SUSTAINABLE CITIES INITIATIVE
SCI is an applied think tank for sustainability in cities

TURNING SUSTAINABLE PRACTICE INTO REALITY

We work across disciplines inside and out of academia to re-define the delivery of higher education, conduct applied and policy-relevant research, and serve the public in the design and development of sustainable, resilient, and livable cities.

Our work is consistently applied, multi-disciplinary and sustainability focused, matching the complexity of cities with the disciplinary expertise to match. We focus on everything in cities, from sustainable architecture to transportation to engaging marginalized communities to impacting the larger, relevant policy frameworks at the local and state levels.
**HOW IT ALL STARTED**

Most sustainability issues play out at the community or city level. A city’s inability to innovate often comes from a limited capacity to put knowledge into practice, effectively and efficiently, not from a lack of knowledge about better solutions to pressing problems. This makes filling the gap between knowledge and practice the key for effective and innovative city operation, that meets community goals.

In 2009, the University of Oregon’s Marc Schlossberg and Nico Larco pioneered a radically simple framework to solve this problem: the Sustainable City Year Program (SCYP), a framework based around a year-long partnership between a university and a city which provided cities the innovative perspective of university students’ minds, while allowing students the opportunity to learn in practice. The model's symbiotic nature proved to be the defining factor that fostered its success. The program quickly gained notoriety and credibility.

In 2010, The New York Times called SCYP “perhaps the most comprehensive effort by a U.S. university to infuse sustainability into its curricula and community outreach,” and in 2013, the Chronicle of Higher Education called the model “one of higher education’s most successful and comprehensive service-learning programs.” Today, the program has received national awards, recognition, and has vastly expanded: 27 universities nationwide have now implemented the Sustainable City Year model, forming the Educational Partnership for Innovation in Communities Network (EPIC-N).

Since its origins, SCI has continued expanding far beyond the SCYP program. The organization conducts innovative research that investigates urban design, transportation, communication, and civic engagement. SCI also founded "SCI China," which extends SCI’s cross-disciplinary work to a multi-faceted engagement with Chinese professionals, professional associations, and leading universities.

This year, SCI launched Urbanism Next, an initiative that is pioneering the national investigation into the ramifications of technology on the design and planning of our cities.
**SUSTAINABLE CITY YEAR PROGRAM**

The Sustainable City Year Program is an SCI-facilitated one-year partnership between the University of Oregon and an Oregon city, municipality, county or agency. The program enables communities to utilize the talents and harness the potential of University of Oregon students to accomplish critical projects and strengthen Oregon communities.

Each year, the SCYP partner receives assistance with 15-25 community-defined projects. The projects engage 30 courses and nearly 500 students across 13 disciplines. By the end of the academic year, the partner will have received +40,000 hours of student work.

Projects focus on sustainable architectural design, urban design, planning, cost-benefit analysis, economic development, legal and policy analysis, community engagement and more public relations campaigns.

**EPIC NETWORK**

In 2011, SCI began training other universities and communities to adopt and adapt the SCYP framework through a national conference, site visits, and individual technical assistance. As of 2017, there are over 27 universities implementing or organizing their own Sustainable City Program. What was originally known as “the Oregon Model” is now collectively referred to as the Educational Partnership for Innovation in Communities Network (EPIC-N). EPIC’s success demonstrates its scalability and replicability across varied cities and universities.
The SCI China Program extends SCI’s cross-disciplinary work on sustainability research, education, and training to a multi-faceted engagement with Chinese professionals, professional associations, and leading universities.

The work of SCI China includes assistance and evaluation of specific projects in China, leading sustainability workshops for Chinese professionals, developing student and faculty exchanges, and hosting joint conferences designed to share knowledge and put ideas into action.

SCI engages and informs faculty, students, and practitioners from multiple disciplines on timely and significant issues. SCI research focuses on cross-disciplinary collaboration and works across all university institutional functions. Focus is placed on urban design, transportation, communication and civic engagement.

SCI just recently launched its most ambitious research initiative yet: Urbanism Next. Urbanism next focuses on the ramifications of changes in technology on the design and planning of cities. It engages in research, and is building a national network of leaders from the private sector, public sector and academia.

