Proposal for a USC Sustainability Strategy 2030

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Motivation

• To inspire and bring together the many constituencies of the University to take up the challenge of adopting an imaginative and leading-edge long-term strategy for a sustainable university
Sustainability Self Assessment

• Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) STARS Assessment of USC in 2012

Results

Overall: 36.8
Education & Research: 31.4
Engagement: 67.6
Energy: 7.8
Transportation: 63.3
Purchasing: 6.7
Waste: 74.6
Water: 83.5
Sustainability 2020 Plan

• Endorsed by the University in late 2015
  o Comprised of 17 goals across 7 domains (AASHE)
    o Education & Research
    o Community Engagement
    o Energy Conservation
    o Transportation
    o Procurement
    o Waste
    o Water
  o USC Office of Sustainability leads efforts to achieve goals
Sustainability Efforts Currently Dispersed

Sustainability 2020
6 proposals submitted and pending approval
- 2 Energy Conservation
- 1 Waste
- 3 Water
Sustainability Strategy 2030

- A bigger, bolder, more ambitious, longer-term, and integrated sustainability agenda for USC
  - **Education & Research**: international leader in sustainability
  - **Community Engagement**: develop and lead strategic partnerships to promote sustainability
  - **Energy Conservation**: achieve carbon neutrality
  - **Transportation**: 50% reduction in carbon footprint*
  - **Procurement**: pursue sustainable supply chain operations
  - **Waste**: achieve 90% waste diversion*
  - **Water**: reduce potable water use by 50%*

*Reduction targets are from 2014 levels*
Sustainability Leadership Council

- Senior person within each unit responsible for sustainability planning and implementation
USC’s Vision and Sustainability

- USC’s 2011 Vision and Proposed 2030 Sustainability Vision
  - Transform Education for a Rapidly Changing World
    - Become a leader in building disciplinary and interdisciplinary programs to address complex environmental challenges
  - Create Scholarship with Consequence
    - Develop scientific, engineering, and policy expertise in environmental sustainability
  - Connect the Individual to the World
    - Position our institution, students, and faculty as global leaders in sustainability
A Cost Savings Strategy

- Operations and Infrastructure benefits of sustainability efforts
  - University of Summer Construction
    - Summer 2016: 150+ projects
  - USC University Village
    - $700 million residential and retail complex
    - 2,700 student beds
    - Opens Fall 2017
Next Steps

• Sustainability Committee’s Ask:
  o Academic Senate review, discuss, and hopefully endorse the Sustainability 2030 Strategy
  o With Senate support, the Sustainability 2030 Strategy will be shared with:
    o The Provost
    o The Provost’s Task Force on Enhancing Security and Sustainability
    o The USC Staff Assembly
    o The USC Undergraduate Student Government
Questions?