Climate Change Research Program

January 2022 Principal Investigator Spotlight

The University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Professor and Co-Director of the UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation V. Kelly Turner is tackling extreme heat impacts head-on. Turner is the principal investigator on the Micro-climate Zones: Designing Effective Outdoor Cooling Interventions research project, which is funded by SGC's Climate Change Research Program (CCR).

This project utilizes a community-and stakeholder-engaged comparative approach to analyze micro-scale cooling strategies in four historically disadvantaged communities in the Inland Valley, Coachella Valley, and Los Angeles areas that are vulnerable to extreme heat.

In partnership with the Kounkuey Design Initiative, the community of Oasis in Riverside County, and the Transformative Climate Communities of Ontario, Pacoima, and Watts, the research team is developing design recommendations to help municipalities and communities most cost-effectively mitigate heat at bus stops and other streetscapes.

The team is committed to empower communities, particularly disadvantaged and heat vulnerable communities, to cost-effectively design cooling solutions for bus stops and other streetscapes that facilitate the use of transit and active transportation, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and local pollution while creating climate-resilient neighborhoods.

Turner's work doesn't stop with the CCR-funded project. Check out some of her work below:

- UCLA LUSKIN | TURNER ON FRAMING THE HEAT NARRATIVE TO FIND SOLUTIONS
- CITIES USE ART TO COMBAT EXTREME URBAN HEAT | SMART CITIES DIVE
- UCLA LUSKIN | TURNER CALLS FOR EQUITABLE, COORDINATED APPROACH TO EXTREME HEAT
- EXTREME HEAT GOVERNANCE AND REGULATION (OR LACK OF IT) WITH DR. V. KELLY TURNER AT UCLA’S LUSKIN SCHOOL — AMERICA ADAPTS
- LOS ANGELES CONFRONTS ITS SHADY DIVIDE (UCLA.EDU)
- AS URBAN AREAS FEEL THE HEAT, IT’S TIME FOR NATIONAL COOL COMMUNITIES STANDARDS (NEXTCITY.ORG)