

BEACON

SPOTLIGHT  
AWARD

WINNER

BEST PRACTICE  
ACTIVITIES



# City of Long Beach

Sustainability Best Practice Activities



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






# City of Long Beach

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		2018 (16%)	
	Community GHG Reductions	2018 (7%)		
	Agency Energy Savings	2018 (7%)		
	Natural Gas Savings			2018 (27%)
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities			2018
	Beacon Award	2018		

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. Since 2011, the City of Long Beach has partnered with the Southern California Edison Direct Install Program, where energy efficiency experts will come and evaluate a facility, free of charge, to identify energy-saving opportunities and replace less efficient equipment with more energy-efficient equipment where applicable. This program has reduced energy and carbon footprint at city municipal facilities and Long Beach businesses alike.

## Gold

2. The Residential Energy Rebate Program was in effect April 2010 to June 2012. During that time, the city's Department of Development Services administered rebates and provided a no-cost permit to inspect the installation of a qualifying energy efficient product to the owners of a single-family residence, condominium, or live/work unit in the City of Long Beach.
3. In late 2015 and early 2016, the City of Long Beach Public Works Department converted 1,750 traffic safety lights to LED. This project was funded by the Port of Long Beach Community Mitigation Grant.

## Platinum

4. Beginning in 2016, the city started to replace 24,000 high-pressure sodium streetlights with LED streetlights. According to the Energy Network, the retrofit will save about 9.6 million kilowatt-hours of electricity each year, reducing Long Beach's overall energy consumption by almost 10 percent.
5. The City of Long Beach Energy Action Plan identifies strategies for optimizing energy use in the city, reducing utility costs, and maximizing operational productivity of facilities. The key objectives of the plan are to: create a long term vision for energy efficiency, identify and categorize city energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, highlight the city's major energy-using facilities, establish opportunities for further energy efficiency efforts, prioritize goals, policies, and actions to achieve energy reduction targets, and develop implementation plan for the identified goals, policies, and actions.
6. Hosted in partnership between the Long Beach Office of Sustainability and the nonprofit Green Education, Inc, "smart homebuyer workshops" support homeowners and new homebuyers in making their homes healthy, comfortable and environmentally friendly. Launching in April of 2018, the ongoing workshops have a specific focus on the energy efficient mortgage, which helps finance energy efficiency projects for homes.





# Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

## Silver

1. On March 2, 2010, city council approved a request to establish a pilot Rain Barrel Program to encourage the capture and re-use of rain water. The pilot made available 100 55-gallon rain barrels to Long Beach residents at no charge through an online application process. In a 2014 survey, 98% of participants reported that they still used the provided rain barrel.

## Gold

2. City council approved a Graywater Pilot Project in March 2011. Through a lottery, 33 homes were selected to have a graywater system installed that diverts water from the clothes washing machine into mulch basins to irrigate the landscape.
3. Effective November 12, 2013, the Low Impact Development (LID) Ordinance applies to any new development or redevelopment that results in the replacement of more than 50% of an existing building structure, or impervious surface area. A small-scale project must utilize at least two LID Best Management Practice (BMP) measures on the project site. For a large-scale project, the city developed the LID BMP Design Manual to guide through the process.

## Platinum

4. Livermore Water Resources Division actively promotes water conservation on its website. Information provided addresses water conservation for home, landscaping, commercial businesses and industry. In addition, rebates are currently offered for high efficiency washing machine purchases and lawn conversions. Additional outreach provided at community events such as farmers markets and downtown festivals.
5. The Lawn-to-Garden (L2G) Program was created with the goal of making the landscapes of Long Beach sustainable and water efficient, while also providing multiple benefits for the environment such as capturing storm water, reducing runoff and developing habitat for birds and butterflies.
6. The Long Beach Water Department is involved in one of the most aggressive recycled water system expansions found anywhere in Southern California. The primary elements of the Recycled Water System Expansion Program include the construction of recycled water pipeline, new pump stations, augmentation of water system storage, and the completion of new service connections.





