

GOLD LEVEL AWARD WINNER

BEACON  
SPOTLIGHT  
AWARD  
WINNER  
BEST PRACTICE  
ACTIVITIES



# City of Ojai

## 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	7%		
	Community GHG Reductions			
	Agency Energy Savings	5%		
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities		2017	





# Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. The city participates in the in Southern California Edison’s Energy Leader Partnership and has attained the Valued Level Tier. The partnership assists with identifying and addressing energy efficiency opportunities in municipal facilities and pays increased incentives for city energy efficiency projects.	<b>2016</b>

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	1. The city completed an Integrated Demand Side Management audit at facilities that use greater than 200kW and has enrolled over 50 percent of eligible facilities in Demand Response programs. 2. Since 2014, the city has offered emPower Central Coast and CaliforniaFIRST as energy financing programs for residential property owners.	<b>2016</b>

Level	Energy Efficiency & Conservation Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>		





# Water & Wastewater Systems Activity

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city participates in the emPower Central Coast Program. emPower Central Coast provides free faucet aerators and water-efficient shower heads to residents during Energy Coach site visits as well as community events. The faucet aerators and low-flow shower heads are provided by Southern California Gas Company.	2016

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The city installed a Community Demonstration Garden next to Ojai City Hall on Ventura Street. The garden provides an educational experience via an interpretive self-tour that displays drought resistant plants, wildlife habitats, and natural growing methods including composting and an organic vegetable garden. A primary focus of the garden is waste reduction and water conservation. Semi-annual presentations demonstrate that through composting and mulching, what we have come to know as waste, can actually be a beneficial resource. Organic garden and orchard demonstrations show how beautiful landscapes and productive agriculture can be achieved without the use of toxic chemicals. Habitat and resource conservation demonstrations inspire preservation of local natural resources and encourage participants to enjoy living in a harmonic, interconnected system with nature. The garden is open to the public every day from dawn to dusk and there is no cost to visitors and all workshops are free.</li> <li>The city offers periodic workshops at the Community Demonstration Garden on various topics such as waste reducing, natural pruning methods, low flow irrigation and tree maintenance. Upcoming workshop dates are posted on the garden bulletin board.</li> </ol>	2016

Level	Water and Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Platinum		





# Green Building Activity

Level	Green Building Activity	Reported
Silver	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The city has participated in the emPower Central Coast Program since 2014. The emPower Program includes an Energy Coach service where coaches spend up to two hours with a homeowner at their residence providing them with information on green building techniques and recommendations to improve their home's energy efficiency. The emPower Program also works with contractors to provide them with training on green building techniques. Please see the following link for more information: <a href="https://www.empowersbc.org/its-easy-get-started/energy-advice">https://www.empowersbc.org/its-easy-get-started/energy-advice</a>.</li> </ol>	2016
Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The emPower Central Coast Program has teamed up with the statewide Energy Upgrade California program to provide homeowners with increased utility rebates for implementing energy efficient upgrades. Please see the following link for more information on emPower's rebate program: <a href="https://www.empowersbc.org/about-program">https://www.empowersbc.org/about-program</a>.</li> <li>The city is a participating member of the Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance (VCREA). VCREA offers utility sponsored quarterly green building standards trainings to staff from member agencies. These trainings include but are not limited to updates to Title 24, benchmarking, and HVAC trainings.</li> </ol>	2016
Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Platinum		





# Waste Reduction and Recycling Activity

Level	Waste Reduction Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Ojai residents can bring their used needles and lancers (sharps) to Ojai Valley Community Hospital for proper and convenient disposal.	2016