Urbanism next is unique because it pioneers an investigation that has not yet been explored. Though current research targets the technology itself (like autonomous vehicles and e-commerce), SCI asks a new question: what will happen to the traditional framework of cities, and how will it change?

Framing Livability, the recently completed SCI research theme for 2015-2017, sought to answer how sustainability-focused community development efforts can be communicated in the most effective way to garner public support. Although sustainability and livability are deeply intertwined, the general population often does not perceive them equally. The findings of the research will help guide city planners and policy makers in ensuring effective and well-received developments of livable and sustainable cities.
MEET THE SCI TEAM

NICOLARCO
Co-Founder and Co-Director, SCI
Associate Professor, Architecture

Nico Larco is an Associate Professor of Architecture at the University of Oregon and is a Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Sustainable Cities Initiative. His research’s focus is on sustainable urban design and how technological advances are changing city form and development. He recently developed the Sustainable Urban Design Framework that organizes the range of urban design elements and approaches related to sustainability. He has received numerous national and international awards for his work and was recently a Distinguished Fulbright Scholar in Spain. His work has been the subject of articles in the New York Times, Forbes, the Chronicle of Higher Education, and the Financial Times of London. He is a licensed architect and has worked professionally in the fields of Architecture, Urban Design, Planning, and Development.

MARC SCHLOSSBERG
Co-Founder and Co-Director, SCI
Professor, City and Regional Planning

Marc Schlossberg, Ph.D. is a Professor of City and Regional Planning and co-director of the Sustainable Cities Initiative (SCI) at the University of Oregon. His teaching, research, and community engagement focus on sustainable transportation, livable community design, and the processes that can accelerate implementation of more sustainable policy and practice. Among other courses, he leads a study abroad class to Denmark and the Netherlands to focus on designing cities for people on bike. He is one of the nation’s only two-time distinguished Fulbright Scholar awardee, carrying out those awards in 2009-10 in the United Kingdom and 2015-16 in Israel. Prior to academia, Marc worked in the nonprofit sector and was a U.S Peace Corps volunteer in Fiji.
MEGAN BANKS  
Sustainable City Year Program Manager

Megan Banks, M.CRP., is SCI’s the SCYP Manager. She spent more than 20 years at the Lane Council of Governments and City of Eugene Planning Division in Eugene, Oregon, managing diverse planning projects and facilitating group processes. Prior to moving to Oregon, Megan worked as a landscape architect in San Diego. She earned a B.S. of Landscape Architecture from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, and a Masters in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Oregon.

ROB ZAKO  
SCI Researcher

With a B.A. in math from Harvard and a Ph.D. in theoretical physics from Berkeley, Rob Zako has been working on transportation, land use, climate change and sustainability issues for the last two decades. He is currently studying how effectively transportation investments are advancing livability. He is also the executive director of Better Eugene-Springfield Transportation.

YIZHAO YANG  
SCI China Program Manager

Yizhao Yang (Ph.D.) is an Associate Professor in Planning, Public Policy & Management at the UO. She received both her M.R.P and Ph.D in city and regional planning from Cornell University. As the SCI China Program Manager, Yizhao is interested in understanding how place-making knowledge transfers between different cultures and countries.

REBECCA LEWIS  
SCI Research Director

Rebecca Lewis (Ph.D.) is an Assistant Professor in Planning, Public Policy and Management at the UO and a Faculty Affiliate at the National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education at the University of Maryland. She holds a master of public policy from the University of Maryland and a Ph.D. in urban and regional planning and design from the University of Maryland. Her research broadly focuses on state land use policy, the integration of climate, transportation and land use planning, state and local finance and measuring urban form.
"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."

Hellen Keller
"The Sustainable Cities Initiative is perhaps the most comprehensive effort by a U.S. university to infuse sustainability into its curricula and community outreach."

The New York Times
2015 Ashoka U-Cordes Innovation Award

2012 FT/Citi Award Ingenuity Award: Urban Ideas in Action

NCARB Prize for Creative Integration of Practice and Education in the Academy

Partners for Livable Communities Bridge Builders Award

Fulbright Distinguished Scholar

Finalist - Globe Award for Sustainability Research

Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association: Special Achievement in Planning