

**University of California, Los Angeles**  
(Los Angeles, California)



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Area of Expertise: Urban Sustainability

# Major Takeaways: University of California, Los Angeles

## Event Overview

- The Southern California Clean Energy Innovation Ecosystem Roundtable discussion brought together 28 leaders from academia, local and state government, utilities, a national laboratory, non-profit groups, and industry on May 10, 2016 at UCLA to discuss southern California's specific clean energy needs as the state and region transition to meet their ambitious climate and energy goals. Energy policy expert, J.R. DeShazo led the roundtable discussion that focused on identifying the region's immediate and long-term clean energy needs and challenges, and on laying the foundation for collaborations among the participants. During the panel, participants shared information on their area of expertise and regional energy role. The panel discussed increasing our renewable energy power, energy storage, grid modernization, distributed energy generation and storage, energy efficiency, and energy conservation in the region. After the panel, participants were given an opportunity to provide written responses to eight region-specific thought questions, and their responses were summarized in the final report.

## Key Takeaways

- **Current Regional Innovation Ecosystem**
  - The panel agreed on the need for urgency, collaboration, and innovation. The state has played a leading role in moving the region towards clean energy through its mandates to produce 33% of energy from renewable sources by 2020, and 50% by 2030. Currently, there is only a loosely coordinated effort among key stakeholders and experts, and panelists agreed that the key to success is to collaborate regionally and develop a common vision.
- **Building a Broader Ecosystem**
  - A broader ecosystem must include academics and technology experts, government, utilities, national laboratories, non-government organizations, and industry representatives from across the southern California region. By focusing on southern California, we reduce a number of challenges related to governance and policy.

# Major Takeaways: University of California, Los Angeles (continued)

## Key Takeaways (continued)

- Opportunities & Priorities
  - Increase the amount of research and demonstration projects in the areas of cost effective utility and distributed solar and wind energy generation and storage; decarbonizing gas technologies, such as power to gas; renewable fuel generation; transportation electrification; grid modernization, integration, and security; and energy efficiency in buildings
  - Perform targeted feasibility assessments
  - Coordinate with regional cleantech incubators and organizations to connect clean energy investors with innovators
  - Develop a workforce and job opportunities related to clean energy innovation and deployment
  - Utilize southern California's different scale communities as test beds and demonstration sites
- Challenges
  - Aging infrastructure
  - The money and investment necessary for getting innovations to market and for scaled-up demonstrations
  - Governance, policy, and regulation; pricing strategies that don't allow and encourage emerging technologies to capture full benefits and revenues; federal and state subsidies; and IOUs vs. POUs
  - Community engagement and equitable solutions
  - The ports and major airports, and the transport of goods and services
- Next Steps
  - Coordinate discussions/workshops to develop a vision for the region and share expertise
  - Capitalize on existing efforts and programs in a more coordinated way