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city offers instructional information on their website for backyard composting and grasscycling: <a href="http://ojaicity.org/solid-waste-and-recycling/">http://ojaicity.org/solid-waste-and-recycling/</a>. Composting and grasscycling improve soil structure as well as release valuable nutrients back into the soil. Both techniques also help reduce over watering lawns and gardens.</li> <li>2. In 2012, the city adopted Ordinance No. 817: Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance. Retail establishments must stop distributing single-use carryout plastic bags, and grocery stores (including supermarkets, convenience stores, liquor stores, and gasoline stations) must begin charging ten-cents for recyclable paper carryout bags: <a href="http://ojaicity.org/single-use-carryout-bag-ordinance/">http://ojaicity.org/single-use-carryout-bag-ordinance/</a>.</li> </ol>	2017

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The City of Ojai has a Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling Program on their website that provides detailed instructions on how to implement and certify a Waste Reduction and Recycling Summary: <a href="http://ojaicity.org/solid-waste-and-recycling/">http://ojaicity.org/solid-waste-and-recycling/</a></li> <li>2. The city partners with the County of Ventura to offer free ongoing electronics recovery programs and drop off sites for e-waste and household hazardous waste disposal. The City also provides information on their website for used oil and oil filter recycling: <a href="http://ojaicity.org/solid-waste-and-recycling/">http://ojaicity.org/solid-waste-and-recycling/</a>.</li> <li>3. A total of 11,803 passenger car tires were recycled as rubberized asphalt for the City's Road Rehabilitation Project completed in December of 2015. Various streets throughout the city benefited from this project. The project was funded by a grant from the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle). The grant program promotes markets and recycled-content surfacing products derived from waste tires generated in California and decrease the environmental impacts created by unlawful disposal and stockpiling of waste tires: <a href="http://ojaicity.org/waste-tires-recycled-through-street-paving-project/">http://ojaicity.org/waste-tires-recycled-through-street-paving-project/</a>.</li> </ol>	2017





# Climate-friendly Purchasing Activity

Level	Climate-Friendly Activity	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. The city encourages the practice of not purchasing new materials, such as office supplies and furniture, through the reuse of existing items in surplus when appropriate and feasible.	<b>2016</b>

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city considers efficient transportation methods when purchasing goods and services, such as using local vendors and or locally produced goods to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</li> <li>2. The city has reviewed current purchasing practices to identify possible green procurement opportunities.</li> </ol>	<b>2016</b>

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In 2017, VCREA established a countywide green business program that includes the city. The green business program works with the business community to educate them about climate-friendly procurement opportunities through social media and traditional marketing.</li> <li>2. The city considers life cycle pricing to ensure that the maintenance, operating, insurance, disposal, and replacement cost of products or services are considered when evaluating purchase options.</li> <li>3. The city distributed the SCE energy solutions brochure to all city employees.</li> </ol>	<b>2017</b>







# Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activity

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city has installed four public charging stations.	2016

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city has installed bicycle racks and other amenities at agency facilities to promote bicycle use by agency employees and visitors.</li> <li>2. The city has trained agency fleet mechanics to service alternative and fuel efficient vehicles.</li> </ol>	2016

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city coordinates with VCREA and the Community Environmental Council of Santa Barbara to provide free solar workshops to Ojai residents, businesses, and industrial property owners throughout the year.</li> <li>2. The city adopted Ordinance 860: Small Residential Rooftop Solar Systems, which expedites small residential photovoltaic solar applications to encourage installation of photovoltaic systems on new or existing residential buildings: <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B7jzWHqnXtWLSi0yWmd3RTF2anc/view">https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B7jzWHqnXtWLSi0yWmd3RTF2anc/view</a>.</li> </ol>	2017





# Efficient Transportation Activity

Level	Efficient Transportation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city has consolidated offices that community members often visit at the same time (such as building permitting and environmental health permitting) to reduce vehicle miles traveled.	2016

