

BEACON  
SPOTLIGHT  
AWARD  
WINNER  
BEST PRACTICE  
ACTIVITIES



# City of San Luis Obispo

Sustainability Best Practice Activities



**ILG** INSTITUTE FOR  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT<sup>SM</sup>  
*Promoting Good Government at the Local Level*

# City of San Luis Obispo

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

Areas of Accomplishment		SILVER LEVEL	GOLD LEVEL	PLATINUM LEVEL
	Agency GHG Reductions			
	Community GHG Reductions		2020 (12%)	
	Agency Energy Savings	2018 (8%)		
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities		2020	
	Beacon Vanguard 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. San Luis Obispo has completed replacement of all city streetlights with high efficiency LED bulbs.

## Gold

2. The city completed a retrofit of the Water Resource Recovery Facility.

## Platinum





# Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

## Silver

1. The city has 12 public water bottle filling stations.

## Gold

2. San Luis Obispo is currently in progress of an energy efficiency upgrade to a Water Treatment Plant.

## Platinum





# Green Building Activities

## Silver

1. San Luis Obispo has a Clean Energy Choice Program for the New Buildings Ordinance to encourage all-electric new buildings.

## Gold

2. The city's zoning code requires additional EV chargers.

## Platinum





# Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

## Silver

1. San Luis Obispo has a Green Waste Collection Program and anaerobic digester subscription.

## Gold

2. The city has an ordinance regulating the use and sale of expanded polystyrene.
3. San Luis Obispo has an ordinance regulating single-use plastic bottled beverages.

## Platinum

4. The city has an ordinance regulating the use and distribution of single-use straws.





# Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

## Silver

1. The city has approved the purchase of hybrid fleet vehicles.

## Gold

2. San Luis Obispo has shifted to all reusable dishware for all city events.
3. The city has shifted to renewable diesel in fleet vehicles.

## Platinum







# Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

## Silver

1. The city installed the ARC solar charging station at city hall for fleet vehicles.

## Gold

2. San Luis Obispo completed the construction of a methane gas recapture plant to generate power at the Water Treatment Plant.
3. The city enrolled in Monterey Bay Community Power (CCA).

## Platinum

4. The city signed and completed solar panel contracts for installation at government facilities (swim center, Ludwick community center, bus yard, fire station, reservoir).







# Efficient Transportation Activities

## Silver

1. San Luis Obispo developed an Electric Transit Plan.

## Gold

2. The city developed and adopted an Active Transportation Plan.
3. San Luis Obispo completed installation of 19 electric-vehicle chargers at the Marsh Street Parking Structure for public use.

## Platinum

4. The city completed installation of hybrid pedestrian beacons at key intersections, which provide protected pedestrian crossings.





# Land Use and Community Design Activities

## Silver

1. The city adopted new zoning standards to support EV chargers, tiny homes and infill development.

## Gold

2. San Luis Obispo's General Plan Land Use Element was recently adopted to promote smart growth.
3. The city adopted Downtown Concept Plan, incorporating ped/bike improvements, streetscape improvements, and green infrastructure.

## Platinum





# Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

## Silver

1. The city purchased Miossi open space for conservation easement.

## Gold

2. San Luis Obispo has conserved over 500 acres of open space since 2016.
3. The city's Habitat Connectivity Project was completed to identify best places for future land acquisition.

## Platinum





# Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

## Silver

1. The city completed the identification of Climate Action, Housing and Sustainable Transportation as major city goals in the 2019-21 Financial Plan.

## Gold

2. San Luis Obispo established a relationship with SLO Climate Coalition, which aims to go Carbon Neutral by 2035.
3. The city supports [www.slogreenchallenge.com](http://www.slogreenchallenge.com), which encourages residents to take actions that help reduce their impact on the city.

## Platinum

4. Community Collaboration for Climate Action program kickoff.







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