

PLATINUM LEVEL AWARD WINNER

BEACON

SPOTLIGHT
AWARD

WINNER

BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of Norwalk

Sustainability Best Practices Activities



ILG INSTITUTE FOR
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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



City of Norwalk

Best Practice Activities

www.ca-ilg.org/BeaconAward/



Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity	Reported
Silver	<p>1. Implement an Energy Action Plan (EAP) for city facilities which was been adopted by City Council on December 2015. The initiatives in energy conservation highlighted in the EAP and carried out since joining the Energy Leader Partnership Program are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgraded interior fluorescent lighting for 8 municipal facilities through the SCE's Direct Install Progras • Replaced four HVAC units with high efficiency units at the Social Services facility • Enrolled City Hall and Transportation/ Public Services facility in SCE's Critical peak Pricing Program (Demand Response Programs • Installed a Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) for the pool pump at the Aquatic Pavilion • Upgraded 6 high-bay interior lights at the Alondra Library • Upgraded 88 can lights at Transportation/ Public Services facility and 57 can lights at Sproul Barn including emergency ballasts • Implemented a Holiday Light Exchange Program, providing residents the opportunity to exchange old holiday lights for LED lights at no cost. 	2017

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities	Reported
Gold	<p>1. Replaced more than 3,000 incandescent lights (4 ft. tubes) with more energy efficient lighting, light-emitting diodes (LEDs) in 14 Buildings.</p> <p>2. Installed cool roof systems on two existing facilities, Gerdes Park and Social Services.</p>	2017





Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency & Conservation Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Installed High Efficiency HVAC units at Gerdes Park, Community Center and Arts and Sports Complex. 2. Replaced decorative lighting to light-emitting diodes (LEDs) at the Transportation Center, Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex and City Hall during FY 2016-17. 3. Upgraded to more efficient lighting, by replacing walkway lighting at eight parks and 282 incandescent street intersection safety lights with LEDs. 4. Provides information about energy efficiency programs and rebates available on .ity's website and local publication <i>Norwalk Now</i>. 5. Participating in voluntary sustainability and climate change recognition program, The Beacon Award: Local Leadership toward Solving Climate Change to track and share City energy savings accomplishments. www.ca-ilg.org/BeaconAward. 	2017





Water & Wastewater Systems Activity

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Implemented a closed circuit television (CCTV) inspection and condition assessment in the Sewer System Master Plan, which covers cleaning and evaluation of Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) in sewer systems pipes.	2017

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Audited three water well pumps to identify most and least efficient equipment through the Energy Leader Partnership. 2. Using reclaimed water at Ramona Park, Vista Verde Park, Gerdes Park, Zimmerman Park and Foster Greenbelt. 	2017

Level	Water and Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Installed a Calsense smart irrigation controller in early 2016 in Ramona Park to track water usage, leak detection, and the effectiveness of water efficiency activities and programs. Realized a 35 percent decrease from the previous year's water usage (2015) and captured staff cost savings due to the automated controller. 2. Installed a weather based controller (WBIC) at City Hall for use with Calsense smart irrigation controllers. 3. Hosted an event to distribute almost 200 rain barrels to residents to promote water conservation and rain water reuse for landscaping. 4. The city's website provides water efficient landscape design concepts as a resource to help comply with the adopted Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance. 5. Installed smart irrigation controllers at Ramona Park (Nov. 2015) and City Hall for landscaping irrigation (May 2017). 	2017





Green Building Activity

Level	Green Building Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Enacted a construction and demolition debris recycling ordinance that requires 65 percent or more diversion of project waste with security deposit system to ensure compliance based on the Green Code suggestions.	2017

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implemented bioswales in side panels through environmental enhancement and mitigation. 2. Trained appropriate agency staff (such as planners, inspectors, and plan checkers) in green building standards and technologies to facilitate the permitting approval and inspection processes. 	2017

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopted a Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance on January 2016 (Ordinance No. 15-1673). 2. Encourages the use of sub-surface drip irrigation or other low-flow water distribution systems to prevent overwatering in public parkways (Ordinance No. 15-1666R). 3. Installed an energy efficient water heater at City Hall. 	2017





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activity

Level	Waste Reduction Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Provide recycled trash only containers at each employee office area for proper disposal of office paper.	2017

