

SILVER LEVEL AWARD WINNER

BEACON  
SPOTLIGHT  
AWARD  
WINNER  
BEST PRACTICE  
ACTIVITIES



# City of Indio

Sustainability Best Practices Activities



**ILG** INSTITUTE FOR  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT<sup>SM</sup>  
*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 customers 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			
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities	1 in each of 10 categories		



# City of Indio

## Best Practice Activities

[www.ca-ilg.org/BeaconAward/](http://www.ca-ilg.org/BeaconAward/)



# Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Imperial Irrigation District (IDD), the local energy provider, offers a light bulb replacement event. The city partnered with IDD to staff a booth to educate on environmental programs and give away free reusable bags.	2015
Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities	Reported
Gold	1. The City of Indio water authority partnered with Southern California Gas to distribute living wise educational materials to 6th grade students in the city. This program provides each student with retrofit kit for both water and energy savings. Students track and report how much resource savings are received after installation of the kit materials at their homes.  2. The city replaced incandescent lights with more energy efficient lighting, such as compact fluorescents, overhead fluorescent lights or light-emitting diodes (LED's).	2015
Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. The city replaced a 10 ton condensing unit serving the city council chambers with a new high efficiency unit between 2014 –2015.	2015





# Water & Wastewater Systems Activity

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Beginning 2013 the Indio water authority provides a home retrofit kit that includes low flow shower heads, leak detection materials and aerators, from Niagra, to any water account holder in good standing.	2015

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Indio water authority sources pumps are tested each year for efficiency. Beginning 2011, Indio water authority uses the American water works association leak detection software to assess leaks in the water infrastructure. The Indio water authority also runs a program to replace old meters with “smart meters” that help detect leaks so that the residents or businesses can be informed when a leak occurs.</li> <li>All Indio municipal parks have smart irrigation meters.</li> </ol>	2015

Level	Water and Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2011, the Indio water authority adopted a recycled water master plan in 2011.</li> <li>The Indio water authority runs residential and commercial water conservation programs which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>turf reduction programs for residential and commercial meters(2008).</li> <li>outdoor residential water audits (2008).</li> <li>outdoor large commercial facility audits (2014).</li> <li>conservation based pricing (budget tiered rates)(2014).</li> </ul> </li> <li>The Indio water authority partners with the other water agencies in the region for the Coachella Valley integrated water management group. This group runs regional water conservation outreach effort that includes the website <a href="http://www.cvwatercounts.com">www.cvwatercounts.com</a>.</li> </ol>	2015





# Green Building Activity

Level	Green Building Activity	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. The city utilize water efficient plants and trees. Facilities have water efficient landscapes and ET clocks. The city has now begun to focus on lighting and landscaping districts on city owned property.	<b>2015</b>
Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In 2015, the city removed the sod from the palazzo lighting and landscaping district and replaced it with drought tolerant landscaping.</li> <li>2. In 2015, the city approved an ordinance to expedite the review/permit process for solar projects.</li> </ol>	<b>2015</b>





# Waste Reduction and Recycling Activity

Level	Waste Reduction Activity	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. The city provides battery recycling bins for residents located at five municipal facilities throughout the city. The batteries are collected and recycled.	<b>2015</b>

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The City of Indio in conjunction with Burrtec, the local waste hauler, began a commercial food recycling program in 2012.</li> <li>2. The City of Indio in conjunction with Burrtec, the local waste hauler established commercial recycling rates in 2011 that are lower than waste hauling rates. Burrtec provides free voluntary commercial waste audits to commercial facilities.</li> </ol>	<b>2015</b>

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city has produced and began airing a television commercial promoting recycling in the city.</li> <li>2. The City of Indio has passed an ordinance banning single use plastic bags.</li> <li>3. The city has applied for used oil grant monies from CalRecycle and held oil recycling events. In 2013, the city added waste tires to these collection events and the events are still ongoing.</li> </ol>	<b>2015</b>





# Climate-friendly Purchasing Activity

Level	Climate-Friendly Activity	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. In 2012, the fleet services department switched to no spill systems by Femco for oil changes and replaced the oil drain plugs on all fleet vehicles to the no spill system. This system does not require the drain plug to be removed. A special hose is attached to the no spill system and oil is released directly into a collector reducing the possibility of oil spills or splashes.	<b>2015</b>
Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	1. In 2014, the city began to purchase Aquaphalt on a limited basis for fixing potholes in the city because of the environmental friendly aspects. Use of the product has slowly expanded.	<b>2015</b>







## Efficient Transportation Activity

Level	Efficient Transportation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. In 2012, 48 street lights were synced and timed to allow traffic to flow. Jefferson Street from Westward Ho to Indio Boulevard were synced in 2010 but in 2014 the traffic flow had increased and the signals were re-synced to allow current traffic patterns to flow better.	2015

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Gold	1. The City of Indio had a standard for traffic cameras to be installed that can detect bicyclist in the roadway. In 2012, the camera signals were recalibrated to incorporate the appropriate time for bicyclist and pedestrians to clear intersections.	2015



## Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activity

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city currently has two PACE programs for residents and commercial facilities.	2015





## Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activity	Reported
Silver	1. In 2013, the city completed the Housing Element. Policy Action 1.5 explains the intended use of known and inventoried infill opportunities for very-low to low income housing including assistance the city may consider to support the development.	2015



## Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Silver	1. In 2012, the city completed Hjorth Park. This new park has recycling and water containers made from recycled materials. The benches at the park are also made from recycled materials. The lights in the park are solar.	2015

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Gold	1. The city is a Tree City so every year new trees are planted at the Annual Arbor Day event.	2015





# Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Silver	1. In 2015, the city issued the first environmental programs newsletter which included articles on recycling, special waste collection events and the plastic bag ban.	5-2014
Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Gold	1. The city created a sustainability commission in 2014.	5-2014



Notes:





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