

USC Center for Sustainability Solutions

Developing Solutions for a Sustainable and Equitable Future



Provost Mini-Retreat on Sustainability. Feb.28 2019

The wicked problem of our time



The reality: An obsolete and unequal model



A global and local call for action



The UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals

A global and local call for action



The grand challenges in Engineering

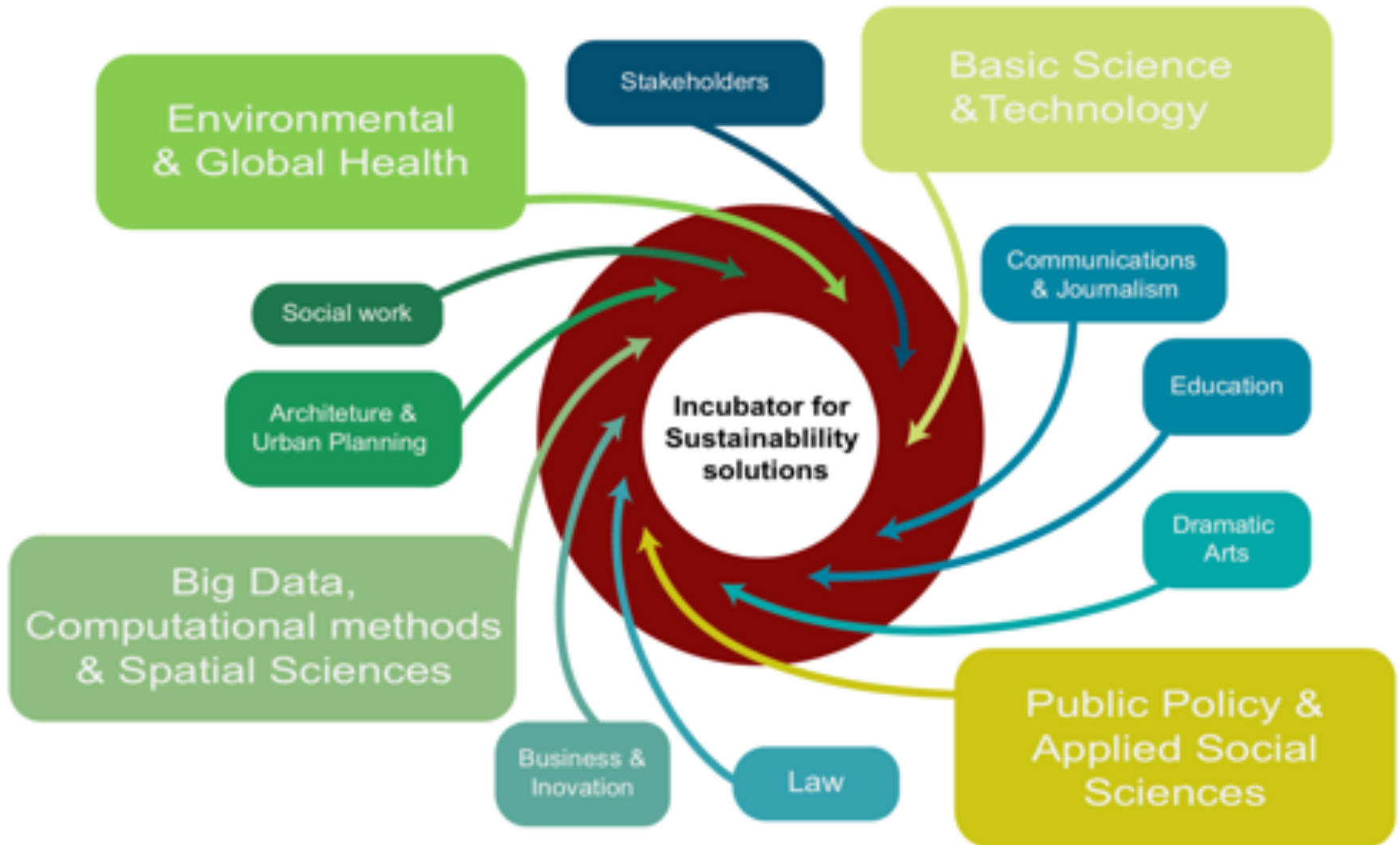
Our Vision

- Position USC as the **preeminent partner** to advance the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and the Grand Challenges in Engineering, locally and globally

Mission

- Advance the application of **basic science and technological solutions** to specific urban contexts, with an eye on **developing sound public policy** for a sustainable and equitable future
- **Educate, communicate, and disseminate** sustainability challenges to fasten the adoption of solutions

