

BEACON



City of Rolling Hills Estates




Sustainability Best Practice Activities

City of Rolling Hills Estates

California communities are leading the fight against climate change. From small projects to large-scale programs, cities and counties are making great strides to create healthy, sustainable and economically prosperous communities. Participants in ILG's Beacon Program serve as leaders in this effort, making measureable contributions to reducing energy and greenhouse gas emissions, and sharing their sustainability best practices.

This document represents a collection of activities your agency has completed in 10 areas of sustainability. While local governments have a wide range of choices available to address climate change, these activities represent the unique opportunities and values in your community. These voluntary actions are essential to achieving California's goals to save energy, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and create more sustainable communities.

SPOTLIGHT AWARD

SPOTLIGHT AWARD		SILVER LEVEL	GOLD LEVEL	PLATINUM LEVEL
Areas of Accomplishment				
	Agency GHG Reductions			
	Community GHG Reductions		2015 (11%)	
	Agency Energy Savings			2015 (27%)
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities	2015	2018	
	Beacon Award			

Cities and counties throughout the Golden State should be proud of the accomplishments made through the hard work, innovation and collective community action. The Institute for Local Government applauds your achievements and thanks you for your continued participation in the Beacon Program.

The Beacon Program is sponsored by the Institute for Local Government and the Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative (SEEC). SEEC is an alliance between three statewide non-profit organizations and California's four Investor-Owned Utilities. The Beacon Program is funded by California utility ratepayers and administered by Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Diego Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas Company under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.



Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities

Silver

1. The City of Rolling Hills Estates participates in SCE Energy Leadership Program.

Gold

2. In 2014, RHE adopted the HERO Program, which allows commercial and residential owners to finance the installation of eligible energy efficiency, renewable generation and water conservation improvements with low-interest loans that are repaid as an item on the property owner's property tax bill via AB 811.

Platinum





Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

Silver

1. The city implements a proactive Litter Abatement Program for keeping public rights-of-way, streets, medians, parks, and trails free of litter and debris so it does not end up in the waste water stream. All public streets are swept twice per month with accelerated sweeping in the downtown commercial area.

Gold

2. Industrial and commercial businesses are inspected to ensure that any outdoor activities/storage are conducted in a manner that does not discharge pollutants to the storm drain system and minimizes the potential for contact of pollutants with storm water runoff.
3. City parks are furnished with pet waste collection stations and requires dogs to be on a leash.

Platinum

4. RHE implements integrated pest management practices, which call for using physical barriers and controls first and when necessary the least toxic chemical control that is effective, e.g. wood chips are used in lieu of herbicide for weed control on horse trails.
5. The city inspects irrigation systems in city parks and recreational areas frequently for broken heads, overspray, and muddy areas.





Green Building Activities

Silver

1. Council adopted a solar equipment permit waiver fee program in 2009.

Gold

2. Requires new landscapes to be designed to conserve water using a water budget approach. These requirements apply to new landscaping for commercial, office, and institutional developments and to developer-installed landscaping in residential subdivisions.
3. Adopted the Alameda County New Home Construction Green Building Guidelines as a city reference document and encourages the use of the LEED Green Building Rating System for construction projects within the city.

Platinum

4. City council adopted the Water Efficient Landscaping Ordinance on July 13, 2010, along with implementation guidelines to provide design guidance and maintenance practices. The city requires that new landscaping in commercial, office, and institutional developments, as well as developer-installed landscaping in new residential subdivision, be designed to conserve water.





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

Silver

1. RHE has established a new state-of-the-art three cart system, making it easy for residents to recycle household plastics and glass containers, cans, and paper, as well as green waste. As a result, there has been a substantial increase in waste diversion with residents consistently keeping more than 60% of their waste out of the trash carts and out of landfills.

Gold

2. The city provides curbside pickup of used oil and filters for recycling along with yard waste and other recyclables. Manure collection and recycling service for horse owners is available through the city's franchise hauler. The city also provides pickup of bulky items at no extra cost to residents.
3. The city increased curbside collection of used oil by 160% and used oil filters by 590% under the new residential solid waste collection service.