# Green Building Activities

## Silver

1. Opened in 2016, the Michelle Obama Library is a LEED Silver facility. The building is designed to use nearly 40% less potable water for plumbing fixtures and 55 percent less for irrigation. The landscape includes drought-tolerant, native California plants coupled with an efficient irrigation system. The extensive use of natural daylight throughout the space with lighting controls, efficient HVAC system and a building envelope that responds to solar orientation results in a building that exceeds California Title 24 energy code by nearly 20%.

## Gold

2. The city adopted a Green Building Policy for municipal buildings in 2003, which states that all new construction of municipally owned and operated buildings will meet the LEED standards.
3. The city passed an ordinance that all new construction or alterations to residential or mixed use buildings of 50 dwelling units and 50,000 square feet, non-residential buildings of 50,000 square feet or more, and projects for which the city provides any portion of the funding must obtain LEED certified status. New buildings on city land consisting of 7,500 square feet or more must meet LEED Silver certification.

## Platinum

4. In 2017, the city implemented a Construction and Demolition Recycling Program that requires certain demolition and/or construction projects to divert at least 65% of waste from landfills through recycling, salvage or deconstruction.
5. The Civic Center Project is currently tracking on time toward the mid 2019 opening for the new city hall, port headquarters, and main library. Early assessment of the LEED scorecard suggests that the project could attain a LEED Gold or better rating. The project is on track to be more than 20% better than Title 24 and have a more than 50% reduction in carbon footprint as compared to baseline.
6. Construction for the Middle Harbor Redevelopment Project at the Port of Long Beach started in spring 2011 and is redeveloping two older terminals at Middle Harbor. This nine-year project includes construction of various buildings and facilities to house terminal operating staff and provides support areas for the operation.





# Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

## Silver

1. The City of Long Beach Environmental Services Bureau hosts free workshops to teach residents to compost, vermicompost, and grasscycle on an ongoing basis.

## Gold

2. Starting in February 2018, mattresses and box springs left out for collection in the City of Long Beach are collected for recycling and not disposal.
3. The City of Long Beach Green Printing Policy went into effect on March 1, 2010 and requires that all city departments use double-sided printing and use electronic documents whenever possible.

## Platinum

4. The City of Long Beach produces green waste from standard tree trimming maintenance and works to keep this resource from going to landfills by offering a free municipal mulch yard and a free mulch delivery program administered by the Office of Sustainability. As of January 2018, this ongoing program has diverted over 4,300 tons of mulch since its start in 2010.
5. In 2011 the city released an ordinance banning plastic bags. Key components of the ban include that stores cannot provide carryout plastic bags to customers, must provide either recyclable paper or reusable bags, must charge the customer ten cents for each bag provided, and must indicate on the customer receipt the number of recyclable paper carryout bags provided and the total amount charged for the bags.
6. Launched in March of 2017, the Can Your Butts (CYB) Campaign is an opportunity for Long Beach restaurants, bars and barber shops to reduce cigarette litter through a voluntary partnership with Litter-Free LB. These businesses are required by city code to provide and maintain cigarette litter receptacles for public use. Participating businesses in "CYB target zones" can receive free resources such as posters, pocket ashtrays, and a cigarette waste receptacle for the front of their establishment.







# Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

## Silver

1. The Long Beach Port Board adopted a Green Port Policy in January 2005 that serves as a guide for decision making and established a framework for environmentally friendly port operations. In one of the plan's six basic program elements, sustainability, the policy focuses on the importance of environmentally preferable purchasing for the port's administrative practices.

## Gold

2. In 2003, the city adopted an Environmentally Preferable Procurement Policy. The primary purpose of this policy is to maximize environmental benefits of the city's activities by encouraging the procurement of services and products that reduce toxicity, maximizes recyclability and recycled content, and conserves natural resources, materials, and energy.
3. Adopted in 2009, the 10% Local Preference Policy makes it so a bid from a Long Beach vendor for furnishing materials, equipment, supplies and non-professional services shall be reduced by 10%. This policy gives preference to local businesses and in turn decreases shipping emissions.

