



City of Oxnard Sustainability Best Practices Activities



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 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		10%	
	Community GHG Reductions			
	Agency Energy Savings			27%
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities		2016	2017





















City of Oxnard

Best Practice Activities www.ca-ilg.org/BeaconAward/

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity	Reported
Silver	The city participates in the in Southern California Edison's Energy Leader Partnership and has attained the Gold Level tier. The partnership assists with identifying and addressing energy efficiency opportunities in municipal facilities and pays increased incentives for city energy efficiency projects.	2016

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities	Reported
Gold	 In June 2013, the Oxnard City Council approved <u>City and Community Energy Action Plan</u> and adopted the associated Resolution No. 14,371. General Services renovated the Campus Park Gymnasium building with energy efficient lighting and HVAC systems. The city estimates this renovation has saved 7,800 kWh of electricity, 500 therms of natural gas and 5 MT CO2e. 	2016

Level	Energy Efficiency & Conservation Activities	Reported
Platinum	 The city completed SCE-sponsored energy audits at eight government facilities in 2010 and 2011. The audits focused primarily on efficiency opportunities related to interior and exterior lighting systems. The city made a number of HVAC controls and equipment replacements at several facilities. 	2016





















Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency & Conservation Activities	Reported
Platinum	 Drawing from \$1.8 million in funding from the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG), the city completed lighting upgrades at the eight audited facilities, replacing outdated T12 and T8 interior lighting with energy efficient fluorescent T8 lamps and ballasts, installed LED exit signs, and incorporated lighting controls such as occupancy sensors and timers. The City replaced exterior fixtures with fluorescent and induction lighting technologies. The improvements occurred at city hall and city hall Annex, Oxnard's Corporate Yard, the transportation center, public library, the performing arts center, the city parking garage, and the public safety building. These upgrades have saved approximately 356,900 kWh of electricity and 103 MT CO2e: https://www.oxnard.org/green-sustainability trashed/green-sustainability-programs-internal-programs-9/. The city continually upgrades HVAC equipment to keep facilities operating as efficiently as funding allows. Several EECBG improvements include the installation of a new air-cooled chiller on the civic center east wing and the installation of a digital building automation system at the main library. Upgrades to the civic center have reduced electricity by approximately 15,500 kWh and GHG emissions by 4 MT CO2e. Upgrades to the Main Library have saved approximately 38,000 kWh of electricity, 700 therms of natural gas, and 15 MT CO2e. 	2016























Water & Wastewater Systems Activity

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activity	Reported
Silver	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	 Launched in 1999, the city's GREAT Program is a comprehensive water supply project that is designed to improve water supply reliability, improve water quality for the future, and reduce the City's reliance on imported water supplies. The GREAT Program combines wastewater recycling, recycled water distribution and use for irrigation and industrial uses, aquifer and groundwater injection, storage and recovery, and restoration of wetlands to provide reliable water supply to the City and environs. See http://www.oxnardnews.org/great.aspx. The city's Advanced Water Purification Facility (AWPF) opened in January 2015. Treated wastewater from the Oxnard Wastewater Treatment Plant is further treated at the AWPF using advanced state-of-the-art processes. The AWPF recycled water is available for landscape irrigation, industrial processes, and agricultural irrigation. The water is so pure it can be used to meet any water supply needs in the future, including replenishing Oxnard's groundwater supply. 	2016























Water & Wastewater Systems Activity

Level	Water and Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Platinum	 The city's Water Conservation and Education Program protects future water resources through effective conservation practices by providing education and training, funding opportunities, and technical assistance to all city water customers. Activities include public outreach, education, monitoring, and enforcing programs for efficient utilization of the City's water resources. Information on water conservation strategies for residences, commercial facilities, and landscaping, as well as information on recycled water and the Groundwater Recovery Enhancement and Treatment (GREAT) program is included on the agency's website: https://www.oxnard.org/city-department/public-works/water-section/. The city provides information on the agency's website about how resident can prevent stormwater pollution. The webpage contain information on not using excess fertilizers and pesticides as well as picking up after pets. The website also has information on rail barrels, permeable pavement and grassy swales: https://www.oxnard.org/city-department/public-works/stormwater-residential/. The city is a "WaterSense" partner with the U.S. EPA, helping customers use water resources more efficiently. Oxnard provides links to rebates for high-efficiency toilets and clothes washers, as well as links to free conservation devices. See http://publicworks.cityofoxnard.org/Department.aspx?DepartmentID=14&DivisionID=99&ResourceID=471. 	2016























Green Building Activity

Level	Green Building Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city has participated in the emPower Central Coast since 2014. The emPower Programs includes an Energy Coach service where coaches that 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: https://www.empowersbc.org/its-easy-get-started/energy-advice .	2016

