



# City of Union City

## Sustainability Best Practice Activities



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



# City of Union City

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			
	Agency Energy Savings		2013 (11%)	
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities		2013	
	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. Performed energy audits of all city facilities.

## Gold

2. Installed the following improvements at city facilities: central plant retrofit at city hall and police station; rooftop air handler units and cool roofs at city hall and Holly Center; energy management system at city hall, library, and Holly Center; heat pump unit replacement at Kennedy Center, as well as interior/exterior lighting retrofit.
3. Completed street light retrofit of 4,200 high pressure sodium street lights with energy-efficient induction lights.

## Platinum

4. Launched the Union City Energy Smart Campaign in September 2011, which is a partnership between the city, PG&E, and the Chamber of Commerce to offer Union City businesses valuable no-cost energy assessments, no-cost programs, and financial incentives and rebates.
5. Provided funds to Rising Sun to establish a California Youth Energy Service (CYES) Program, which promotes energy conservation and sustainable living via an employment program for youth ages 15-22. The program trains and employs youth during the summer to perform green house calls.
6. Worked with PG&E to host an energy efficiency forum for high energy users within the city.





# Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

## Silver

1. Updated landscape regulations to include additional water reduction measures that addressed the State Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance requirements and Bay-Friendly landscaping requirements.

## Gold

2. The city requires the use of compost and mulch in city and private development projects.
3. The city installed six Bay-Friendly landscapes at city facilities.

## Platinum

4. The city installed a Bay-Friendly demonstration garden at a local park, which includes a self-guided tour that explains Bay-Friendly practices to the public. The garden was designated the highest rated Bay-Friendly landscape in the Bay Area.
5. The city upgraded existing public landscape watering systems to be more water efficient (i.e. evapotranspiration based).





# Green Building Activities

## Silver

1. Expanded existing Municipal Green Building Ordinance to apply to private development projects in 2010. New residential construction is required to be GreenPoint Rated and commercial projects must comply with the Stopwaste.org Small Commercial Green Building Checklist.

## Gold

2. Require all new city facilities to meet at least LEED Silver certification standards.
3. Constructed a new Fire Station that obtained LEED Gold certification.

## Platinum

4. To incentivize solar energy, the city established a fixed fee (previously based on valuation) for residential and commercial solar permits.
5. Trained appropriate agency staff (including planners, inspectors and plan checkers) in green building standards and technologies to facilitate approval and inspection processes.





# Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

## Silver

1. Worked closely with Stopwaste.org to draft a Countywide Mandatory Commercial Recycling Ordinance, which requires businesses and multi-family dwellings of five or more units, that generate four cubic yards or more of solid waste collection per week, to recycle.

## Gold

2. Implemented a Food Scrap Recycling Program for commercial uses. To date, have successfully recruited nearly 40 restaurants and other food waste generators.
3. Conducted solid waste/recycling audits on behalf of the Alameda County Green Business Program.

## Platinum

4. Set printers at city facilities to print double-sided as default.
5. Switched to electronic city council meeting packets in place of printed packets.
6. Performed recycling outreach at several community events.







# Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

## Silver

1. Implemented an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) Policy for city facilities that addressed a variety of sustainable priorities, including recycled content products, energy and water saving products, products that reduce pollution, and products that promote forest conservation.

## Gold

2. Established an interdepartmental Green Action Team (GAT) that meets regularly to discuss a variety of sustainable topics, including implementation of the city's EPP Program. The GAT was instrumental in establishing the EPP and their continued support and feedback ensures that the program is being successfully implemented.
3. EPP Policy requires the city purchase remanufactured products, such as toner cartridges, tires, furniture, equipment, and automotive parts whenever practicable, but without reducing safety, quality or effectiveness.

## Platinum

4. EPP Policy requests vendors to eliminate packaging or use the minimum amount necessary for product protection, to the greatest extent practicable.
5. EPP Policy requires all products for which the U.S. EPA has established minimum recycled content standard guidelines in the agency's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines, such as those for printing paper, office paper, janitorial paper, construction, landscaping, parks and recreation, transportation, vehicles, miscellaneous and non-paper office products, shall contain the highest postconsumer content, but no less than the minimum recycled content standards established by the U.S. EPA Guidelines, when practicable.
6. EPP requires that all products purchased by the city and for which the U.S. EPA Energy Star certification is available shall meet Energy Star certification, when practicable. When Energy Star labels are not available, the City of Union City shall choose energy-efficient products that are in the upper 25% of energy efficiency as designated by the Federal Energy Management Program.





# Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

## Silver

1. Installed the largest CNG fueling station in Southern Alameda County.

## Gold

2. Allow public use of city CNG fueling station.
3. In process of converting the majority of city-owned vehicles to run on CNG.

## Platinum





# Efficient Transportation Activities

## Silver

1. Updated Zoning Ordinance to provide incentives for new development to implement transportation demand management strategies.

## Gold

2. Working with the Southern Alameda County Air Resources Team to put together a white paper on private shuttles in the hopes of organizing Union City businesses to work together to establish a shuttle system between the city's industrial areas and BART.
3. Installed bicycle racks at city facilities to promote bicycle use by employees and visitors.

## Platinum

4. Updated Zoning Ordinance to require multi-family and nonresidential development to provide bicycle parking and added bicycle parking requirements that reflect best practices.





# Land Use and Community Design Activities

## Silver

1. Put plans and policies in place to facilitate development of a transit-oriented new town center (Station District) around the city's existing BART station that allows for densities up to 160 units per acre.

## Gold

2. Utilized approximately \$45 million of city redevelopment monies to partially fund a 157-unit affordable housing development adjacent to the BART station. The project received a LEED Platinum certification from the USGBC.
3. Put plans and policies in place and completed the environmental review for the development of an intermodal station to provide much-needed linkages between heavy rail (ACE Train, Capital Corridor) and BART and provide opportunities for the development of additional rail systems (Dumbarton Rail and Super Ace).

## Platinum

4. Developed a paid parking program (eliminated free parking) in Station District to encourage people to walk, bicycle and utilize transit.
5. Completed a substantial upgrade to the existing BART station that included new solar facilities and improved pedestrian, bicycle and transit access.
6. Developed Union City's first Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan in 2006 and updated it in 2012.





# Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

## Silver

1. Plant approximately 500 new trees per year at city-owned facilities, city parks, and within the city's rights-of-way.

## Gold

2. In 2011, restored a portion of Old Alameda Creek by planting 70 native trees.
3. In 2011, restored portions of Dry Creek by planting 30 native trees and mulching all bare areas with wood chips that were recycled from tree crew operations.

## Platinum

4. Planted an additional 75 native trees in riparian areas throughout the city.
5. Worked with the community to establish a community garden and recently added an additional 20 new plots.
6. Gave away 200 saplings at annual Earth Day event.





# Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

## Silver

1. Member of Bay Area Regional Advisory Working Group for SB 375 implementation and responsible for reviewing and providing feedback on the draft Sustainable Communities Strategy.

## Gold

2. Member of the sub-committee working group for the Adapting to Rising Tides (ART) Project. The project is working on understanding the impacts of climate-related sea level rise on Union City and a few additional cities to the north. Several public reports have been prepared or are in process.
3. Established the Climate Protection Task Force to review and provide feedback on the city's CAP and to help monitor and assess plan implementation.

## Platinum

4. Provide yearly update reports to the city council and public regarding CAP implementation.







© 2019 by Institute for Local Government  
1400 K Street, Suite 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-658-8208  
[www.ca-ilg.org](http://www.ca-ilg.org)

