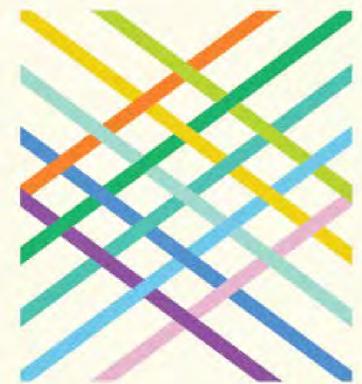


In 150 years, Los Angeles grew from 44 ranchos and 100,000 people into a metropolis of more than 10.2 million residents. We've transformed the landscape—but urbanization has come at a dramatic cost to the environment. What now?

Regenerative City describes a concept of urban development built on an environmentally enhancing, restorative relationship with the natural systems from which the city draws resources for its sustainable prosperity.



RegenLA



Energy

In sunny southern California, the most obvious opportunity for renewable energy production is solar power. With a focus on solar, there are enough identified rooftops across the existing built environment to power the entire region on top of the nearly 1400 megawatts of renewable production currently in the County.

Resiliency

Throughout LA County, there is little undeveloped land that is not susceptible to some form of natural hazard. Layering on existing and planned buildings and transit define a region that must focus development inward to optimize existing infrastructure and minimize risk.

Ecology

A regenerative city has a symbiotic relationship with nature. Learning from nature, the built environment must not be seen as a value added to it, but the baseline for all that is possible. Instead of engineering nature to meet our needs, we must live within natural systems and constraints. Reducing dependence on the car and leveraging emerging technologies like autonomous vehicles could free significant land area for alternative uses.

Economy

A regenerative city facilitates equitable prosperity. Optimizing capital through the creation of efficient, integrated development patterns gives citizens more expendable income and supports neighborhoods with synergistic local economies. When more people come into contact with one another, it not only produces more sustainable living patterns but also encourages more social interaction, allows for more chance encounters, and facilitates a public dialogue that creates and encourages a more collective culture.

Food

Cities can help meet the demand for locally-sourced, organic food and reduce costs by integrating food production with development. Preserving agricultural lands and retrofitting cities for urban farming will not only protect the integrity of our cities and build resilience in the local food chain, but will increase healthy food options and reduce fossil fuel dependence.

Water

A Regenerative city cleans more water than it consumes. With the vast majority of LA's water imported from either Northern California or the arid Western United States via three aqueducts, the region is already well beyond its carrying capacity. A fully realized stormwater management system in Los Angeles could supply approximately a third of the City's water needs at nearly a third of the cost of imported water.

Livability

This nascent century of the city has replaced the previous century of nations. Metropolitan regions are becoming the new drivers of a shift towards stewardship, equity, and social cohesion. Engineering this growth to improve quality of life will require cities to design and define their own futures. LA must use its highly recognizable infrastructure corridors to shape livable, sustainable growth, and drive redevelopment.

Waste

Transforming waste into a resource requires a shift in perception and approach. From procurement to sanitation and everything in-between, eliminating waste means process improvement, effective service delivery, and citizen satisfaction. With advances in environmental technology, is waste-to-energy now our means to net zero waste?

Mobility

LA doesn't have a congestion problem—it has a capacity issue. Mobility is not just a matter of transitioning from automobiles to transit, but decreasing single occupancy vehicle use. The means by which LA has built itself up around the car facilitates this socially, economically and environmentally destructive behavior. A neighborhood serving streetcar system provides mobility choice in and around neighborhoods, providing seamless transit to its adjacent communities, all while aligning with streetscape retrofits.

LA Timeline



Pacific Coast Highway, 1900



Hollywood, 1905



LA Aqueduct, completed in 1913



Channelization of the LA River, completed 1938



Looking North from Mulholland, 1955



Century City, 1963



What should the first regenerative intervention be?
Image courtesy of The Now Institute, UCLA