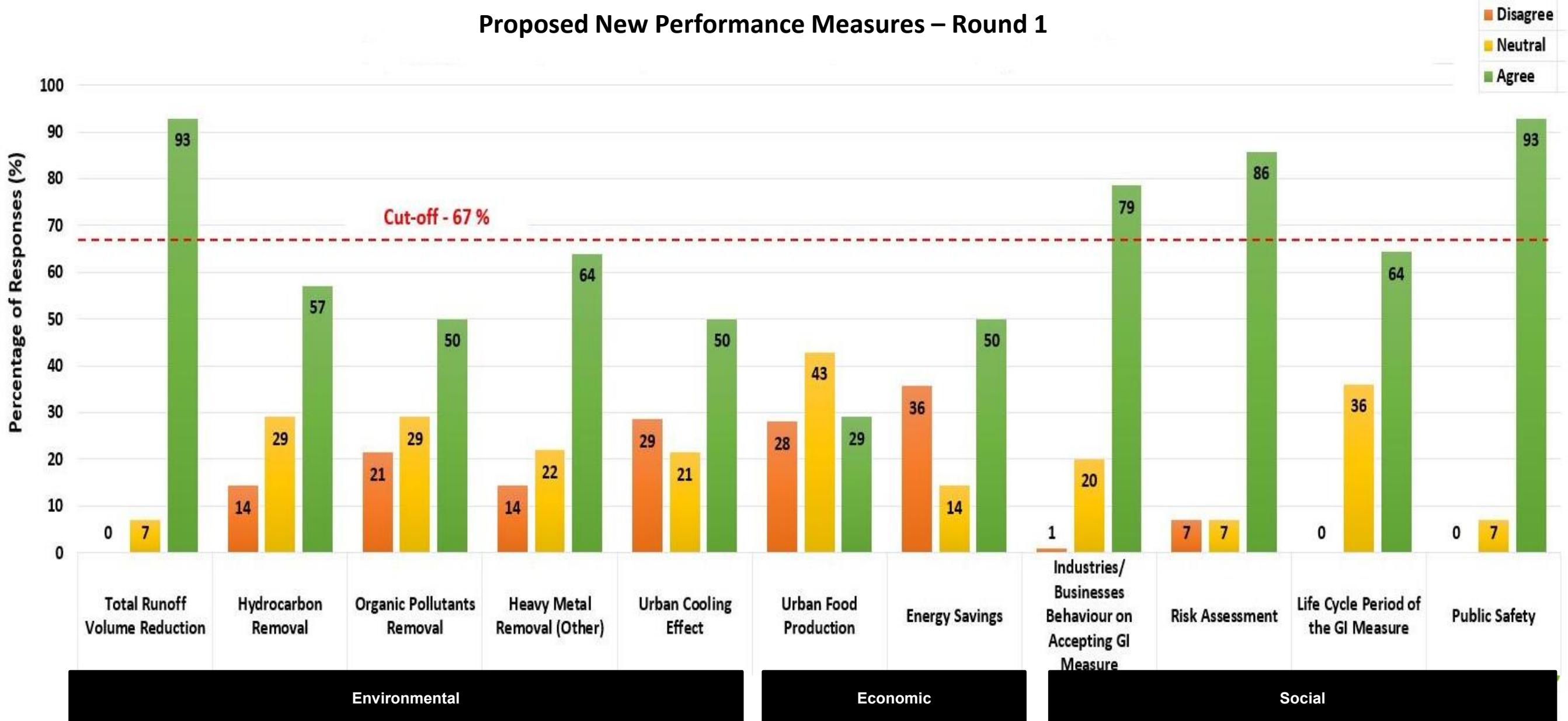
Expert ratings for Objectives
– Round 1



