

PLATINUM LEVEL AWARD WINNER

BEACON  
SPOTLIGHT  
AWARD  
WINNER  
BEST PRACTICE  
ACTIVITIES



# City of Downey

Sustainability Best Practices Activities



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*Promoting Good Government at the Local Level*

## 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 Program. The Beacon Program 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 Program 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.



## Supporting California local governments

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.



## SPOTLIGHT AWARD

Areas of Accomplishment

		SILVER LEVEL	GOLD LEVEL	PLATINUM LEVEL
	Agency GHG Reductions			
	Community GHG Reductions			
	Agency Energy Savings		13%	
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities		2017	





## Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city joined the Southern California Edison Energy (SCE) Leader Partnership in 2006.	2017

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city prepared and implemented an Energy Action Plan (EAP) which resulted in 12% decrease in energy use, earning the city a gold level achievement in SCE's energy leader program</li> <li>2. The city collaborated with the Energy Network to retrofit High Pressure Sodium Vapor (HPVS) lights to Light Emitting Diodes (LED) at the Apollo Park, Golden Park, and Community Center Parking lots.</li> </ol>	2017

Level	Energy Efficiency & Conservation Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. Installed high efficiency HVAC units at the theater, City Hall, and Library which can be controlled and evaluated remotely using Climate Tech software.	2017





# Water & Wastewater Systems Activity

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city uses reclaimed water for landscaping at five different park locations and in all medians in Lakewood Blvd. and Firestone Blvd. to help manage water use more efficiently.	2017

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rio Hondo Golf course utilizes the on-site lakes for water retention and uses this water for irrigation as reclaimed water to conserve water demand.</li> <li>2. Facilities currently uses waterless urinals, and toilets are retrofitted to be low flush toilets to further decrease the water demand through the Central Basin program.</li> </ol>	2017

Level	Water and Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city removed all grass in medians and replaced with drought tolerant plants or mulch with low flow irrigation systems.</li> <li>2. The city installed 12 Calsense controllers at the Civic Center, Apollo Park, and Community Center to manage water usage more efficiently.</li> </ol>	2017





# Green Building Activity

Level	Green Building Activity	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. The city constructed a retention basin under the sports field in the Discovery Park to help treat storm water and reduce stormwater contamination.	<b>2017</b>

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. City collaborated with Stonewood Mall to help implement low impact development components in Firestone Blvd.</li> <li>2. Implemented bioswales in new construction at Caring Way and Steven Horn Way.</li> </ol>	<b>2017</b>

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Upgraded the HVAC and boiler system at the Library and included optimizers to increase the system's efficiency.</li> <li>2. Upgraded the HVAC and boiler system at the city theater and included optimizers to increase the system's efficiency.</li> <li>3. Enrolled in the HVAC optimization program from SCE at the Barbara J. Riley Community Center to increase efficiency of system and lower energy usage.</li> </ol>	<b>2017</b>





# Waste Reduction and Recycling Activity

Level	Waste Reduction Activity	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. Staff actively promote paperless transaction by scanning bids and keeping communication through email whenever possible.	<b>2017</b>

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city uses the Accela Civic Platform, a cloud based software, for permitting which provides online services and streamlines building and permitting to reduce travel needs or paper waste.</li> <li>2. Recycling bins with incorporated smaller bin for trash are used to encourage more recycling at the Civic Center offices.</li> </ol>	<b>2017</b>

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Poice department holds an event to collect prescription drugs which are no longer useful to promote safety and decrease improper disposal.</li> <li>2. City is a Los Angeles Regional Agency (LARA) member which promotes recycling and reusing materials to reduce waste.</li> </ol>	<b>2017</b>





# Climate-friendly Purchasing Activity

Level	Climate-Friendly Activity	Reported
Silver	1. A 10% bidding priority is given to local business to use local vendors and decrease traveling distance.	2017

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city purchased battery golf cars for parks maintenance and Civic Center transportation of staff to minimize large vehicle use for short trips.</li> <li>2. Purchased and installed Fuel Master Program in 30 police vehicles to increase overall fuel efficiency.</li> </ol>	2017

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Platinum		







# Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activity

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Installed eight electrical vehicle (EV) charging stations at City Hall (6 stations) and the parking structure (2 stations). These stations are open for staff and public use to promote alternative fuel vehicle use.</li> </ol>	<b>2017</b>
Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city purchased three new compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles, a sewer truck and two "Dial-a-Ride" vehicles.</li> <li>2. Installed four traffic speed feedback signs powered with solar energy.</li> </ol>	<b>2017</b>
Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Purchased seven hybrid city vehicles for staff use.</li> <li>2. Installed bicycle lane in Gardendale Street as part of the implementation of the Bicycle Master Plan.</li> <li>3. Installed custom made bicycle racks in Downtown Area to promote bicycle use and alleviate parking need.</li> </ol>	<b>2017</b>





# Efficient Transportation Activity

Level	Efficient Transportation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city provides the employees with incentives to participate in their "Thumbs Up Commuting" Program.	2017

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city council adopted a Bicycle Mater Plan in 2016 which has been implemented.</li> <li>2. The city upgraded old traffic signals at 12 intersections to modernize aging system.</li> </ol>	2017

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Downey Link provides transportation services for residents to move around the city and reduce vehicle trips.</li> <li>2. Upgraded traffic video detection to a newer and more efficient system in Lakewood Blvd. to alleviate traffic flow.</li> </ol>	2017





# Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city council adopted a Park Master Plan in December of 2016.	2017

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carried out tree planting events in collaboration with 3 local schools to compliment sidewalk repair project.</li> <li>Installed drought tolerant demonstration garden in the Civic Center as a resource for the public.</li> </ol>	2017

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. Planted 120 trees along both sides of the 105 freeway to increase air quality and serve as a noise buffer for the surrounding community.	2017





# Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. The city reused and reinstalled pedestrian light poles from Lakewood Blvd to Apollo and Furman park walkway with LED lights to increase the safety of the parks to reduce waste.	<b>2017</b>

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Constructed jogging paths and two locations with exercising equipment in Apollo and Golden park to promote a healthy community.</li> <li>2. The city hosted Ride and Stride events in 2016 and 2017, with more than 12,600 riders in the first year and 63,000 riders the following year.</li> </ol>	<b>2017</b>

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	1. Installed new playground equipment at Independence and Apollo Park to be Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant and increase public access to community members with disabilities.	<b>2017</b>





# Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. City holds a mulch give away for residents annually using the green waste collected through the year.	<b>2017</b>

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	1. City holds an annual shredding event to minimize paper waste. 2. The city hosts clean up events during the year through the "Keep Downey Beautiful" program with the help of community volunteers.	<b>2017</b>

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	1. Held various events providing residents with rain barrels at a reduced price due to rebates offered totaling 148 barrels during the events held in 2016 and 2017. 2. City has developed a Green Task Force to help educate the public and promote environmental information. 3. Provides reusable bags, reusable water bottles and items made out of recycled components with help of Los Angeles Regional Agency (LARA) at city events.	<b>2017</b>





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