

PROUD
PARTICIPANT



Local Leadership Toward
Solving Climate Change

City of Benicia

Best Practice Activities & Accomplishments to Date

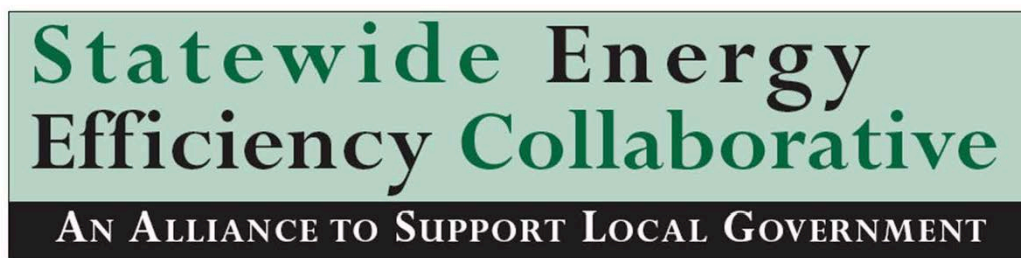
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About This Document

This document tracks and shares local agency best practice activities completed and counted as part of a city or county's participation in the climate change and sustainability recognition program, the Beacon Award: Local Leadership toward Solving Climate Change. The Beacon Award is a statewide program recognizing cities and counties that are working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save energy and adopt policies and programs that promote sustainability.

The Beacon Award is sponsored by the Institute for Local Government and the Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative. The Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative (SEEC) provides support to cities and counties to help them reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save energy. SEEC is an alliance between three statewide non-profit organizations and California's four Investor-Owned Utilities. It builds upon the unique resources, expertise and local agency relationships of each partner.



This 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.



1. Energy Efficiency & Conservation

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
Silver	1. Partnered with WattzOn to conduct residential energy and water assessments and distribute compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). Over 200 homes participated in the program. WattzOn conducted assessments with the assistance of high school students participating in the Students for the Advancement of Global Entrepreneurship (SAGE) Program.	05-2012
Gold	1. Partnered with Strategic Energy Innovations and 6 other small cities to implement the Small Communities Climate Action Plan, a Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) Innovator Pilot Program. The city audited major agency buildings and facilities to work toward quantifying energy use and identifying opportunities for energy savings.	05-2012
	2. Retrofitting approximately 2,200 high-pressure sodium streetlights to LED and induction fixtures. A portion of these retrofits use Energy Efficiency Conservation Development Block Grant (EECBG) funding.	05-2012
Platinum	1. Adopted a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Resolution 09-126 and is currently assessing the potential for creation of a financing district and implementation of a program.	05-2012
	2. Contracted with an energy services company that has identified and will install interior and exterior energy efficiency upgrades at 8 city facilities.	05-2012
	3. TBD	



2. Water & Wastewater Systems

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
Silver	1. Distributed low-flow showerheads and low-flow hose nozzles at various community events, including Earth Day celebrations in 2009-2011.	05-2012
Gold	1. Implemented methane capture for energy production at the wastewater treatment plant. The energy produced powers the odor scrubber at the facility.	05-2012
	2. Installed an Evapotranspiration System at 8 city locations, 5 of which are online and functioning. The system measures wind and ground moisture, and air temperature and then determines if irrigation water should be dispersed.	05-2012
Platinum	1. Updated Emergency Water Conservation Plan to manage water use during times of shortage.	05-2012
	2. City installed solar systems at 3 pump stations and at the water treatment plant to offset energy use.	05-2012
	3. TBD	



3. Green Building

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
Silver	1. Renovated the Community Center and required it to achieve LEED certification, which is currently pending.	05-2012
Gold	1. City granted \$30,000 to a non-profit organization, GRID Alternatives , to complete 5 solar installations on low-income qualifying homes. 2. TBD	05-2012
Platinum	1. TBD 2. TBD 3. TBD	



4. Waste Reduction & Recycling

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
Silver	1. The city renegotiated its waste contract to include additional recycling pick-up days for residential and commercial customers.	05-2012
Gold	1. Partners with waste hauler to promote free home compost workshops 4 times per year to educate customers about how to compost, benefits of composting, and uses of compost.	05-2012
	2. Promotes waste hauler's free Compost give-away for residents two times a year to collect three (3) cubic feet of material that can be used in their gardens. Waste hauler also provides participants with a 50% discount for one home compost bin.	05-2012
Platinum	1. Promotes waste haulers two Reuse Days when material is collected and recycled in accordance with the following hierarchy: reuse as is (where energy efficiency is not compromised); disassembly for reuse or recycling; recycle; disposal.	05-2012
	2. The city recycles old pavement when completing street resurfacing projects.	05-2012
	3. TBD	



5. Climate-Friendly Purchasing

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
Silver	1. The city adopted an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) Policy specific to source reduction, recycled content products, energy and water savings, green building, landscaping, toxics and pollution, forest conservation and agricultural bio-based products.	05-2012
Gold	1. The EPP requires the purchase of remanufactured products such as laser toner cartridges, tires, furniture, equipment and automotive parts whenever practicable, but without reducing safety, quality or effectiveness.	05-2012
	2. Requires all products purchased by the city and for which the U.S. EPA Energy Star certification is available meets Energy Star certification when practicable.	05-2012
Platinum	1. The EPP requires the city to request that vendors eliminate packaging or use the minimum amount necessary for product protection, to the greatest extent practicable.	05-2012
	2. The EPP requires that paper products purchased contain the highest postconsumer content practicable, but no less than the minimum content standards established by the U.S. EPA Guidelines.	05-2012
	3. The city and its Community Sustainability Commission created a 5 part educational workshop series that educate the public about climate-friendly procurement opportunities. As of May 2012, 3 series have been completed.	05-2012