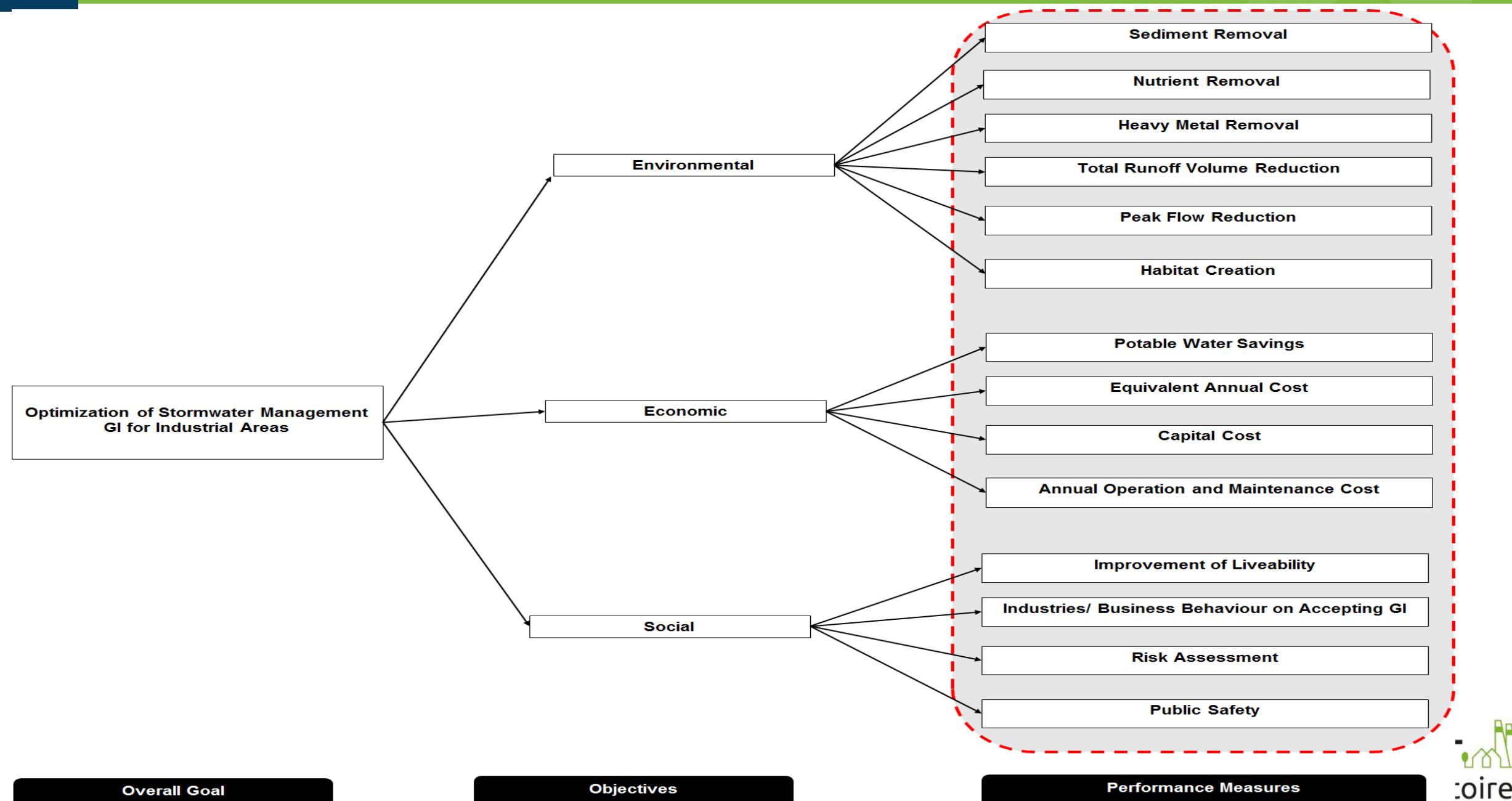
Expert Ratings for
Performance Measures –
Round 1

