

Innovating for Environmental Policy

OUR WORK IMPROVES ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS THAT AFFECT LIVES—AT COSTS WE CAN ALL AFFORD.

For more than 15 years, the Luskin Center for Innovation has conducted actionable research that unites UCLA scholars with civic partners to solve environmental challenges. We design effective and equitable policies and elevate community-driven solutions that have tangible impacts on health and daily lives. Our goal is for everyone to have clean, affordable, and resilient places to live, work, learn, and play.

WHAT SETS US APART?

We bring the research power of the nation's #1 university into direct engagement with community advocates, policymakers, and other civic leaders. Together, we tackle pressing environmental problems that are harming communities. The next generation inspires our work, and also fuels it. UCLA students—future environmental leaders—are integral to our research and engagement with civic partners.

WHY NOW?

Our work demonstrates the transformative impact of higher education to forge new models for environmental protection, at a time when both are under attack. Our faculty, staff, and students are laser-focused on solutions that work. We have a long record of impact in four main areas (see the following two pages) while remaining nimble to meet new challenges.

When fires devastated Los Angeles communities in January 2025, we responded to help the region recover, rebuild, and become more resilient.

We led research and engagement for a Blue Ribbon Commission on sustainable rebuilding and brought our expertise in water infrastructure, urban greening, and community-driven climate planning to advance the region's fire-readiness.

“The Luskin Center for Innovation is a powerhouse shaping environmental policies to better our daily lives.”

Alfredo Gonzalez
CALIFORNIA DIRECTOR,
RESOURCES LEGACY FUND



The Luskin Center for Innovation is on the cutting edge of advancing Human Right to Water efforts, both locally and nationally.”

George McGraw • RECENT BOARD MEMBER, LA DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER



The Center’s work with Transformative Climate Communities is a valuable source of data, evaluation, and perspective about community-led actions to tackle the climate crisis while centering community voices and priorities.”

Alvaro Sanchez • CLIMATE POLICY CONSULTANT (FORMER VP, THE GREENLINING INSTITUTE)



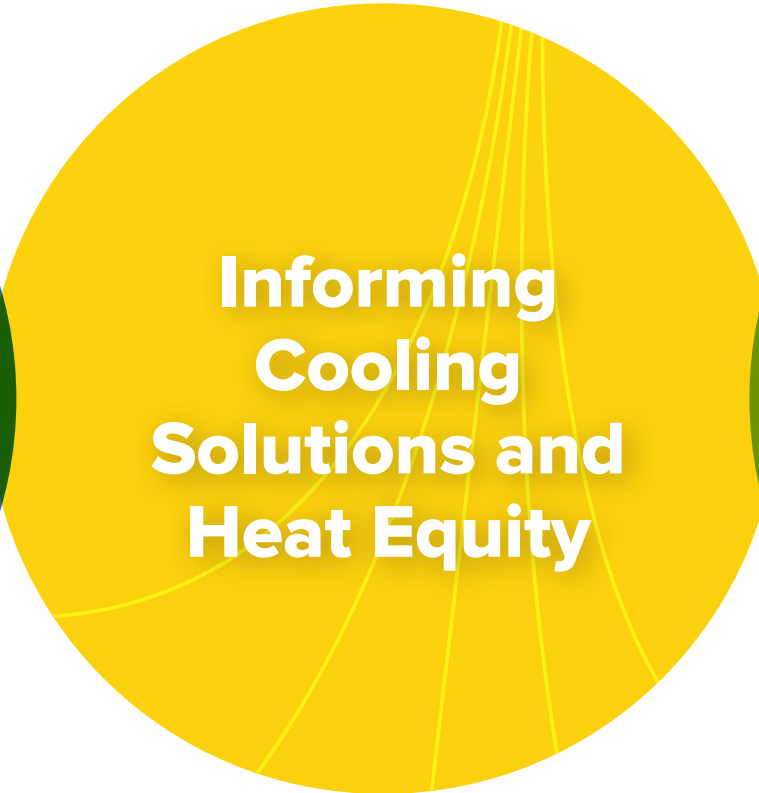
The Luskin Center for Innovation has helped us policymakers address the growing threat of extreme heat on schoolchildren.”

Lisa Calderon • CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLYMEMBER



Our collaboration with the UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation has helped ensure that equity is not an afterthought, but a foundation of clean energy and transportation planning. From EV charging to home electrification, we have been working together to center South LA community voices.”

Wendy Salvador-Galbraith • COMMUNITY ORGANIZER, REDEEMER COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP



We help ensure people have access to safe, affordable drinking water and sanitation. Focus is on communities that have historically been excluded from reliable water services and on emerging, widespread risks. Our experts conducted California’s first-ever, comprehensive assessment of water systems, helping to direct strategic state investments. This assessment now serves as a U.S.-wide model.

IMPACT: Water systems are making improvements for water quality, affordability, and resilience to drought and other risks, within California and nationally.

We uplift community-driven approaches to reduce greenhouse gases and adapt to climate impacts. We shaped a framework for ensuring that California Climate Investments benefit disadvantaged communities. We help communities become more resilient to fire and other climate hazards and otherwise take action in response to a changing climate.

IMPACT: California leaders are investing billions of dollars to reduce pollution and build climate resilience in communities most harmed by pollution.

We guide and lead new policy and program strategies to protect communities and populations vulnerable to heat. State and community leaders use our data, tools, and policy analysis to prioritize action on heat resilience. For example, our experts developed a national Shade Map that pinpoints shade gaps in 360+ U.S. cities to help communities prioritize investments.

IMPACT: Cities are adding shade structures and other cooling solutions that can save lives during heat waves and allow children and other vulnerable populations to live, learn, and work safely in a warming world.

Our work is supporting the equitable transition to renewable energy and zero-emission transportation. One current focus is on helping the City of LA transition to 100% clean energy equitably. In transportation, we put forth an equity-centered policy agenda for California’s transportation decarbonization efforts. We have designed strategies for more widespread adoption of clean vehicles, especially for working-class households.

IMPACT: Families in low-income communities are getting incentives to purchase an EV, install solar energy, and make all-electric, energy-efficient home upgrades.

“The hundreds of student leaders that the Luskin Center for Innovation mentors and supports have brought innovative perspectives on ways to advance policies and projects that will help make our world more sustainable.”

Ruben Aronin • SENIOR PRINCIPAL, BETTER WORLD GROUP

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

California and UCLA, in particular, are being hard hit by federal budget cuts. Your support at any level is needed now so we can continue our critical research to help countless California communities, children, and other vulnerable populations at risk from the climate crisis—including heat and wildfires—and the impacts of water and air pollution.

Whether you can give \$100 to support student mentorship, are part of a foundation that can give \$10,000+ to bring our research to policymakers, or work at an agency/company/foundation that is looking to commission new research for \$100,000 - 1,000,000+, we want to hear from you. Opportunities for impact include:

Invest in Research

Expand groundbreaking studies and tools to drive real-world impact in more places and for more people.

Support Student Mentorship

Fund fellowships, research opportunities, and mentorship that fuel future environmental leaders.

Cultivate Partnerships

Connect leaders and knowledge to spark innovative environmental solutions.

Enable Engagement

Amplify our research and influence to maximize impact on policy and systems change.



TOGETHER, WE CAN CREATE LASTING CHANGE

Learn more at
[**innovation.luskin.ucla.edu/giving-opportunities/**](https://innovation.luskin.ucla.edu/giving-opportunities/)

Contact Colleen Callahan, Executive Director,
at [**ccallahan@luskin.ucla.edu**](mailto:ccallahan@luskin.ucla.edu), to discuss
partnership opportunities.