



Digital Commons@

Loyola Marymount University
LMU Loyola Law School

Module 01: Introduction to Urban Ecology

Urban EcoLab

April 2021

Lenses Handout

Center for Urban Resilience

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/urbanecolab-module01>



Part of the [Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Commons](#), [Environmental Education Commons](#), [Sustainability Commons](#), and the [Urban Studies and Planning Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Center for Urban Resilience, "Lenses Handout" (2021). *Module 01: Introduction to Urban Ecology*. 17. <https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/urbanecolab-module01/17>

This Lesson 6: Complex Urban Ecosystems is brought to you for free and open access by the Urban EcoLab at Digital Commons @ Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. It has been accepted for inclusion in Module 01: Introduction to Urban Ecology by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@lmu.edu.

1. **Biodiversity lens:** You are concerned with questions about the number of different kinds of living things that are present in an area as well as how many of each different type there is.

(Biophysical driver/biological)

2. **Soil quality lens:** You are concerned with the physical characteristics of soil as well as the biological communities that live in the soil.

(Biophysical driver/chemical)

3. **Water quality lens:** You are concerned with issues around how much water there is, how clean the water is, who lives in the water, who uses the water and anything else which might affect the water quality.

(Biophysical driver/chemical)

4. **Energy Lens:** You are concerned with both how energy is moving through this ecosystem, the way in which energy is transformed from one form to another, such as what happens to the energy from the sun. Where does it go? Also you are concerned with questions about how does this site affect human energy consumption.

(Biophysical driver/physical)

5. Political lens: You are concerned with the politics of this site. Who owns the land? Who has an interest in this site? Are there competing interests for this site? Is the site controversial in any way?

(Social driver)

6. Historical legacies lens: You are concerned with what has gone on in the past. How has this site changed over the years? What clues are there to the history of the site?

(Social driver)

7. Environmental justice issues lens: You are concerned with issues about inequitable exposure to environmental problems or inequitable access to parks and green spaces. The Environmental Protection Agency defines Environmental Justice as: “fair treatment for people of all races, cultures, and incomes, regarding the development of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.”

(Social driver)

8. Public health lens: You are concerned with issues around the health of the public and how this site either positively or negatively impacts the health of the people who use the site or live nearby.

(Social driver)