Delphi Results – Round 2

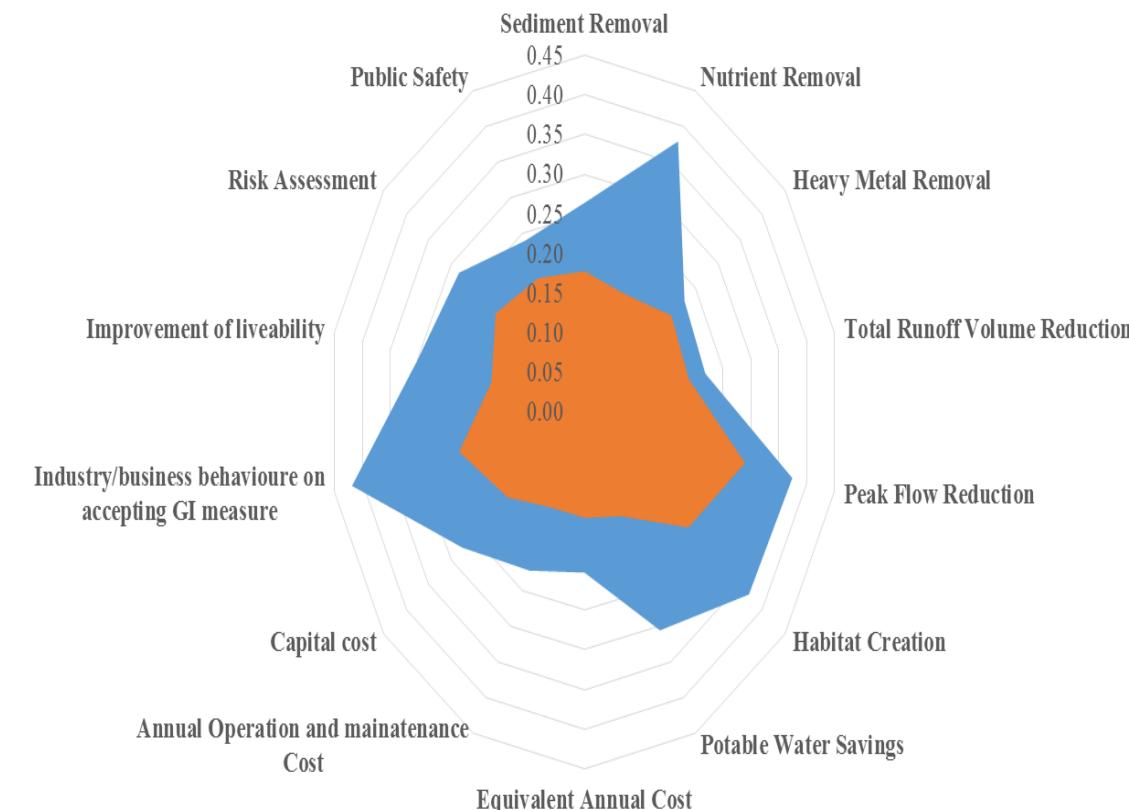
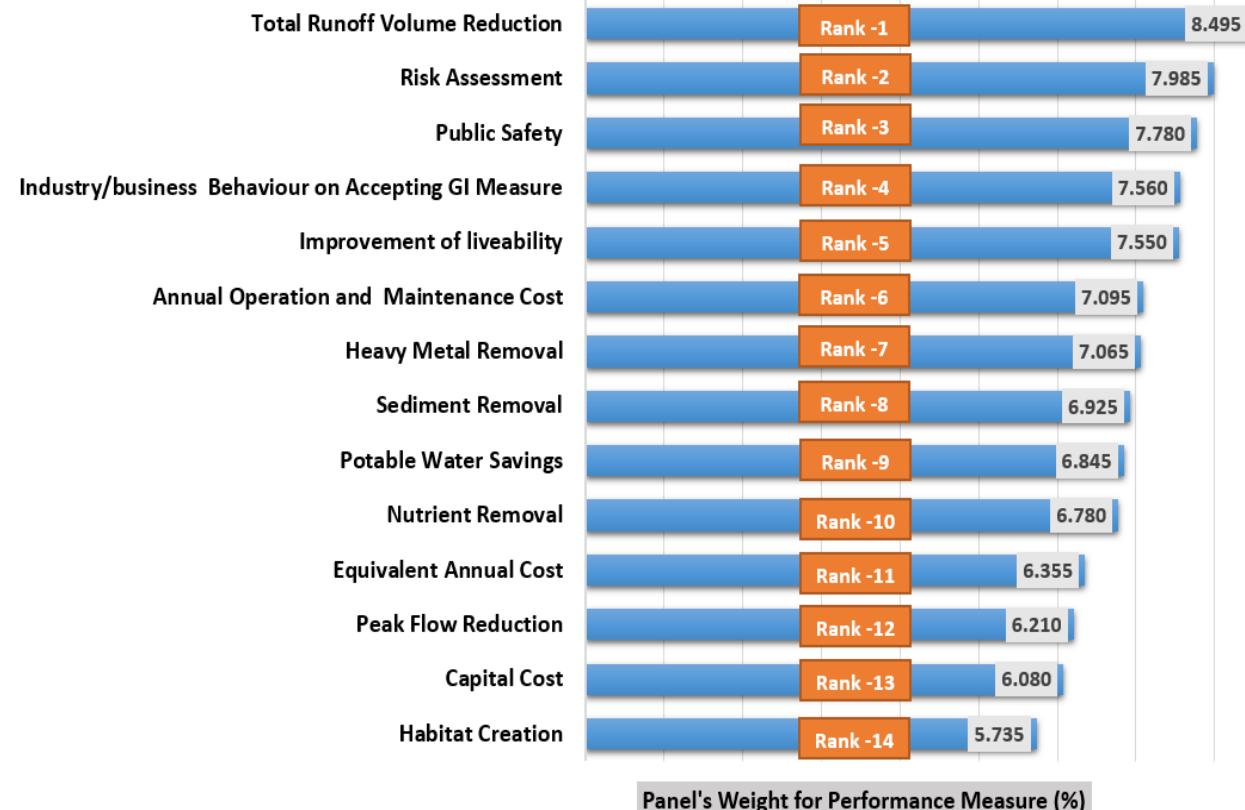
Proposed New Performance Measures – Round 1