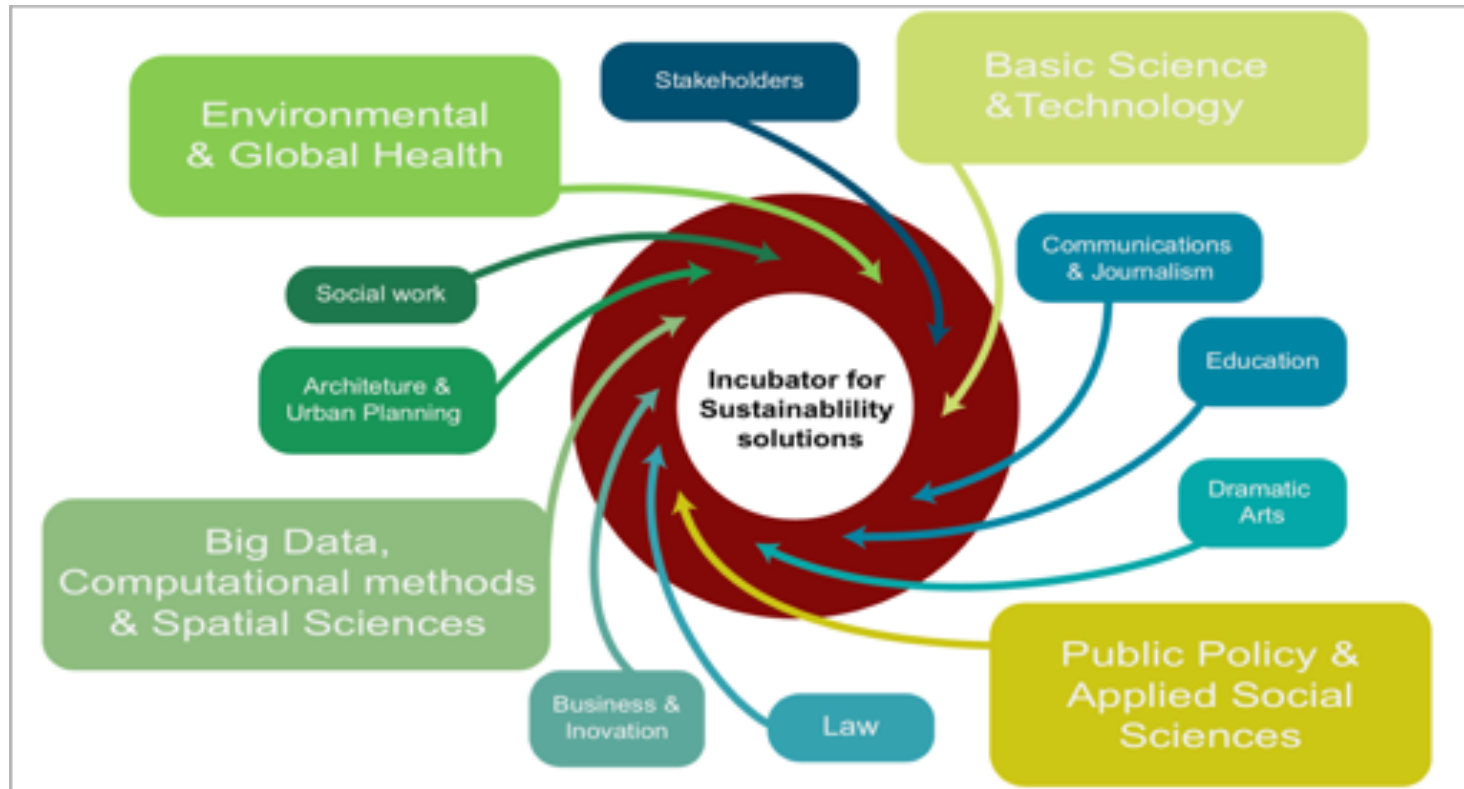
CSS – An incubator of sustainability solutions



CSS – Incubator's unique 5 step approach

Convene

Evaluate



Advance

Transfer

Educate and Communicate

Global network of sustainability solutions hubs



Logical Partnerships within USC

- Wrigley Institute
- USC Institute on Inequalities in Public Health

CSS Contribution to the 2028 research charter

- **Faculty-led lunches** – explore initial research ideas; form interdisciplinary teams; get teams ready to respond to large RFP
- **Voices for a Sustainable and Equitable Future** – bring faculty together with highly visible visitors
- **Specialized Research Seminars**



Subsidizing Mass Adoption of Electric Vehicles: Quasi-Experimental Evidence from California



Erich Muehlegger, Associate Professor
Department of Economics, UC Davis

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Contribution to the 2028 research charter

- **Launch an academic venture program** – provides seed funding and prepares interdisciplinary groups for large RFPs (requires provost commitments)



CSS Contribution to the 2028 education charter

- Grand challenges in sustainability scholars program
- 5 mindsets:
 - Hands-on-project
 - Inter-disciplinarity
 - Innovation and Entrepreneurship
 - Cultural understanding
 - Societal consciousness



Contribution to the 2028 education charter

- **International Sustainability Labs** - integrate classroom knowledge with professional practice by providing policy-related consulting services in the network of sustainability solutions hubs



Contribution to the 2028 education charter

- Support PhD students and postdoctoral **development** – (e.g. Environmental and Energy Econ & Policy lunch)



Outreach

- Organize/contribute to roundtables in partnership with key stakeholders
- Organize workshops for practitioners
- Organize executive education programs



The 3rd Annual Water Data Summit

August 23th - 24th, 2018 | Metropolitan Water District

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH USC CENTER FOR SUSTAINABILITY SOLUTIONS AND UCLA LUSKIN CENTER FOR INNOVATION



Next Steps

- Conclude soft launching, and launch webpage
- Continue to engage with stakeholders, inside and outside campus
- Finalize the recruitment of the advisory board and corporate sponsors
- Expand leadership team
- Work with the advisory groups (faculty and external board) to develop a 3 year strategic plan

Final thoughts...