## Platinum

4. The City of Long Beach Sustainable Office Supply or "SOS" Program creates automatic product substitution, substituting non-green products for green products. The city has also reduced the number of delivery days for office supplies from five to three days per week. This reduces emissions associated with transportation and delivery of orders. The program is estimated to increase green spending from 10% to 15% and reduce cost by an estimated 10% to 12%.
5. Approved May 29th, 2018, the Battery Electric Vehicle and Infrastructure Policy expresses that conventionally fueled light-duty vehicles will be replaced by battery electric vehicles whenever possible for all city departments and offices.
6. On May 4th, 2018, the Mayor of Long Beach signed into law an ordinance that bans Styrofoam food containers. Starting immediately, the ordinance applies to all city departments. Over the following 18 months, restaurants and small businesses will phase out polystyrene containers as well.





# Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

## Silver

1. In September 2006, The Long Beach Convention and Entertainment Center installed a 750 kilowatt solar panel array on its roof.

## Gold

2. In 2008, the Long Beach Airport installed six solar trees that track the movement of the sun to produce electricity. At time of installation, the system was expected to create 15,000 kilowatt hours annually, save at least \$5,000 a year and offset nearly a half-million pounds of carbon dioxide emissions over the system's 25-year lifespan, which equates to planting three acres of trees.
3. In 2008, the Biodiesel Pilot Program prompted ten city vehicles, including skip loaders, tractors and dump trucks to be fueled up with a mixture of 80% diesel and 20% biodiesel over to test the cost effectiveness and reliability of the fuel.

## Platinum

4. In 2009, the city unveiled a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) fueling station for the city's growing fleet of alternative fuel vehicles. The 32,000-gallon fueling station contains a two-week supply of LNG for the city's then 79 LNG vehicles, including the then only LNG-powered street-sweeping fleet in the United States.
5. In 2017, the city installed a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fueling station. This CNG time-fill fueling station includes fully-integrated fuel compression equipment, backup power, and a time-fill dispensing system; capable of providing a ten-hour time-fill (slow-fill) capacity for 80 trucks and 20 sweepers, enabling them to refuel overnight, and be ready to provide services to residents the next day.
6. In 2013, the City of Long Beach installed 56 chargers at 13 different public parking lots and structures. In 2017, the city worked with SCE Charge Ready Program to place 13 chargers at the city place parking lot.





# Efficient Transportation Activities

## Silver

1. The City of Long Beach provides free access to Long Beach Transit to all city employees.

## Gold

2. As of June 2018, the City of Long Beach has 14 fix-it stations and 11 hydration stations for cyclists.
3. The Long Beach Bike Share Program debuted in March 2016. There are currently 400 bikes and 71 bike hubs. As of June 2018, there are 24,360 active members and 135, 479 total trips taken. The estimated amount of carbon reduction is 328, 517 pounds.

## Platinum

4. The City of Long Beach has constructed and is constructing protected bike lanes for Long Beach cyclists. As of June 2018, four protected bike lanes are completed, one is under construction, and three future projects are funded.
5. The City of Long Beach has constructed and is constructing bike boulevards, which are low-volume streets designed to accommodate bicyclists and motorists in the same travel lanes to facilitate safe and convenient bicycle travel. As of June 2018, two bike boulevards are completed, one is under construction, and four future projects are funded.
6. The City of Long Beach Bicycle Master Plan was adopted by city council in February 2017. This plan expands upon the Mobility Element of the Long Beach General Plan by providing further details on bicycle planning and design. It also recommends a series of projects and programs to be implemented by Long Beach in the next few decades. The plan has a focus on equity, mode shift, sustainability, and safety.





# Land Use and Community Design Activities

## Silver

1. Effective January 1, 2014, the Adaptive Reuse (AR) Program and Ordinance streamlines the planning process and allows greater flexibility to better serve the needs of the changing community. The program provides a framework for sustainable development in the city and offers a clear process for the review of a variety of projects that result in a range of new uses.

## Gold

2. Adopted by city council in May 2016, the Long Beach Downtown and Transit Oriented Development Pedestrian Master Plan provides a blueprint for achieving a multi-use vision – for streets that provide safe and direct connections to the Metro Blue Line - while at the same time reach their potential for enhanced community life, recreational opportunities, and ecological benefits.
3. Opening April 2017, Gumbiner Park was formerly a trisection of streets. The area had high incidents of traffic accidents and now offers green space and enhanced access to the Museum of Latin American Art and the Pacific Island Ethnic Art Museum.