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provides 12 Mini Mr. SUN events annually. The Mini Mr. SUN Program is a neighborhood clean-up program, scheduled throughout the year at various specified areas of the community at no cost to the residents. The city provides various services including self-serve dumpsters for disposal of trash, tree clippings, furniture, large item pick-up, household hazardous waste, small batteries, and disposal of used motor oils and filters. The city holds an E-Waste Collection & Shred-A-Thon for the community twice a year. 	2017

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> City employees are advised and encouraged to use recycled products by providing automatic substitutions through current office supply vendor when price and quality are the same as or within a reasonable cost of non-recycled products. The city uses Green Halo software. Green Halo Systems is an online software resource that allows the City to track, view reported construction and demolition recycling, and follow projects in real-time while ensuring compliance with recycling guidelines. Provides bins for collection of used batteries for proper disposal and recycling at five city facilities: City Hall, Transportation and Public Services, Senior Center, and Social Services, and Sports Complex. The city recycles old electronic components with a properly certified recycler, thru E-waste and Mr. Sun events. Returns all used copy machine ink toner cartridges, fax machine, and printer toner cartridges to the manufacturers for recycling. Provides presentations to local elementary schools on the importance of recycling used motor oil and oil filters. This education program includes an annual artwork contest, where the winning entries are recognized at a City Council meeting and featured on the city's website and cable channel to promote used oil recycling. 	2017





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activity

Level	Climate-Friendly Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Passed an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy to help minimize pollution and waste, maximize use of recycled materials, conserve energy and water, and reduce the consumption or disposal of hazardous materials (Policy Number 13-01).	2017

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city's purchasing system includes a five percent reduction in bid calculation for preference in local vendors (Purchasing system Section: 3.20.030). 2. The "preferred" designated choice of products is recycled products. Staples supplies the city with an Environmental Purchases Summary Report outlining information about environmental attributes. 	2017

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Purchases printing and writing papers, including all imprinted letterhead/ stationery paper, envelopes, and copy paper, etc. containing a minimum of 30 percent post-consumer recycled content. 2. Purchases paper products, including janitorial supplies, shop towels, hand towels, toilet paper, corrugated boxes, file boxes, file folders, etc. and other products composed largely of paper with recycle content. 3. Purchases recycled plastic products when feasible considering cost and durability. 	





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activity

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Silver	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Invested in the construction of a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) station to provide fuel to 18 CNG transportation buses operating in Norwalk saving the City approximately \$500,000 a year. (http://www.ci.norwalk.ca.us/City-hall/departments/norwalk-transit-system-nts/what-s-new) 	2017

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Installed 12 electric charging stations at the Metrolink Station through Edison's Charge Ready Program in summer 2017 (Resolution 17-11). 2. The city's website provides an Energy Efficiency section which details information about the California Solar initiative rebate and resources from Edison. 	2017

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allocated California Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCCTOP) funds to Cerritos Community College to support its Falcon Student Pass Program in an effort to increase ridership of the CNG transit buses (Resolution No. 15-42). 2. Purchased fuel efficient vehicles to save fuel and money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions with a fleet of three Ford Fusion hybrids, 15 Toyota Prius C, four Ford CNG trucks, and 18 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses. The city constructed a natural gas charging station for city vehicles in 2015. 3. Effective September 16, 2015, the City of Norwalk and the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District entered into an agreement whereby the District has agreed to purchase and the city has agreed to sell compressed natural gas (CNG) fuel for a three year term. The term may be extended upon terms and conditions mutually agreed upon by both parties in writing. 	2017





Efficient Transportation Activity

Level	Efficient Transportation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The Norwalk Transit System (NTS) provides services to Norwalk and portions of seven surrounding cities. Norwalk Transit's paratransit advance reservation Dial-A-Ride service operates within the jurisdictional boundary of the City of Norwalk and provides paratransit user-side subsidy taxi voucher service for weekday inter-jurisdictional service (can be mobility device accessible) and late evening service within the City of Norwalk (http://www.ci.norwalk.ca.us/City-hall/departments/norwalk-transit-system-nts)	2017