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Gold	<p>1. The city's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan describes policies, goals, and objectives for developing a safe, convenient, and effective city-wide system that promotes bicycling and walking as safe and viable transportation and recreation opportunities: <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4XeZkDjLEVwV2M2Ukd2aE1xSzg/view">https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4XeZkDjLEVwV2M2Ukd2aE1xSzg/view</a>. The city is always working to increase the number of bicycle lanes, racks, paths and signage throughout the community.</p> <p>2. The city participates in Southern California Association of Governments' (SCAG) Go Human advertising campaign to encourage drivers to slow down and look for people walking and biking. The campaign runs during May and June. The month of May coincides with National Bike Month, and is part of Go Human's broader public awareness efforts to promote traffic safety and encourage people to walk and bike more. For more information, please see the following link: <a href="http://ojaicity.org/go-human-re-launches-to-kick-off-bike-month/">http://ojaicity.org/go-human-re-launches-to-kick-off-bike-month/</a>.</p>	2017

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. The city established a Complete Streets Committee that sits under the Planning Commission. The Committee generally meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 2:30 pm in the City Hall conference room. The purpose of this committee is to study the existing traffic conditions and patterns of city streets and to develop solutions that are designed to balance safety and convenience for all roadway users including pedestrians, bicyclists, and cars. The Public Works Director is the liaison to this committee: <a href="http://ojaicity.org/complete-streets-subcommittee/">http://ojaicity.org/complete-streets-subcommittee/</a> .	2017





# Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activity	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. The city participated in Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) development of the Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), in compliance with SB 375. The addition of the sustainable communities strategy to the RTP means that the RTP now integrates not only transportation and land-use planning, but also housing and environmental planning with the goal of reducing regional greenhouse gas emissions. The city uses the RTP/SCS when conducting its own transportation, land use, and environmental planning to assist in efforts to reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions.	<b>2016</b>

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In 2014, the city first offered CaliforniaFIRST energy financing program for residential, commercial, industrial and multifamily property owners to install energy efficient retrofits, solar photovoltaic, or hot water systems on new or existing buildings.</li> <li>2. As part of the general plan housing element update, the city identified potential infill development sites, and maintains a community-wide database of vacant and underutilized infill sites to monitor the community's growth and change.</li> </ol>	<b>2016</b>

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	1. The city has reviewed zoning codes and development policies to identify changes that could improve implementation of land use and transportation policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	<b>2017</b>





# Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Silver	1. The city hosts a year-round, certified farmers market every Sunday morning from 9 am to 1 pm on East Matalija Street in downtown Ojai.	2016

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city owns and maintains over five parks, including: Cluff Vista, Libby, Rotary Community, Sarzotti, and Weinberger Memorial Garden. These parks help to ensure the long-term health and viability of trees and other vegetation.</li> <li>2. The city adopted a Tree Ordinance for Preservation, Cutting, and Removal of Oak, Sycamore, Heritage, and Other Designated Mature Trees. The Ordinance recognizes oak, sycamore, heritage, and other mature trees as having significant historical, aesthetic, and ecological importance, and to create favorable conditions for the preservation and propagation of this unique, irreplaceable plant heritage for the benefit of current and future residents of the city. The city's General Plan Conservation and Land use Elements specifically calls for the preservation of oaks and sycamores "within and adjacent to the community."</li> </ol>	2016

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Platinum		





# Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. The city participates in the emPower Central Coast Program, which provides LED lightbulbs, reusable bags, and other give-away items at community events in Ojai to encourage environmental responsibility.	<b>2016</b>

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	<p>1. The city collaborates with other local government agencies to share information about climate change and best practices to reduce greenhouse gases. For example, the city participates on an advisory working group for implementing a community choice aggregation program in Ventura County.</p> <p>2. Since 2014, the city has participated in a regional climate action partnership with the County of Ventura, VCREA, and the cities of Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Simi Valley (joined in 2016), Thousand Oaks, and Ventura. This partnership resulted in the development of the Climate on the Move Report. The Report includes greenhouse gas inventories for the region as a whole and all eleven participating jurisdictions, 2020 greenhouse gas emission forecast, and reduction target options: <a href="http://www.vcenergy.org/images/Complete_Climate_on_the_Move_Report.pdf">http://www.vcenergy.org/images/Complete_Climate_on_the_Move_Report.pdf</a>.</p>	<b>2016</b>

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>		





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