



PACIFIC CITIES SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE

The Pacific Cities Sustainability Initiative (PCSI) is a collaborative forum that harnesses the expertise of Pacific Rim cities in sustainable development to facilitate businesses, governments, academia, and the public sharing and benefiting from their collective experiences.

Partners

PCSI partners are: Asia Society's Northern and Southern California Centers, the Centers for International Business and Educational Research (CIBER) at the University of Southern California's Marshall School of Business, the University of California at Los Angeles' Anderson School of Management, and the Association of Pacific Rim Universities' World Institute (AWI).



Importance of the PCSI

The majority of the world's development over the next 50 years will occur in Pacific Rim cities, which represent both the problem and the solution to many environmental concerns such as clean water, energy efficiency, air pollution, and security. Balancing urban growth and resource conservation requires community leaders to cooperate in developing solutions and implementing actions. PCSI connects business leaders, policy makers, professors, students, and the public in a forum for the next 4 years to serve the development interests of California and other Pacific Rim cities.



Goals

PCSI will be the premier forum for cross-sector discussion and action on urban sustainability. Starting in California and then expanding to Shanghai, PCSI will connect community leaders tackling similar sustainability issues. As an objective clearing-house on urban sustainability, PCSI will support municipal projects, public-private partnerships, and outreach initiatives to bridge cities throughout the Pacific Rim.

Focus

The PCSI has identified five areas to initially improve urban sustainability: Water, Transportation, Clean Energy, Green Buildings and Green Infrastructure. Alternating between Northern and Southern California, the PCSI will hold a public forum and a leader's workshop every six months to highlight the critical needs in each of the five urban sustainability areas and it will launch pilot-scale sustainability research projects in California and China, with participation from students, faculty, business and government stakeholders. PCSI will also organize forums and workshops in Asia.

On January 14, 2010, the Northern California Asia Society Center hosted the first public forum, "The Water Crisis in California and Asia," which was followed by a PCSI Planning Meeting on January 15. The next PCSI Planning Meeting will occur on May 14 in Los Angeles to finalize the Initiative's 2010 to 2011 calendar, as well as to develop the agenda for the 2010 sustainability public forum and PCSI Leaders' Workshop, which will be held in Los Angeles in September or October of 2010.