The 17th Annual Municipal Green Building Conference & Expo Returns April 19th with Usable Innovations and 1st Tech Challenge Leading to a Sustainable Future

27 Panels, plus Keynote Speakers from LADOT, LA County and USGBC

LOS ANGELES (April 4, 2018) The 17th annual Municipal Green Building Conference and Expo (MGBCE) returns as the longest-running and largest gathering of leading sustainability and green building advocates within both the public and private sectors in Southern California, drawing attendees from 88 Southern California-area municipalities. With the attendees striving to integrate sustainability into municipal action, MGBCE—hosted annually by SoCalGas and the U.S. Green Building Council-LA chapter (USGBC-LA)—is offering 27 panels and three keynotes that aim to share usable ideas and processes across the green building sector that touch upon community projects, and residential and commercial properties. The no-cost event runs from 8:00am to 6:00pm at the Southern California Gas Company’s (SoCalGas) Energy Resource Center (ERC) located at 9240 Firestone Blvd. in Downey.

“This year’s theme is ‘Innovative Cities Leading the Way to a Sustainable Future’. But innovation can only take place when fresh ideas and practices can be discussed with those who will be implementing them in their cities,” states USGBC-LA Executive Director Dominique Hargreaves. “This year’s panels do just that, through some of today’s touchpoints as ZNE, distributed energy, waste, transportation, and health and wellness. We also address developing the vital next generation of thought-leaders!”

Session highlights include:

- “Building A Sustainable LA: An Open Forum” (LA Metro / infrastructure-focused)
- “Empowering a Sustainable Legacy in LA” (low-cost, community-based projects)
- “Balancing Social Equity and Sustainability Objectives in Design & Planning”
- “Increasing Building Resiliency in the Era of Climate Change”
- “How to Achieve Zero Waste and Contribute toward the LA Zero Waste Goal?”
- “Mentorship for the Future of Sustainable Design: Why Our Cities Need the NextGen of STEM Outreach” (education)
- “Legal Issues in Green Construction”
- “Opportunities to Advance Sustainable Building through Transit-Oriented Development”

Panels addressing:
- Building with Net Zero Energy (for existing buildings), Net Zero Water (for urban water use), PassiveHouse, existing buildings and equity
- Health & Wellness – how to use air, light and acoustics, and physiological responses; and why the health and environmental impacts of buildings are still invisible to the

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general public.
  o Codes and standards, what are SITES, LEED for Neighborhoods, as well as WELL and TRUE? And how can California continue to lead?
  o How our energy will move around—microgrids, and Distributed Energy Resources

The event will also introduce a new Sustainable Cities Tech Challenge for start-up companies to innovate future usable products or ideas for municipalities. Organized by USGBC-LA and the Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI), the awards are divided into three categories of Smart Infrastructure, Energy & Water Efficiency, and Waste. Finalists will receive the chance to win $15,000 as the overall Challenge winner, $3,000 per category winner, in-kind support from sponsors or partners, as well as the opportunity for membership to LACI’s business incubation program, access to the La Kretz Innovation Campus, and Advanced Prototyping Center. Winners will also receive pitch prep and mentorship, from LACI’s Executives-in-Residence team leading up the conference.

To frame the day, attendees will hear from three keynote speakers. Seleta J. Reynolds, General Manager, LA Department of Transportation (LADOT), will launch the day with her talk, “Drones, Loops, and Robotaxis: A Sustainable City Roadmap to Our Hyper-Uber Future.” At lunch, Gary Gero, Chief Sustainability Officer, County of Los Angeles, will speak to the importance of regional approaches and local leadership in addressing our sustainability challenges. His duties include creating a countywide sustainability plan that addresses regional environmental, economic, and social justice issues. And recently added, Scot Horst is the CEO of Arc Skoru Inc. and formerly the Chief Product Officer for the national USGBC where he oversaw LEED, the largest global green building rating system.

The conference attracts a wide variety of building industry disciplines, including municipalities, utilities, public agencies, architects, engineers, building owners, contractors, non-profits, manufacturers and students. All of these groups are working together to create connected cities that succeed in the three E’s: Economic, Environmental, and Equity solutions.

USGBC-LA is once again working with the Zero Waste Company to further encourage zero waste practices at MGBCE. The 2017 MGBCE achieved a 91% diversion rate.


For MGBCE schedule and general information, please visit https://usgbc-la.org/programs/mgbce/ or contact Event Chair Drew Shula at drew.shula@verdicalgroup.com. For Sponsorship & Exhibitor information, please contact Dominique Hargreaves at dominique@usgbc-la.org.

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About U.S. Green Building Council-Los Angeles

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USGBC-LA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization committed to creating a prosperous and sustainable future within one generation. Our mission promotes sustainability in LA County’s built environment by delivering access to knowledge, resources, recognition and networking. (www.usgbc-la.org)

**About Municipal Green Building Conference and Expo (MGBCE)**
Since its inception in 2000, MGBCE has become an important gathering of leading sustainability and green building advocates within both the public and private sectors in southern California. Hosted by the SoCalGas at the ERC building in Downey, this annual Spring conference and trade show provides training, education and outreach to inform local government agencies, building industry professionals and the general public about the principles, practices and products associated with green building. Topics include Health, Technology & Data, Diversity & Inclusion, Energy & Environment, Housing, Education, Infrastructure, Budgets, Public Safety and Economic Development. (http://usgbc-la.org/mgbce/)

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