



As 2018 settles in, it is bringing important and exciting opportunities to the NCSA and its members and supporters.

### **YOU are needed to shape the NCSA's direction in 2018 and beyond**

Can you believe that next month marks three years since the NCSA held its first public forum, and embarked on vital and innovative community sustainability education, networking, advocacy, and action initiatives? I'm in awe of all that we have built together.

February also marks a personal transition for me. With the deepest gratitude and appreciation for your collaboration and inspiring examples over the last three years, I will be stepping out of the NCSA's executive director role next month to focus on other commitments that include managing the NCSA's [Low Income Weatherization Program](#) partnership, and supporting the board as an advisor.

Meanwhile, the NCSA Steering Board remains under the capable leadership of chair Ernie Hidalgo. Ernie and the rest of the NCSA board join me in asking our members and supporters to come forward and help shape the NCSA's *next* three years. Here's how:

1. **Join us for our first NCSA Leadership Retreat!** On Sunday morning, February 11, 2018, the NCSA invites our members, supporters, and interested community leaders to join us as we celebrate and reflect on our collective efforts in building more sustainable communities across LA. Then, in an interactive dialogue, we'll explore our shared interests, pressing needs,

and how to assure NCSA's future potential. RSVP today,  
here: [http://ncsa.nationbuilder.com/leadership\\_retreat](http://ncsa.nationbuilder.com/leadership_retreat)

2. **Please share your ideas for the NCSA's Leadership Retreat and 2018 plans**, in a quick six-question survey,  
here: <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/4116509/NCSA-Leadership-Retreat-Survey>
3. **Help us fill vital volunteer leadership and support roles that will allow the NCSA to continue to connect Neighborhood Council leaders and grow sustainable communities across LA.** Please contact NCSA Steering Board Chair Ernie Hidalgo for more information, at: [eghidalgo@gmail.com](mailto:eghidalgo@gmail.com).

### **Climate change and energy education, action, and savings opportunities**

Over the past few months, the NCSA, along with our friends at [Climate Resolve](#), have been reaching out to selected Neighborhood Councils to schedule brief [Low Income Weatherization Program](#) and Climate Resolve presentations that together inform board members and residents about projected climate change impacts to their specific communities, while sharing new energy and water efficiency solutions that can provide eligible homeowners and renters with thousands of dollars in free home improvements this year.

Many thanks to all of you have scheduled one or both of these talks for your Council! And if you haven't done so yet, there's still time. To learn more, please contact: [ncsa@empowerla.org](mailto:ncsa@empowerla.org).

Thank you, and hope to see you on February 11!

Warmly,

*Laura Mack*

Founding executive director

the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (NCSA)  
<http://www.ncsa.la/>

*The NCSA is a social benefit organization in affiliation with Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs (SEE), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.*