

SPPD

USC SCHOOL OF POLICY, PLANNING, AND DEVELOPMENT

The USC School of Policy, Planning, and Development
is pleased to welcome the

USC Center for Sustainable Cities

University of Southern California
University Park Campus
VKC 370, MC 0626
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0626
213-821-2431
usc.edu/sppd/csc/

USC Center for Sustainable Cities

Seeking innovative solutions
to create sustainable cities worldwide

SPPD

USC SCHOOL OF POLICY, PLANNING, AND DEVELOPMENT



Faculty

Solving sustainability challenges requires rigorous evidence-based research that draws from multiple disciplines. The Center for Sustainable Cities (CSC) brings together distinguished faculty with research strengths in urban planning, real estate development, transportation, metropolitan governance, public policy as well as civil and environmental engineering, and architecture.

Faculty Executive Committee



Genevieve Giuliano, Chair
Professor,
USC School of Policy,
Planning, and Development



Hilda Blanco, Interim Director
Research Professor,
USC School of Policy,
Planning, and Development

Tridib Banerjee,
Professor,
USC School of Policy, Planning, and Development

Jean-Pierre Bardet,
Professor,
USC Viterbi School of Engineering

Mark Bernstein,
Research Professor,
USC College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences

Richard Green,
Professor,
USC School of Policy, Planning, and Development

Dan Mazmanian,
Professor,
USC School of Policy, Planning, and Development

Douglas Noble,
Associate Professor,
USC School of Architecture

Adam Rose,
Research Professor,
USC School of Policy, Planning, and Development

Lisa Schweitzer,
Associate Professor,
USC School of Policy, Planning, and Development

David Sloane,
Professor,
USC School of Policy, Planning, and Development

Mission

The mission of the USC Center for Sustainable Cities is to improve the environment, economic vitality, and social equity of metropolitan areas through multidisciplinary research, education, and community outreach.

Research Focus

The USC Center for Sustainable Cities critically examines sustainability challenges to identify solutions that are feasible, effective, and equitable. Its research agenda focuses on the following thematic areas:

■ Cities and Climate Change

Metropolitan areas around the world will be greatly affected by global climate change. Rising sea levels, more frequent and severe storms, drought, and more intense heat waves will increase risks to vulnerable populations and infrastructure. CSC conducts research to reduce these risks, for example, by designing effective water conservation policies and by better understanding the incidence of risks across different population groups. Metropolitan areas will play a key role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. CSC examines energy conservation and alternative energy strategies in housing, industrial production, and transportation.

■ Sustainability Policies and Governance

Effective solutions to sustainability problems require innovative policies and collaborations across industry and government. CSC conducts research on the potential of voluntary regulation—incentives and persuasion strategies to motivate energy efficient practices by industry. CSC also examines the economic impact of state and local climate mitigation policies, such as California's SB 375, which requires that strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions be included in regional growth plans. Effective solutions also require information to track progress. CSC is evaluating green ratings systems for buildings, neighborhoods, and cities; and developing greenhouse inventory methodologies for cities and metropolitan areas to establish benchmarks for progress.

Education and Outreach

The USC Center for Sustainable Cities influences real-world policy by cultivating informed dialogue and educating decision-makers and the next generation of sustainability researchers. Education and outreach activities include:

- A national summit to support development of federal urban sustainability policies.
- Summer research programs for graduate students.
- Public seminar series, the *Sustainable Cities Forum*, covering topics such as the carbon footprints of consumer products, and the politics of cap and trade legislation.