

Silicon Valley, California

Joint Venture Silicon Valley: regional collaboration for integrated planning and sustainable growth

The Joint Venture public-private network provides an urban-regional NEXUS forum for collaborative regional innovation and leadership to address the key opportunities, risks and challenges laden in urban-regional growth through integrated strategies for action.

Urban NEXUS Case Story 2014 - 13

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The project in brief

The Joint Venture Silicon Valley provides analysis and action on issues affecting the region's economy and quality of life, amidst a backdrop of constant seismic risk. Founded in 1993 to maintain Silicon Valley's entrepreneurial community, while fostering the civic sector, its 50-member Board of Directors includes senior-level representatives ranging from business, local and regional government, academia, workforce organizations and civil society. The Board meets on a quarterly basis to assess and act on the challenges of regional economic development, infrastructure, transportation, communications, education, healthcare, disaster planning and climate change for 19 cities and four counties, serving a total population of 2.9 million inhabitants. These representatives of regional interests then reach consensus on the best strategies and concrete projects for responsive development such as the "Smart Energy Enterprise Development Zone" (SEEDZ), the Joint Venture Public Sector Climate Task Force, Renewable Energy Procurement (REP), Energy Storage, the Economic Development Alliance, Sustainable Buildings and the National Disaster Resiliency Center.

An important outcome of the Board's efforts includes the Silicon Valley Index, a nationally recognized publication since 1995, which offers a multi-sectoral overview of the region's status through a collection of indicators for People, Economy, Society, Place and Governance. As of 2014, the index revealed the region to be a national leader in job growth, income, innovation, venture capital investment and immigration. Beyond that, in the 2014 index depicted environmental feats like a growing share of regional recycled water consumption per capita, decline in waste disposal and a surge in solar installations on public and private buildings (from 14 Megawatts (MW) in 2014 to 189 MW in 2013), among others. By tracking Silicon Valley's progress in transparent and easily accessible ways, decision-makers, entrepreneurs and civil society may reflect on "measurable outcomes, rather than inputs" (Joint Venture Silicon Valley, 2014). Joint Venture's initiatives and programs are financially supported by numerous public and private organizations throughout the region.

What makes it "Urban NEXUS"?

The Joint Venture Silicon Valley case is an example of an institutional, multi-scalar urban-regional NEXUS solution which addresses the Valley's long-standing lack of connected urban-regional capacity. In result, the formation of Joint Venture Silicon Valley has allowed the region to work toward innovative solutions for the cohesive development of



Date	1993-ongoing
NEXUS Sectors	Institutional-Policy
NEXUS Innovations	Law + Policy; Delivery Models; Institutions
Scale	Regional (19 cities, 4 counties, 2.9 million inhabitants)
Budget	n/a

Urban NEXUS Definition

The Urban NEXUS is an approach to the design of sustainable urban development solutions. The approach guides stakeholders to identify and pursue possible synergies between sectors, jurisdictions, and technical domains, so as to increase institutional performance, optimize resource management, and service quality.

It counters traditional sectoral thinking, trade-offs, and divided responsibilities that often result in poorly coordinated investments, increased costs, and underutilized infrastructures and facilities. The ultimate goal of the Urban NEXUS approach is to accelerate access to services, and to increase service quality and the quality of life within our planetary boundaries.

ICLEI / GIZ 2014

Further Reading

Joint Venture Silicon Valley official website: <http://www.jointventure.org/>

Model joint venture agreement checklist: <http://apps.americanbar.org/buslaw/newsletter/0049/materials/book.pdf> (20 Aug 2014)

Silicon Valley Index: <http://www.siliconvalleyindex.org/>

Video "Joint Venture Silicon Valley: Uniting Every Sector to Tackle Our Region's Problems": <http://youtu.be/LyM-BMt-RNs> (20 Aug 2014)

GIZ and ICLEI, 2014, Operationalizing the Urban NEXUS: towards resource efficient and integrated cities and metropolitan regions, GIZ Study: www.iclei.org/urbanexus

infrastructure, services and facilities. Regular Board, staff and community meetings break silos to link local and regional governments with universities, companies and community organizations. Together, the collaborative effort led by the Board of Directors enables decision-makers to anticipate and establish preventive multi-sectoral responses to changes in regional conditions and emerging risk factors. In addition, tools such as the Silicon Valley Index, periodic reports and white papers provide technical assessment to rethink solutions, often working in tandem with departments to deliver up-to date information. In doing so, the region has exhibited an increased resilience and adaptive capacity in one of the most seismically active regions of the world. For example, the three-year disaster preparedness initiative led to a freestanding National Disaster Resiliency Center that provides support and assistance to the public sector bodies, integrates the private sector through collaborative planning and the mobilizing of resources and raises public awareness and participation, through town meetings and reports to the community. Additionally, the Index provides an analytical basis for decision making. Measuring the outcomes of joint policies enables the region's decision-makers to continuously assess and reformulate policies and projects.

Scope for improvement

The comprehensive yearly analysis of the economic strength and overall health of Silicon Valley indicates that the region's new wave of prosperity poses greater challenges for sustained growth, and that these gains are bypassing the lowest earning groups. Fine tuning urban-regional laws and policies along with systems and services to adapt and manage rising demands could help.

Replication

The project has shown its replication capacity as it has gradually incorporated an increasing number of cities and counties committed to resilient growth. The experience can be replicated in other growing regions.

Acknowledgements

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On behalf of:



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