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Gold	 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: https://www.empowersbc.org/about-program. 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 nut limited to updates to Title 24, benchmarking, and HVAC trainings. 	2016























Green Building Activity

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Platinum	 The city completed work on its state-of-the-art Brackish Groundwater Desalter in 2008. The Brackish Groundwater Desalter raised the bar in terms of sustainability and was awarded the United States Green Building Council's distinguished Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design's (LEED) "Gold" award for conserving energy, water and building materials. The city also received the 2006 Environmental Project of the Year from the American Public Works Association, Ventura County Chapter for Blending Station No. This building has saved 112,500 kWh of electricity, and 32 MT CO2e. The City was also awarded the United States Green Building Council's distinguished LEED "Gold" award for the Advanced Water Purification Facility (AWPF). The AWPF is a highly innovative wastewater purification project and that provides a reliable, sustainable source of local water. Please see following link for more information: 	























Waste Reduction and Recycling Activity

Level	Waste Reduction Activity	Reported
Silver	The city's Del Norte Regional Recycling and Transfer Stations hosts a Recyclable Household Hazardous Waste Center, which is responsible for accepting and recycling material from Oxnard residents that drop-off antifreeze, batteries, used motor oil, water-based paint and electronic devices: www.oxnard.org/city-department/public-works/environmental-resources/ .	2016

Level
Gold

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Platinum	 In 1995, the Oxnard City Council adopted a solid waste source reduction policy. From double sided copies to citywide facility office paper recycling, City staff actively participates in helping to reduce the amount of waste going to the landfill. Other items recycled include batteries, fluorescent lights and E-Waste such as outdated or broken computers, monitors and other electronics. For more information, please see the following link: www.oxnard.org/green-sustainability trashed/green-sustainability- programs-internal-programs-2/. 	2016























Waste Reduction and Recycling Activity

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Platinum	 The city provides free "Biohazard" rigid plastic sharps containers for used needles and lancers (sharps) at collection facilities for individuals to use at home. The collection centers are located at Oxnard Public Health, Las Islas Urgent Care, Magnolia Family Clinic, and Las Islas Urgent Care. Each year, the city conducts numerous Neighborhood Clean-Up Events throughout the community. These events include collecting e-waste, greenwaste, trash, and donations of non-perishable food items for Food Share: https://www.oxnard.org/environmentalresources/. 	2017























Climate-friendly Purchasing Activity

Level	Climate-Friendly Activity	Reported
Silver	The city established a Green Team in 2009. The Green Team is comprised of staff from multiple city departments and is responsible for coordinating sustainability and environmental initiatives, policies, and programs in municipal operations. Four department directors and the city manager's office form an Energy Initiatives Steering Committee that sets direction and coordinate executive-level decisions.	2016
Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Gold	 The Oxnard City Council adopted a "green" procurement policy in 1995. Green procurement includes buying products made with post-consumer recycled content which helps create a marketplace for materials collected through municipal recycling programs. The city's green procurement efforts include the purchase of envelopes, file folders, memo pads and copier paper made with post-consumer recycled content. The city's primary office supply vendor reported that more than 30% of purchases in 2010 were designated as green products. In addition, many of the city's public education materials are printed on recycled paper containing 30% to 100% post-consumer recycled content including utility bill inserts, newsletters and the annual water quality Consumer Confidence Report: https://www.oxnard.org/green-sustainability_programs-internal-programs-3/. The city distributed the SCE energy solutions brochure to all city employees. 	2016
Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Platinum	 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. The city has reviewed current purchasing practices to identify possible green procurement opportunities. The city considers life cycle pricing to ensure that the maintenance, operating, insurance, disposal, and replacement cost of producers or services are considered when evaluating purchase options. 	2016























Renewable Energy and Low-**Carbon Fuels Activity**

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Silver	The city has installed over 13 public electric vehicle charging stations.	2016
Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Gold	 The Oxnard Wastewater Treatment Plant produces methane gas as a byproduct of the digestion processes. The methane is used to fuel three cogeneration engines that can supply approximately 40% of the plant's electrical demand. To maximize the volume of fuel for its cogeneration plant, the Oxnard Wastewater Treatment Plant also accepts fats, oil and grease waste steams into its digesters and can add natural gas purchased from SCG to the digester gas stream at the cogeneration engines. Since 2014, the city has offered CaliforniaFIRST program as an 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 residential and commercial buildings. 	2016

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Platinum	 The city has installed bicycle racks, and other amenities at agency facilities to promote bicycle use by agency employees and visitors. The city adopted Ordinance 2915 in December 2016, which includes a "Solar Ready" policy requiring new agency buildings to be pre-wired and pre-plumbed for solar photovoltaic and solar hot water systems: https://www.oxnard.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Ord-2915-2016-CA-Building-Codes.pdf. The city adopted Ordinance No. 2892, which expedites small residential photovoltaic solar applications to encourage installation of photovoltaic systems on new or existing residential buildings: https://www.oxnard.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Solar-Panel-Permit-Requirements-in-Oxnard_02.pdf. 	2017























