

**PROUD
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**Local Leadership Toward
Solving Climate Change**

City of Manhattan Beach

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
<p>Silver</p>	<p>1. The City's all volunteer Environmental Task Force created and promoted an energy efficiency contest geared towards encouraging residents to reduce energy use. Titled the "Watt Watcher Energy Contest" the program was very popular throughout the city's schools, and with household participants, as well as local business sponsors. The program took place from January – April 2012, and exceeded its target by 50%, with 150 households participating.</p> <p>The responses received indicated an energy savings per household ranging from an average 2% to nearly 40% reduction in electricity consumption. In the case of homeowners with solar energy, electricity consumption reductions were significant, over 60%. An additional benefit of the program was the increased awareness of participants in their overall energy and water usage. Several contest participants made use of other Environmental Task Force programs, including the free mulch and landscape checkup programs.</p> <p>Lastly, the City received national recognition for this program with an honorable mention at the 2012 US Mayors Conference.</p>	<p>09-2012</p>
<p>Gold</p>	<p>1. The City has partnered with its solid waste hauler to encourage businesses to reduce energy consumption and pollution generation. Originally conceived as a business challenge by the Environmental Task Force, the program evolved into a more formal certification process through the Department of Toxic Substances Control's California Green Business Program Network. The program is halfway to its goal of registering 20 local businesses in the first year. Businesses that qualify for the</p>	<p>09-2012</p>

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	<p>program and make certain sustainable business practice improvements receive recognition from the City as well as a plaque for recognition for their efforts. The program launched in March 2012 and is ongoing.</p> <p>2. The City is using its Energy Efficiency and Community Block Grant funding to replace inefficient Strand (beach path) lighting, downtown and walk street lighting, and parking garage lighting with cutting edge LED lighting technologies. The replacement of the Strand lighting is complete, walk street lighting is underway, and parking garage lighting replacement will occur in October 2012 (testing is currently underway). Efforts to reduce energy consumption in the lighting area are important, because inefficient lighting comprises approximately 14% of the City’s greenhouse gas emissions.</p>	09-2012
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TBD 2. TBD 3. TBD 	



2. Water & Wastewater Systems

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
Silver	1. The city made significant reductions in its energy use by auditing pumps and motors to identify inefficiencies. Two motors for the city’s water wells were replaced with efficient motors resulting in electricity savings totaling nearly half a million dollars over the useful life of just one of the pumps. The pump replacement also resulted in sizable rebates from Southern California Edison as part of the Energy Leader Program incentives.	09-2012
Gold	1. In an effort to conserve water and reduce the amount of runoff to our oceans, the City has provided a free mulch program to the community. Open year-round, the program is self-service, and is highly successful. Resource materials are provided onsite for those that want to learn more about the use of mulch and sustainable landscaping. 2. The City is assessing and replacing inefficient plumbing with low-water use toilets through some grant funding from the West Basin Municipal Water District. Fixtures in the Civic Center Complex have been replaced with low-water use technologies. The City is also replacing inefficient irrigation systems with drip irrigation, where feasible. Each of the new sustainable landscape gardens make use of the latest drip irrigation technologies to prevent root intrusion, while still using less energy to irrigate these open spaces.	09-2012 09-2012
Platinum	1. Nearly all of the city’s parks and medians are irrigated with reclaimed water. 2. TBD	09-2012

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	3. TBD	
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3. Green Building

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
Silver	1. The City’s Environmental Task Force recommended that all large construction fall under LEED Silver requirements, and any new municipal facilities follow LEED Gold standards.	09-2012
Gold	1. In preparation for the new Cal Green building codes, the city adopted sustainable building standards for residential properties requiring energy efficiency standards to be exceeded by 15%, among other measures. 2. For new projects and projects exceeding 50% building valuation, landscape plans must be submitted showing no more than 20% of the landscape/hardscape area containing high water use plants as defined by Water Use Classification of Landscape Species (WUCOLS) for Region 3. Further	09-2012 09-2012
Platinum	1. The City is implementing sustainable landscape practices in any new landscape projects, and is promoting these practices to the community as a way to reduce water and energy consumption. 2. TBD 3. TBD	



4. Waste Reduction & Recycling

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
Silver	1. Through the new solid waste contract, residents can now schedule convenient “at your door” pickup service of hazardous materials and e-waste. The City also offers free battery locations at several drop-off locations throughout the community.	09-2012
Gold	1. The City maintains a free pharmaceutical drop-off service at the Civic Center complex. The program is monitored and managed through the Police Department. Unwanted controlled substances can be taken to this location and disposed of safely instead of entering the environment. 2. Through the new solid waste contract, selected residents and businesses are currently participating in a free food waste pilot program. Effective July 1, 2012, the food waste recycling pilot program allows participating residents and businesses to further increase their recycling levels. The goal of the pilot is to increase diversion levels and reduce the amount of waste that is taken the landfills since approximately 25% of waste generated comes from food waste. The program has been very successful so far.	09-2012 09-2012
Platinum	1. The City’s landmark case against the plastic bag industry put Manhattan Beach on the map in terms of sustainability planning. Even though the City’s ordinance was placed on hold for several years due to litigation from the Save the Plastic Bag Coalition, the City and its community partners still focused on education and incentives to promote individuals to take action and make the switch to reusable bags to reduce environmental pollution	09-2012

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	<p>and support resource conservation. The City has held several reusable bag giveaways throughout the years, including hosting “Day Without a Bag” events each year and educating the community about the plastic bag ban at outreach events.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. TBD3. TBD	
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5. Climate-Friendly Purchasing