## Platinum

4. The North Town Open Space Master Plan identifies opportunities for new public open spaces and the connections between them in North Long Beach. The plan provides a framework for sustainably expanding public open space access for residents in the study area. Nearly 150 open space ideas were identified by community members with approximately 1,500 votes cast for all of the potential open space trends.
5. Adopted March 2018, the Land Use and Urban Design Elements of the Long Beach 2040 General Plan has a focus to implement sustainable planning and development practices. The elements allow a return to a mixed use style of development, with appropriate provisions for quality design and transitions between the corridors and adjacent neighborhoods.
6. On October 3, 2017, city council adopted an ordinance amending the Long Beach Municipal Code by adding Chapter 18.29 regarding vacant lots. The intent of a Vacant Lot Registry is to complement the Foreclosure Registry and the Vacant Building Monitoring Program in protecting neighborhoods from negative impacts associated with vacant buildings and lots.





# Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

## Silver

1. From 2011 to 2013, the South Coast Air Quality Management District provided funding to the City of Long Beach Office of Sustainability to create a tree planting partnership that would increase the benefits trees provide in reducing criteria and toxic air pollutants along with greenhouse gases. During that time, the office planted 1,188 trees.

## Gold

2. In 2014, the Office of Sustainability no longer had funds from the South Coast Air Quality Management District to continue the grant-funded Tree Planting Program. The office absorbed the costs of the program into its budget. This action created an ongoing program that plants trees in eligible homeowner, business, or community/neighborhood group parkways for free.
3. In August 2012, the I Dig Long Beach Program received funding from the Port of Long Beach's Community Mitigation Grant Programs, which are designed to off-set environmental impacts from port construction projects. The grant funds 6,000 tree plantings. Locations were selected due to their proximity to the port, where they would be most effective at capturing and storing greenhouse gas emissions.

## Platinum

4. The Dominguez Gap Wetlands Project maintains the integrity of flood protection along the urban lower reaches of the Los Angeles River, while introducing new water quality elements, groundwater recharge, restoration of native habitat, pedestrian and equestrian trails, environmental education, and river bike trail enhancements.
5. Opening October 21st, 2018, the Willow Springs Wetlands Restoration Project is a 12-acre project within the 48-acre Willow Springs Park. It features a walking loop that takes visitors through a series of water-capturing bioswales.
6. Opening June 30, 2018, the DeForest Park Wetlands Project supported the development of an approximately two-mile long riverfront park with wetlands and associated upland habitat, interpretive displays, a bicycle staging area and public access trails on a 39-acre site adjacent to the Los Angeles River.





# Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

## Silver

1. Created in 2007, the Sustainable City Commission advises the city council on environmental issues, such as buildings and neighborhoods, urban nature, transportation, water, energy, waste reduction and eco products and services, and is responsible for creating a Sustainable City Action Plan.

## Gold

2. The 2015-16 Cool California Challenge included 22 California cities to motivate and reward residents for reducing their carbon footprints and help build more vibrant communities. The City of Long Beach received second place.
3. Since 2018, the City of Long Beach is a member of the California Green Business Network, which means all Long Beach businesses have the opportunity to join the network of over 4,000 businesses across California committed to sustainability.

## Platinum

4. Since 2016, the City of Long Beach gives away electric vehicle chargers free of cost to Long Beach residents who own or lease an electric vehicle and obtain an electrical permit. This giveaway program coincided with the launch of an expedited permitting process for residents interested in installing a residential electric vehicle charging station.
5. Since 2017, the Urban Agriculture Incentive Zone Program provides tax incentives to vacant lot owners who enter a contract with the city to use their lot for agricultural purposes for a period of 5 years. While under contract, the lot owner pays property taxes based on the agricultural value of the property, which can offer substantial savings. This opens up new opportunities for local farming and gardening to provide locally grown produce to the Long Beach community.
6. Since June, 2016, the city has hosted eight "Beach Streets", an open street event where a stretch of street is closed to vehicular traffic and open to pedestrians, bicyclists, and others on non-motorized vehicles. The aim is to get people to explore local businesses and restaurants, consider taking local transit, and allow them to enjoy entertainment for all ages along the route.







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