

*Gensler hosted the fall kick-off event for the IoES Corporate Partners Program. Speakers introduced some of the hottest topics in the sustainable built environment and corporate sustainability professionals shared their experiences and concerns around small, roundtable discussions.*

Peter Kareiva, Director of UCLA's [IoES](#), introduced the event and the importance of the built environment in the sustainability movement: **"40% of all emissions are associated with the built environment."**



Andy Cohen, Co-CEO of Gensler, delivered a keynote on the game-changing impacts of the driverless car on the future of cities. He outlined some of the opportunities, among them fewer parking lots, less congestion and expansion of greenways and pedestrian havens. Not to mention 94% reduction in emissions if the fleet is fully electric. Parking garages today should be designed and constructed with adaptive reuse in mind. Dozens of companies are hard at work to perfect the technology, likely starting with delivery vehicles. **Cohen forecasted that 10-12 years from the present, personal cars will be obsolete.**

Steve Straus, President of Glumac, talked about the emergence of the WELL Building Standard. This certification has seven core categories that evaluate impacts to human health and well-being. People are typically the majority of a company's operating expense (up to 90%), so **designing workspaces with well-being in mind can really boost a company's bottom line by increasing employee productivity.** Straus believes that the WELL is at the tipping point LEED was at in 1999; while only a few dozen buildings have been certified, hundreds are undergoing the process now.

Daniel Emmett, CEO at NEXT Energy Technologies Inc., introduced his solar technology that transforms windows into generators of energy. Zero net energy regulatory requirements are on the horizon and his technology is one that could help commercial buildings meet it. With current tax credits, his windows pay for themselves within one year.

Russell Fortmeyer, Associate Principal at Arup, discussed the current state of zero net energy buildings. While great in concept, ZNE buildings are challenging to execute for structures taller than a few stories or in dense downtown environments. He suggested that **we need to shift our thinking to a district approach as opposed to a building by building one.**

Nurit Katz, Chief Sustainability Officer of UCLA, profiled the sustainability projects on-campus including LEED certified buildings, urban agriculture, stormwater collection, and solar EV charging stations. The newest addition is the Bruin Bike Share—a bike sharing service for campus that will connect with the Santa Monica, West Hollywood, and Beverly Hills systems in 2018.



*The conversations started at this event will inform the research questions the CPP works on for the rest of academic year. Student research findings will be presented in late spring 2018.*