



BEACON  
SPOTLIGHT  
AWARD  
WINNER  
BEST PRACTICE  
ACTIVITIES



# City of Glendale

## Sustainability Best Practice Activities



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



# City of Glendale

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			
	Community GHG Reductions	2013 (5%)		
	Agency Energy Savings			
	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. Glendale invested \$70 million in a Smart Grid system, which will result in considerable electricity savings over the next 15 years through energy efficiency, increased options for time of use rates, and real time user consumption data to encourage conservation. The smart grid system will be completed by August 2012.

## Gold

2. Glendale Water and Power provides a variety of public benefit energy and conservation programs, including incentive and education programs. The programs are designed to serve a variety of community members, such as small and large businesses, single and multi-family residents, low-income residents, and students. The programs promote building and equipment (e.g. refrigerator, vending machine, HVAC, etc.) energy upgrades, and energy conservation.
3. The city uses Energy Star or energy efficient equipment within its facilities. The city uses only Energy Star certified copiers, and more than 75% of computers are Energy Star rated, with the rest on a planned schedule for upgrade. 51 city vending machines were upgraded for energy efficiency, and 100 old, energy-inefficient refrigerators throughout Glendale Unified School District were replaced with new Energy Star rated models.

## Platinum

4. The city implemented a new cleaning schedule for city facilities that eliminated night cleaning and resulted in \$200,000 or more in energy savings.
5. Energy audits were completed for 23 city buildings and opportunities for energy use reductions were identified. Based on audits, building retrofits were completed for city facilities which resulted in reduced electricity consumption by 2.3 million kWh and 47,000 gas therms, saving \$180,000 per year. For example, energy upgrades were completed for the Grayson Power Plant, resulting in a 9% equipment efficiency increase.
6. The city formally tests all water delivery pumps for energy efficiency and conducts upgrades as needed.





# Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

## Silver

1. Glendale implemented a mandatory Water Conservation Program, which resulted in a 18% reduction in overall community water consumption.

## Gold

2. Glendale Water and Power provides a variety of public benefit water conservation programs, including incentive and education programs. The programs are designed to serve a variety of community members such as small and large businesses, single and multi-family residents, low-income residents, and students. The programs promote facility and equipment water upgrades and water conservation.
3. The city provides free “Water-Smart Garden” landscape classes to residents. These classes address the community’s highest water use, landscape irrigation, which accounts for roughly 60% of residential water use. The city also displays water-friendly demonstration gardens at city hall, the recycling center, and the Monterey community garden.

## Platinum

4. The city administers a public outreach program to educate residents, businesses, and visitors about storm water pollution prevention.
5. The city installed hundreds of storm-water drain brushes to prevent litter from polluting the water that drains into our rivers and ocean.
6. The city implemented broad water saving practices in its community parks and facilities and converted all Public Works water-using vehicles (e.g. street sweepers, tree watering tanks, etc.) from potable to reclaimed water.





# Green Building Activities

## Silver

1. The city adopted a Green Building Standard with requirements exceeding those in the state's mandatory Cal Green Building Code. The city's Green Building Standard adds an additional thirteen measures addressing energy and water efficiency, solar energy, permeable paving, natural lighting and ventilation, and more.

## Gold

2. For four years, the city has developed [affordable housing projects](#) exceeding energy efficiency requirements by at least 15%. Recent projects have been built to green point rated standards.
3. The city constructed the new Pacific Park and pool facility to LEED standards.

## Platinum

4. The city constructed numerous community facilities (Adult Recreation Center, Maple Park, Griffith Manor Park) to standards exceeding those in the California building code.
5. The GWP Green Building program supports green building training opportunities for GWP customers, area contractors, and city employees. Additionally, it provides cash incentives for design review, LEED and other approved green building certifications, green building raters, and other technical assistance and support throughout the green rating application process.





# Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

## Silver

1. In 2009, Glendale achieved a 61% waste diversion rate, exceeding state requirements.

## Gold

2. The city's Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling Ordinance requires significant projects to have their waste processed at certified recycling facilities that have a minimum recycling rate of 67%.
3. The city adopted a Zero Waste Plan to achieve a 90% waste diversion rate by 2030. The plan explores strategies such as mandatory commercial recycling, recovering energy and compost from organic waste, an extended producer responsibility resolution and assistance to businesses, a commercial waste reduction initiative, and a citywide ban on stores distributing free single-use plastic shopping bags. It also proposes increasing the availability of public place recycling, adopting a program to encourage or require waste audits and waste reduction plans for commercial developments, and auditing major waste generators to recommend strategies for waste reduction. It includes provisions for necessary community education and outreach.

## Platinum

4. The city provides comprehensive free residential and commercial recycling and waste reduction programs including curbside collection of recyclables and yard trimmings, a city buy-back center, free compost bins and workshops, and special programs for the recycling of street sweepings, public works debris, city-generated inert waste, Christmas trees, electronics, and bulky or metal items.
5. The city uses up to 15% recycled asphalt concrete in street improvement projects.







# Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

## Silver

1. The city's purchasing policy favors local vendors.

## Gold

2. The city's purchasing policy favors recycled, reusable, and recyclable products.

## Platinum





# Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

## Silver

1. 22% of the city's power is generated by clean, renewable, and alternative sources.

## Gold

2. The city provides financial incentives to community members to install photovoltaic systems.
3. The city's Green Building Code requires new development projects to be "solar ready".

## Platinum

4. The city provides an electricity discount for electricity used to power an electric vehicle, as well as a rebate for installing the electric vehicle charging station.
5. The city bus fleet is switching from diesel to Compressed Natural Gas (CNG). To date, the entire bus fleet is CNG, except four older buses equipped with particulate traps that are scheduled for replacement with CNG vehicles in 2013. The city also partnered with a private firm and opened a public CNG fueling station.
6. The city constructed a 261KW solar generation station at Glendale Community College.





# Efficient Transportation Activities

## Silver

1. The city provides pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure in its street projects, and has installed five miles of bicycle lanes and 4.7 miles of shared roadway markings in the past three years. The city is conducting its first “road-diet” pilot project on Honolulu Avenue. A road diet is a reduction of vehicle travel lanes/widths in order to provide space for other modes of transportation.

## Gold

2. The city provides real time bus arrival information to riders via the web and text message.
3. The city adopted the Safe & Healthy Streets Plan to promote walking and bicycling in Glendale.

## Platinum

4. The city practices ongoing efforts to improve the municipal fleet fuel efficiency, including downsizing/replacing vehicles with more fuel-efficient models that can be used for the same tasks, maintaining city street pavement to an index of 73 (state average is 68, and higher PCIs reduce gas usage), and using nitrogen instead of compressed air in police vehicles, which improved tire life by 25% and increased fuel economy by 3.3%.
5. The city updated its General Plan to include policies to support streets designed for all users (“complete streets”).





# Land Use and Community Design Activities

## Silver

1. The city adopted the Downtown Specific Plan, which sets the physical design standards and guidelines as well as land use regulations, and directs policies for economic development; streetscape improvements; transportation development; parking; pedestrian amenities; open space and land use; preservation of cultural resources; and public art.

## Gold

2. The city adopted the North Glendale Community Plan, intended to shape positive community change and foster sustainable land use patterns, while balancing the unique character of the community with citywide policies and regional initiatives.
3. The city adopted mixed-use zoning in various parts of Glendale to encourage pedestrian friendly environments and less reliance on the automobile.

## Platinum

4. The city adopted the Downtown Mobility Study, which focuses on establishing transit and pedestrian-friendly policies within the Downtown Specific Plan area.
5. Glendale participates in the Safe Routes to School program, which works to improve safety and encourage kids (including disabled kids) to walk to school, while addressing traffic congestion, and improving the health and environment, making communities more livable for everyone.
6. The city hired an Urban Designer and Transportation Planner who implement through day-to-day projects the vision of healthful urban communities that promote physical activity, less reliance on the automobile, and attractive public spaces.





# Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

## Silver

1. The city purchased 583 acres of land to preserve it as natural open space.

## Gold

2. The city's Annual and Indigenous Tree Reforestation programs work to increase tree canopy coverage in the city. Urban forest health is managed through the Urban Forest Management Plan.
3. The city's Tree Power program provides to residential customers up to three free shade trees and arborist services to ensure that the trees are planted correctly.

## Platinum

4. The city requires new parking lots to have one tree planted for every six parking spaces. At least 75% of these trees must be shade trees.
5. The city provides street tree planting in capital improvement projects and in vacant tree wells as routine accommodation.
6. The city developed 14.65 acres of recreational open space since 2004, renovated 9.81 acres, and acquired an additional 3.4 acres. These projects are being accomplished in a city considered "built-out" and include pocket parks and a large wilderness park.





# Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

## Silver

1. The city provides home energy reports to residential customers and compares the energy use to other neighbors, thereby encouraging conservation through friendly competition.

## Gold

2. The city administers the Smart Home Energy Surveys program providing free in-home energy assessments. These assessments provide individualized actions that can be taken to conserve energy and water.
3. The city runs the Living Wise Conservation Education Program for 6th grade students.

## Platinum

4. The city conducts ongoing community outreach via monthly bills, the city's website, Facebook, and community events, to promote conservation.
5. The city promotes community environmental conservation through its Glendale Clean & Beautiful program and Neighborhood Services Division efforts, which work with children in the community through schools and Green Teams.
6. Glendale is a member of the California Product Stewardship Council, which promotes state legislation to "shift California's product waste management system from one focused on government-funded and ratepayer-financed waste diversion to one that relies on producer responsibility in order to reduce public costs and drive improvements in product design that promote environmental sustainability."







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