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Gold	1. Use Fleet Watch (Fuel Management System) to manage CNG fuel use and manage vehicle use efficiently 2. The city hosts a Verification of Transit Training annually to remind operators of ways to drive properly and efficiently.	2017

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. Norwalk's Transit hosts an annual Thanksgiving Canned Food drive through the City of Norwalk offering a free one-way trip for a canned good donation. 2. Promote public transit through incentive or improving bus stops. 3. Installed bicycle racks, showers, and other amenities at the Arts and Sports Complex facility, Transportation/Public Services Center and City Hall to promote bicycle riding.	2017





Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The Community Development Department incorporated water conservation and sustainability in an internal staff presentation video.	2017

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city's 2020 Vision Strategic Action Plan includes an objective to identify locations to construct alternative urban pathways, including bike and walking paths and park trails. 2. The city partnered with LA County Public Library on a Smart Gardening Workshops provided by LA County Public Works on May 2016, which included drought- tolerant landscaping practices. 	2017

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess pedestrian and bicycle conditions in communities for need and implementation as funding allows 2. The city requires sidewalks in all new developments and seeks to incorporate trees and tree wells in all sidewalk areas, where feasible. 3. The city participates in regional planning efforts, such as processes to develop and implement the regional Sustainable Communities Strategy pursuant to SB 375 and, where appropriate, aligns local general plans and zoning with the regional transportation plan for consistency. 	2017





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Silver	1. The city's 2020 Vision Strategic Action Plan includes an objective to identify locations to construct alternative urban pathways, including bike and walking paths and park trails.	2017

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopted a tree care ordinance to protect urban forests, including protection for specific individual trees or tree species important to the community (Ordinance No. 12.32.020). 2. Inventory of existing trees owned and managed by the city. 	2017

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide tree planting resources and information is available in the City's website (CalFire grant). 2. The city was designated a Tree City USA community by the Arbor Day Foundation for three consecutive years. 3. The City increased recreational open space by acquiring 15 acres of the Norwalk Tank Farm for future expansion of Holifield Park (http://www.ci.norwalk.ca.us/i-want-to-learn-about/tank-farm-bulletin). 4. The City of Norwalk maintains two greenbelts Foster Greenbelt/ Excelsior Greenbelt, 11 parks, a skate park, Aquatic Pavilion, and Teen Center. 5. City staff, seniors, students and volunteers completed above-ground planters with herbs, fruits, and vegetables at the Senior Center to promote healthy living and multigenerational collaboration. 	2017





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Silver	1. The city publishes quarterly issues of the “One Person’s Trash...” newsletter in English and Spanish, which provides timely information on reducing, reusing, and recycling. This also promotes environmental efforts and informs residents about events carried out within the City of Norwalk and the surrounding area.	2017

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Gold	1. The “Norwalk Now” monthly newsletter for residents and businesses also promotes recycling events, gives information on the City’s conservation efforts and provides means for community involvement in environmental programs. 2. Various events, such as SnowFest and Summer concerts are hosted by the city to provide residents information about energy efficiency, natural gas and water conservation	2017

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. The city hosts electronic waste collection, paper shredding and used motor oil filter exchange events to encourage recycling and diversion of material to landfills various times a year. 2. The city provides assistance promoting energy and water conservation through the Energy Leader Partnership with Southern California Edison and the Gas Company. 3. The city worked in collaboration with a local middle school to host an “I Love Trees Because...” drawing contest and provided recognition to the winners in City Hall for Arbor Day activities. 4. The city invites elementary school students to the National Public Works week open house, as well as to school tours at City Hall, where youth are presented with information and activities educating them on stormwater pollution prevention, recycling, energy conservation, and environmental preservation and public works functions.	2017





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none">5. Each year, the city hosts a Used Oil Recycling Artwork Contest. Area fifth grade students are invited to express how recycling used motor oil and filters affects our world. Ten winning messages are featured in Norwalk Now newsletter, on a government access channel PSA and on the city's website.6. The city held an event to distribute almost 200 rain barrels to residents to promote water conservation and rain water reuse for landscaping.7. The city promotes available Metropolitan Water District (MWD) rebates for water conservation equipment and fixtures in Norwalk Now, One Person's Trash, city Facebook page and the city website.	2017





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