Delphi Results – Round 2



Delphi Results – Weight Elicitation (Rounds 3 and 4)



Final Weights and Ranks for Performance Measures – Round 4

Consensus Measurement – Rounds 3 and 4

TOPSIS - The Technique for Order of Preference by Similarity to Ideal Solution

Positive Ideal Solution - The solution that maximizes benefit criteria and minimizes cost criteria

Negative Ideal Solution - The solution that maximizes the cost criteria and minimizes the benefit criteria

Closeness Coefficient - Separation Measure from the Positive ideal Solution

Optimum Treatment Train Configurations and Sizing Combinations – Treatment Trains with Two Treatment Measures

Treatment Train Sizing Combination	Area of the Treatment Measure (m ²)		Separation Measure of the Group		Relative Closeness	Rank
	Treatment Measure 1	Treatment Measure 2	Positive Ideal	Negative Ideal		
SW_BR (10)	500	3500	0.03174	0.01998	0.6137	1
SW_BR (1)	5000	1500	0.03661	0.02354	0.6086	2
SW_BR (4)	3500	2000	0.03327	0.02266	0.5949	3
SW_BR (2)	4500	1500	0.03427	0.02404	0.5877	4
SDB_SW (1)	1000	4500	0.03200	0.02314	0.5803	5
SW_PD (1)	5000	1500	0.02999	0.02186	0.5783	6
SW_BR (9)	1000	3000	0.03011	0.02199	0.5780	7
SW_BR (7)	2000	2500	0.03042	0.02283	0.5712	8
SW_BR (5)	3000	2000	0.03111	0.02362	0.5684	9
SW_BR (3)	4000	1500	0.03202	0.02481	0.5634	10

SW – Vegetated Swale

SDB – Sedimentation Basin

BR – Bioretention

PD – Retention Pond

Optimum Treatment Train Configurations and Sizing Combinations – Treatment Trains with Three Treatment Measures

Treatment Train Sizing Combination	Area of the Treatment Measure (m ²)			Separation Measure of the Group		Relative Closeness	Rank
	Treatment Measure 1	Treatment Measure 2	Treatment Measure 3	Positive Ideal	Negative Ideal		
SW_BR_PD (9)	5000	500	1000	0.0109	0.0173	0.6128	1
SDB_SW_BR (42)	200	4500	1500	0.0122	0.0179	0.5946	2
SW_BR_PD (16)	3500	1000	1000	0.0110	0.0157	0.5887	3
SW_BR_PD (23)	500	2500	1500	0.0105	0.0149	0.5856	4
SW_BR_WL (1)	5000	500	1000	0.0118	0.0160	0.5764	5
SDB_SW_BR (39)	200	4000	1500	0.0125	0.0165	0.5691	6
SDB_SW_PD (20)	400	5000	1000	0.0120	0.0157	0.5667	7
SW_BR_PD (8)	4000	500	1000	0.0118	0.0152	0.5632	8
SDB_SW_BR (1)	200	500	3000	0.0114	0.0147	0.5618	9
SW_BR_PD (22)	1000	2000	1500	0.0112	0.0142	0.5583	10

SW – Vegetated Swale

SDB – Sedimentation Basin

BR – Bioretention

PD – Retention Pond

WL- Wetland

Conclusions

- Green infrastructure transform industrial landscapes from “**grey liabilities**” into productive, resilient spaces.
- The real challenge is smart design with balancing space, cost, and performance.
- Combining engineering tools with stakeholder insights leads to practical, adoptable solutions.
- Multi-criteria approaches help cities and industries choose GI options with confidence.



Open for discussions...

- ***Horizon Europe Collaborations***
- Cluster 5: **Climate, Energy and Mobility**

Areas of interests: Urban Sustainability, Green Infrastructure, Urban Analytics, GeoAI and Smart Cities

- **France – Canada Research Fund (FCRF)**
- **For students – Mitacs Globelink Research Award** (3-month research internship in Canada)

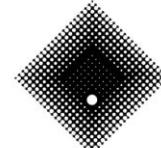


Acknowledgements.!



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
**School of Environment
and Sustainability**
SENS.USASK.CA



 **VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY**
MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA

Find our Research Group (GIG-Cities Lab) at the,
School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS)
University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Email: varuni.jayasoorya@usask.ca