6. Renewable Energy & Low-Carbon Fuels

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
Silver	1. Hired a Renewable Energy Project Manager.	05-2012
Gold	1. The city replaced walking signals with solar power signals.	05-2012
	2. Converted 6 gasoline-powered vehicles in its fleet to hybrid vehicles. 2 additional plug-in hybrid vehicles were donated to the city.	05-2012
Platinum	1. Participate in the Solano Transportation Authority (STA) Alternative Fuel Vehicle Technical Working Group with the mission to assist STA in developing a comprehensive Alternative Vehicles plan for the county.	05-2012
	2. Purchased a compressed natural gas (CNG) bus to be used for the city public transit system. The city recently joined with SolTrans and no longer implements its own transit system. Therefore, the bus was given to SolTrans for future use.	05-2012
	3. TBD	



7. Efficient Transportation

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
Silver	1. Completed a number of bike and pedestrian improvement projects that include: bulb outs, high visibility cross walks, and bike lanes. Most notably, the city completed a Class I bike over-crossing that transverses I-780 and connects bicyclists to the State Recreation Area and nearby Vallejo.	05-2012
Gold	1. Currently designing Express Bus Route Support projects that will create: high visibility crosswalks; tree-lined median; new trees and landscaping; improved bus stop environment; new pavement overlay; bicycle lockers; new bicycle lane; and curb extensions. 2. Purchased 12 bike racks to be installed at 6 locations in the city including city hall.	05-2012 05-2012
Platinum	1. The city collaborates with other local agencies to coordinate planning goals and take advantage of opportunities to fund projects that help the city implement Climate Action Plan strategies. For example, the city collaborated with Solano Transportation Authority to identify funding for a Smart Growth, intersection improvement project that included addition of Class II bike lanes near an elementary school. The project was also nominated as an approved project in the 2012 Safe Routes to School Plan update. 2. TBD 3. TBD	05-2012



8. Land Use & Community Design

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
Silver	1. Adopted a resolution approving a grant agreement between the city and the Coastal Conservancy for the development of the Benicia Urban Waterfront Restoration Plan. This Plan will address many issues including potential effects of sea level rise on the parkland.	05-2012
Gold	1. The Consulting Climate Action Plan Coordinator is currently developing a project tracker that will measure reductions of greenhouse gas emissions, energy savings, and cost savings associated with completed, pending, and future city and community projects. 2. TBD	05-2012
Platinum	1. TBD 2. TBD 3. TBD	



9. Open Space & Offsetting Carbon Emissions

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
Silver	1. Helped establish the Benicia Tree Foundation. The Foundation formed a partnership with Benicia Unified School District and worked to identify best practices for planting and maintaining urban trees. The Foundation also created a special program to support tree planting and community building efforts.	05-2012
Gold	1. Designated as a Tree City USA in 2009—facilitated by a partnership between the city and the Rotary Club of Benicia. 2. Supports the Benicia Farmer’s Market and the purchase of local and organic produce. The Community Sustainability Commission Education + Outreach workgroup also promote the Farmer’s Market.	05-2012 05-2012
Platinum	1. Assisted the Benicia Community Gardens, Inc to establish a community garden in the city. 2. TBD 3. TBD	05-2012



10. Promoting Community & Individual Action

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
Silver	1. Surveyed businesses to understand attitudes related to climate change when developing the Sustainable Business Management Program.	05-2012
Gold	1. Working with WattzOn and Carbon Lighthouse to develop and implement the Benicia Commercial Building Pilot Program. This program will educate business owners about the benefits of energy efficiencies and retrofits and on-site energy production. 40 businesses will receive no-cost energy assessments and recommendations for retrofits along with financing mechanism assistance. 2 businesses will receive assistance to complete the recommended retrofits. 2. City and Consulting Climate Action Plan Coordinator are currently developing a list of Climate Action Plan strategy priorities that are ranked based on multiple benefits including: sector addressed greenhouse gas emission reduction potential, financial feasibility, timeliness, consistency with city approvals, and Community Sustainability Commission input.	05-2012 05-2012
Platinum	1. Created the Community Sustainability Commission (CSC) that is charged with implementing the Climate Action Plan. The CSC created an Education + Outreach workgroup that enlists participation from schools, service groups, and business organizations as well as other community partners. The workgroup partnered with Dominican University to host a 5-series educational workshop, purchased sustainability-focused educational books and DVDs for the Benicia Public Library, and	05-2012

City of Benicia

Best Practice Activities

www.ca-ilg.org/BeaconAward/Benicia



	<p>helped to organize Earth Day events.</p> <p>2. Currently developing a Sustainable Benicia website that will provide an opportunity for interested residents to stay engaged in the sustainability projects and programs, educate residents and business owners about actions they can take to address climate change and reduce operating costs, various sustainable-focused events, and various other resources.</p> <p>3. Host sustainability related informational displays at City Hall that educate residents about energy and water conservation practices and green building practices. These boards rotate depending on the time of year.</p>	<p>05-2012</p> <p>05-2012</p>
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Beacon Award Accomplishments to Date
 (As of 1/2/13)

PROGRAM CRITERIA	AWARD LEVELS		
	SILVER	GOLD	PLATINUM
Agency Facilities			
GHG Reductions	-	-	-
Electricity Savings	5%	10%	-
Natural Gas Savings	5%	-	-
Community			
GHG Reductions	-	-	-
Activity Promoting Energy Efficiency	1	3	-
Best Practice Areas			
Completed Activities in Each Area	1	-	-