Efficient Transportation Activity

Level	Efficient Transportation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city's fleet services is proud of the many environmentally friendly "green" practices used to take care of the city's 900 vehicles ranging from Police cars and fire trucks to refuse equipment. Each year, the city garage recycles more than 10,000 gallons of used motor oil, hydraulic fluid, and antifreeze; oil change intervals have been stretched out leading to a 35% reduction in oil use; drip pans are used to prevent loss of antifreeze to the environment. Fleet services also uses state-of-the-art equipment to maintain air conditioner refrigerant systems. It is so efficient that there is seldom a need to purchase new refrigerant. Since 2008, two of the fleet services facilities have been recognized as a California EPA "Green Shop". The state's "Green Shop" program is designed to recognize vehicle repair facilities in California that excel in pollution prevention in day-to-day vehicle repair operations. https://www.oxnard.org/green-sustainability_trashed/green-sustainability_programs-internal-programs-7/ .	2016

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Gold	 As part of the Oxnard Police Department's Operation Safer and Stronger campaign, a short video was produced to inform the public on bicycle safety. The 6-minute video was created specifically for children and their parents to learn the basics of bike safety, bicycle laws in California and how to conduct regular bike maintenance. In 2006 and 2007, the city replaced all incandescent traffic and pedestrian signal lamps with LED lamps, reducing operational costs through direct energy cost savings and reduced maintenance cost due to the extended life of LED lamps. The city estimates these improvements have saved 2,028,600 kWh of electricity and 584 MT CO2e. The city also conducted a streetlight study to evaluate converting street lights from high pressure sodium (HPS) to light-emitting diode (LED) fixtures. Potentially 600 to700 HPS lamps are being considered for LED conversion. 	2016























Efficient Transportation Activity

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Platinum	 Thousands of recycled tires were diverted from disposal through the use of 94,683 square yards of Rubberized Asphalt Concrete for city street projects. There are many advantages to using rubberized asphalt versus conventional asphalt. RAC incorporates ground tire (crumb) rubber into the hot mix. Crumb rubber is ground or granulated rubber particles, which are derived from auto or light truck tires or other sources that use a high content of natural rubber. The RAC program helps divert material from the landfill and conserves natural resources: www.oxnard.org/green_sustainability_trashed/green-sustainability-programs-internal-programs-8/. The city's Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Master Plan (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. Please see: www.oxnard.org/city-department/development-services/planning/bicycle-and-pedestrian-facilities-master-plan/. The Oxnard Transit Center (OTC) opened in 1986, providing residents with a two-story, 13,000 square foot brick motiffed building. This regional multi-modal transportation facility offers connections between Los Angeles, local and commuter bus service, Metrolink commuter rail service, Amtrak, Greyhound bus service, VISTA, Gold Coast Transit and Harbor Beaches Dial-A-Ride. The OTC showcases an indoor passenger waiting area complete with concessions, public telephones, comfortable seating, restrooms and security service. Metrolink passengers may also utilize partially enclosed outdoor waiting accommodations on the rail platform. Bus patrons will find eight centrally located bus stops providing convenient connections between regional service providers and local bus routes. The total facility area is slightly over five acres, and includes parking lots, bus and rail loading facilities and landscaped areas. The OTC was developed to meet the need for a re	2016























Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activity	Reported
Silver	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.	2016

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Gold	 The 2030 General Plan, Chapter 2, Sustainable Community, provides the majority of energy-related goals and policies, including Goal SC-3: Energy efficiency performance standards and generation from renewable sources. Chapter 4, Infrastructure and Community Services, also provides energy-related policies. 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. Please visit the following link for more information: https://www.oxnard.org/city-department/development-services/planning/draft-2013-2021-housing-element/. 	2016

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Platinum	As part of the General Plan Update, the City reviewed zoning codes and development policies to identify changes that could improve implementation of land use and transportation policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions: https://www.oxnard.org/wp-content/	2016























Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Platinum	 In 1998, the city adopted the SOAR (Save Open Space and Agricultural Resources) initiative establishing the City Urban Restriction Boundary (CURB) and re-designating as "Agriculture (AG)" all land previously designated "Agricultural Planning Reserve (AG/PR)." The CURB defines the urban development boundary for the City of Oxnard until December 31, 2020. The SOAR initiative also established a City Buffer Boundary (CBB) which lies outside of the CURB line and is coterminous with the Oxnard Area of Interest. Change to the CURB line or an agricultural land use designation within the CBB generally requires majority approval of Oxnard voters, with certain exceptions, including but not limited to an exception to allow up to 20 acres per year to be brought into the CURB for affordable housing needed to meet the City's Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) target production. The city included Policy SC-1.3 in Chapter 2: Sustainable Community Element of City of Oxnard 2030 General Plan. The policy states: Develop a Climate Action and Adaption Plan that implements requirements adopted by the California Air Resources Board and/or the Ventura County APCD that establishes a GHG emissions qualitative and quantitative threshold of significance, establishes GHG reduction targets, and supports the regional SB 375 Sustainable Communities Strategy. Please see the following link for additional information: https://www.oxnard.org/wpcontent/uploads/2017/06/Oxnard-2030-General-Plan-updated-06.17.pdf. 	2017























Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Silver	1. The city is designated as a Tree City USA, a program sponsored by The Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters to recognize urban and community forestry programs. Ongoing efforts by the city's Parks Division have contributed to this designation for more than 27 years. The city's efforts to preserve its forestry program includes a three year tree planting program on major streets in Oxnard funded by a \$90,000 grant from the Martin V. and Martha K. Smith Foundation. For more information, please visit: www.oxnard.org/green-sustainability_trashed/green-sustainability_programs-internal-programs-5/ .	2016
Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Gold	 The city hosts certified farmers markets on Thursdays from 9 am to 2 pm at Plaza Park, 5th and C Streets and also on Thursday from 4 pm to 8 pm at the Collection at River Park. The city also operates more than 50 park facilities for its residents, including Beck, College, Community Center East and West, Del Sol, Oxnard Beach and Southwest Community Parks. 	2016
Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. The city's Santa Clara River Trail (SCRT) Master Plan evaluates a 4.87 mile, Class I multi-use trail along the southern bank of the Santa Clara River (SCR) and a connection trail from the SCR at Victoria Ave to Gonzales Road for a bikeway connection to the Pacific Ocean, and a spur connection to E. Vineyard Avenue at Central Avenue. This plan builds about the many efforts of The Ventura County Watershed Protection District (VCWPD) and the California State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) and implements the city's 2030 General Plan. The flood control levee built along the SCR provides a unique opportunity to connect the communities, recreational areas, and commercial uses in North Oxnard via a bicycle and pedestrian path. A trail along the levee also provides public access to one of the region's most eminent environmental resources without causing undue disturbance to the natural habitat found in the riverbed. Please see: https://www.oxnard.org/city-department/development-services/planning/	2016























Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Platinum	 The city signed a Greenbelt Agreement with the City of Camarillo, County of Ventura, and LAFCO to preserve agriculture and open space between communities around the city. The agreement protects open space and agricultural lands and reassure property owners located within these areas that lands will not be prematurely converted to agriculturally incompatible uses: http://vcrma.org/programs/greenbelts/index.html. The city provides community gardens, located at the Wilson Senior Center and on Pleasant Valley Road, where Individuals and families can reserve a raised bin or garden plot to grow organic fruits and vegetables on their own. Gardening lessons are provided: https://www.oxnard.org/recreation/special-populations/community-gardening/. 	2017























Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

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

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Gold	 The city developed a Green Sustainability Programs page to promote the city's sustainability activities. The website provides convenient access to information, services and programs that support the City's commitment to become a sustainable and green community: https://www.oxnard.org/city-department/public-works/green-sustainability-programs/. The City distributes maps showing the community bicycle and walking trail systems to encourage reduction of vehicle miles traveled. 	2016

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. Each year, the city's Water Resources Division partners with local elementary schools to learn about the importance of water and ways to conserve water. The City's Water Resources Division also hosts an annual "Children's Water Science Exploratorium" to third grade classes in the Oxnard, Rio School and Ocean View School Districts, as well as local private schools, in commemoration of Water Awareness Month in California. This event is part of the Water Resources Division's commitment to providing community awareness and education on the importance of one of our most precious natural resources, water. The educational event features more than a dozen hands-on activities including water-density demonstrations, water cycle education, California Friendly® landscaping techniques, creating water molecule models, and much more. The event also features water science shows performed by Mad Science, and The Jumbo Shrimp Circus which focuses on the water cycle and water conservation. For more information, please see the following link: https://www.oxnard.org/city-department/public-	2016























Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Platinum	 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, Ojai, 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: http://www.vcenergy.org/images/Complete_Climate_on_the_Move_Report.pdf. The city offers a City Corps Program that is designed to give youth work experience in ten general categories including: tree planting, litter patrol, recycling and zero waste events, ecological restoration, waste characterization, water conservation gardening, water auditing, and wastewater and storm water support. Oxnard City Corps serves youth ages 12-24 and teaches them valuable skills and how to serve their community. Youth also learn the value of caring for their town while gaining valuable team-based work experience: https://www.oxnard.org/ 	2016























Promoting Good Government at the Local Level

© 2017 by Institute for Local Government 1400 K Street, Suite 205 Sacramento, CA 95814 916-658-8208 www.ca-ilq.org



