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4. With the Battery Recycling Program established in 2010, residents can dispose of batteries in one of the city facilities featuring our battery tracker bins and drop them off. Waste Management will do the rest and ensure that they are recycled.





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

Silver

1. RHE implements integrated pest management practice, which calls for using physical barriers and controls first and when necessary the least toxic chemical controls that is effective, i.e. wood chips are used in lieu of herbicide for weed control on horsetails.

Gold

2. Recycled paper usage policy and paperless practices have been implemented in Rolling Hill Estates municipal facilities.
3. The city has adopted a procurement policy for energy efficient equipment. As municipal appliances wear out, the city would replace them with Energy Star or energy efficient equipment. Implementation of policy will result in an expected 12, 874 kWh saved by 2020.

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Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

Silver

1. In 2014 the City of Rolling Hills Estates adopted a resolution to participate in Los Angeles Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE), a mechanism to finance energy efficiency, renewable energy, and water conservation upgrades to commercial, industrial, and multi-family property owners to fund on-site improvements.

Gold

2. The city is improving the fuel efficiency of the city vehicle fleet by purchasing low-or zero emission vehicles when vehicles are retired from service. In 2008, a new street sweeping contract was implemented, which requires the use of state-of-the-art equipment (certified by the Air Quality Management District) to reduce the emission of particulate air pollution from paved roads, utilizing less polluting vehicles and alternative fuel vehicles. The city continues to implement this program by replacing its vehicle fleet with compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles.

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Efficient Transportation Activities

Silver

1. Links on the city website for the Southern California Edison Plug-In Electric Vehicles Program that subsidizes the cost of EV charging infrastructure.

Gold

2. In 2010, RHE implemented the Walking School Bus Program. A walking school bus is a group of children walking to school with one or more adults. It can be as informal as two families taking turns walking their children to school or as formal as a well-planned walking route with meeting points, a timetable and a regularly rotated schedule of trained volunteers.
3. The city installed pedestrian network improvements and traffic calming measures installed on one of the city's largest arterials, Palos Verdes Drive North.

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4. The city reduced frequency of solid waste collection to once per week to increase collection efficiency and minimize consumption of fossil fuels, air emissions, as well as wear and tear on roads.





Land Use and Community Design Activities

Silver

1. City adopted the Ahwahanee Water Principles for resource-efficient land use.

Gold

2. In the city's General Plan Land Use Section 2.2, Policy 8.3 dictates that where appropriate, all residential neighborhoods should be connected by multi-use recreational trails. Implementation Measure 8.3.1 requires the city to implement the Master Plan of Trails on an immediate and ongoing basis with funding from the General Plan.
3. Policy 2.11 in Transportation Chapter of General Plan restricts the expansion of roadway pavements into open space, roadway buffer zones and bicycle, pedestrian, equestrian.

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4. The city General Plan includes policies to encourage cooperation among Peninsula jurisdictions to establish a comprehensive multi-use trail network for equestrian, bicycle, and pedestrian use and encourage development of additional on-street bike paths to enable the development of a Peninsula-wide loop system. In accordance with policies 3.2. and 3.7.1, the Community Services Department will initiate dialogue with neighboring jurisdictions to discuss feasibility of implementing a regional trails system.





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

Silver

1. In partnership with the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy, city is eradicating invasive/exotic plants and conducting habitat enhancement and restoration of the habitat in the George F. Canyon Nature Preserve.

Gold

2. In city's General Plan Open Space and Recreation Element, Section 3.3 Policy 1.4 requires cooperation with neighboring cities, the county, and the state in planning for recreational and open space program to preserve and enhance the Peninsula's natural environment and cultural heritage. Policy 2.5 requires city to 'promote a cooperative neighborly and cultural community by encouraging recreational programs, which stimulate, educate, and enrich the lives of residents.

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Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

Silver

1. The city created a Greener Path webpage to help residents adopt more sustainable habits.

Gold

2. Encourage property owners to contribute lands to the city for open space and recreational use. One such organization involved in preserving open space in the city is the Pepper Tree Foundation.

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