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
Silver	1. The City adopted a climate friendly purchasing policy to include environmental considerations in our purchasing process. The plan establishes the framework for an environmentally based purchasing program in the City.	09-2012
Gold	1. As part of the City’s Green Business Program, environmentally friendly purchasing practices are included as a measure for certification in the program. These measures include purchasing paper materials with the highest possible recycled content, and replacing disposable items with refillable and permanent wares. 2. The City of Manhattan Beach requires its service providers (waste hauler and street sweeping) and taxi franchise to utilize alternative fuel and hybrid vehicles. For example, the City’s waste hauler utilizes liquid natural gas and ultra low sulfur diesel in the vehicles that service the city	09-2012 09-2012
Platinum	1. TBD 2. TBD 3. TBD	

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	2. TBD	
	3. TBD	



	curb ramps to improve safety conditions for school children walking or biking to school.	
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TBD 2. TBD 3. TBD 	



9. Open Space & Offsetting Carbon Emissions

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
Silver	<p>1. The City is a member of the South Bay Environmental Services Center’s Climate Action Planning Group. The CAP group is meeting to review plans for each city and share best practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the region. As a coastal community, the city is particularly aware of the necessity to monitor sea level rise and other climate change impacts to its community. The City is also a member of the AdaptLA Regional Stakeholder Working Group (RWSG) to assess the climate impacts of future growth and develop a plan for adaptation. The group discusses issues of climate change concerns and adaptation strategies, and share recommendations on successful implementation.</p>	09-2012
Gold	<p>1. The City has a very successful weekly Farmers Market to promote the purchase of local and organic produce. The Farmers Market is also a strong community partner in the City’s environmental programs and events, and allows a “green” tent space to promote the City’s environmental education programs. As part of the City’s “Earth Day” pledge, we encourage residents to: buy Local and support the Farmers Market, and be mindful of the origin of the foods and produce purchased.</p> <p>2. The ordinance, which applies to front and street side yards, preserves and protects trees, requires large replacement trees when trees are removed and requires new trees for new construction projects where no tree currently exists. By preserving and enhancing the existing tree canopy</p>	<p>09-2012</p> <p>09-2012</p>

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	<p>throughout the City, these regulations provide shade, erosion control, counteract pollutants in the air and strive to maintain the climatic and ecological balance. Additionally, new landscaping, including trees, is required for new residential as well as commercial development Citywide. Trees can be designated as a landmark if they are one of the largest or oldest species in the City.</p>	
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. TBD2. TBD3. TBD	



10. Promoting Community & Individual Action

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
<p>Silver</p>	<p>1. The City has had a very robust community-based volunteer committee in its Environmental Task Force (ETF). The ETF was comprised of a diverse group of residents from student representatives, to local business owners, sustainability professionals, and community activists.</p> <p>The ETF ran two successful terms, with each term being comprised of a body of new resident volunteers appointed by City Council. The first ETF was organized into four subcommittees, and they made recommendations to City Council in each of the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Development of a Climate Action Plan; • Water Conservation and Storm Water Management Issues; • Waste Reduction and Recycling; and • Sustainable ("Green") Design. <p>The second ETF was a smaller committee focused on implementation of these environmental programs and outreach to the community. This second phase of the Environmental Task Force focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy efficiency and renewable energy; • Water conservation and sustainable landscaping; and • Zero waste goals. <p>The ETF presented its program recommendations to City Council in October 2011, and all were unanimously supported. Several programs were implemented in the above mentioned areas, and a final report was provided to City Council in June</p>	<p>09-2012</p>

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	2012. More information on the Environmental Task Force and their achievements can be found on the City's Going Green website.	
Gold	1. Following the success of the "Amazing Waving Human Tideline," which was the largest climate action even on the West Coast for the International Day of Climate Action, the City put together a Sustainability Summit to discuss the solutions surrounding the climate change problem. The goal of the Sustainability Summit was to provide an opportunity for interested community members to stay engaged in the climate policy efforts the City is developing. The City hosted the summit as part of its effort to support the 350 organization's efforts to increase awareness on climate change issues. The summit featured several distinguished speakers, and included a "work-day" component in which volunteers came together to plant the first phase of the drought tolerant garden at City Hall.	09-2012
	2. On September 24, 2011, the City once again rallied its partners to coordinate the "Moving Planet" event which focused on making our communities more walkable and livable as a means to reduce greenhouse gas emissions regionwide. In addition to numerous presentations and exhibitors, the event also featured the City's first Walk/Bike Friendly Business District: a collaboration of local businesses who supported the Moving Planet event and the bicycle and livability master plans being developed in the city.	09-2012
Platinum	1. The City has provided informational resources to its residents regarding climate change, and opportunities to take action to reduce individual greenhouse gas emissions, on its Going Green website. Resources provided include information on solar rebates and incentives, EV readiness, and	09-2012

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	<p>background on the City's involvement in climate change policies and climate action planning.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Each October in recognition of National Energy Efficiency month the City hosts a workshop for its residents through the partnership with the South Bay Environmental Services Center. The City provides a meeting location, advertises the class, and distributes energy-savings tools (such as the Belkin Consere powerstrips or outlet monitors) to encourage individuals to actively become aware of energy efficiency.3. The City offers three free composting classes each year at the Manhattan Beach Botanical Garden. The city's contracted instructor leads each class, and demonstrates composting practices and worm bins. The City also subsidizes the cost of the composting bins for residents.	<p>09-2012</p> <p>09-2012</p>
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Beacon Award Accomplishments to Date
 (As of 9/1/12)

PROGRAM CRITERIA	AWARD LEVELS		
	SILVER	GOLD	PLATINUM
Agency Facilities			
GHG Reductions	-	-	-
Electricity Savings	5%	10%	20%
Natural Gas Savings	-	-	-
Community			
GHG Reductions	-	-	-
Activity Promoting Energy Efficiency	1	3	-
Best Practice Areas			
Completed Activities in Each Area	1	3	-