

BEACON

SPOTLIGHT  
AWARD

WINNER

BEST PRACTICE  
ACTIVITIES



# City of Santa Barbara

## Sustainability Best Practice Activities



**ILG** INSTITUTE FOR  
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*Promoting Good Government at the Local Level*



# City of Santa Barbara

California communities are leading the fight against climate change. From small projects to large-scale programs, cities and counties are making great strides to create healthy, sustainable and economically prosperous communities. Participants in ILG's Beacon Program serve as leaders in this effort, making measureable contributions to reducing energy and greenhouse gas emissions, and sharing their sustainability best practices.

This document represents a collection of activities your agency has completed in 10 areas of sustainability. While local governments have a wide range of choices available to address climate change, these activities represent the unique opportunities and values in your community. These voluntary actions are essential to achieving California's goals to save energy, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and create more sustainable communities.

## SPOTLIGHT AWARD

Areas of Accomplishment		SILVER LEVEL	GOLD LEVEL	PLATINUM LEVEL
	Agency GHG Reductions		2013 (15%)	2015 (26%)
	Community GHG Reductions			2013 (23%)
	Agency Energy Savings		2013 (10%)	
	Natural Gas Savings	2015 (7%)	2016 (16%)	
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities		2013	2015
	Beacon Award		2019	

Cities and counties throughout the Golden State should be proud of the accomplishments made through the hard work, innovation and collective community action. The Institute for Local Government applauds your achievements and thanks you for your continued participation in the Beacon Program.

The Beacon Program is sponsored by the Institute for Local Government and the Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative (SEEC). SEEC is an alliance between three statewide non-profit organizations and California's four Investor-Owned Utilities. 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.





# Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities

## Silver

1. The city performed an audit of major city facilities and identified energy conservation projects.

## Gold

2. The city has implemented retrofit projects that include lighting, heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system upgrades and replacements, HVAC and lighting automation systems and building system commissioning projects. The projects are estimated to save approximately 526,000 kWh annually and reduce CO2 equivalent greenhouse gases by 463,000 lbs. annually. More information available in the city's Annual Energy Report.
3. The city works working closely with the local utility provider SCE to identify additional energy conservation projects and funding opportunities.

## Platinum

4. The city installed LED traffic and crosswalk lights citywide.
5. The city participates in the regional Green Business Program (GBP). The GBP offers incentives and assistance to encourage businesses to implement voluntary actions to protect, preserve, and improve the environment beyond what current laws require. Businesses meeting these criteria can be certified as green businesses.
6. The city installed energy efficient lighting at the El Estero parking lot and Pershing Park ball field.
7. The city participated in Southern California Edison's Direct Install Program, upgrading lighting, window film and motion sensing for a cumulative savings of 358,000 kWh in FY 2014.
8. The city has undergone several streetlight upgrades, replacing High Pressure Sodium lights with LEDs. The city intends to continue upgrading all City-owned streetlights to LED.
9. The city installed an Enterprise Energy Management Information System, which will help monitor real-time energy usage and identify energy saving opportunities.





# Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

## Silver

1. The city installed fuel cells at the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant in 2004. A project to replace the fuel cells with a more efficient and reliable reciprocating engine is underway.

## Gold

2. The city is in the process of implementing a pilot project to add fats, oil and grease to the wastewater treatment digesters. This project will increase the production of methane gas for use in the production of energy at the facility.
3. The city of Santa Barbara's Recycled Water Project delivers tertiary treated wastewater to over 50 sites which use approximately 750 acre feet per year. The recycled water project was developed in two phases: Phase I was completed in July 1989 and Phase II was completed in May 1991.

## Platinum

4. Created a webpage to house all of the city's drought response activities, including city council drought update videos, new drought regulations and water rate information, links to current reservoir and rainfall conditions, water conservation best practices and incentives, and water supply planning.
5. Drought outreach and conservation programs helped enable the community to achieve a cumulative 24% reduction in water use compared to 2013.
6. City council authorized reactivation of the city's Charles E. Meyer Desalination Plant as an emergency water supply.
7. The Creeks Division actively educates the public on water pollution prevention. Sample activities include: Clean water signage at the beach, interpretive signage explaining the clean water projects, promoting use of native plants, hosting storm drain marking events, coordinating Adopt-a-Beach program, as well as volunteer creek and beach clean-up days.





# Green Building Activities

## Silver

1. The city's Energy Ordinance (2008) required new construction and major renovations to exceed the California Building Energy Efficiency Standards (Title 24) by up to 20%.

## Gold

2. The city's Green Building Policy for City Buildings (2008) requires all new construction, major renovations, and building retrofits for city facilities to be designed to exceed California Title 24 Energy Efficiency Standards by 20% and achieve LEED-Silver certification or Built Green Santa Barbara certification requirements.
3. The city has achieved LEED certification for several city facilities. The Public Works/Community Development Building received LEED Platinum certification for Operations & Maintenance: Existing Building. Gold certification for New Construction was received for the Airport Quick-Turn-Around rental car service facility and Fire Station 1.

## Platinum

4. The city adopted Resolution 08-008 ensuring that city facilities meet the water conservation elements of city's Green Building Policy, Resolution No. 07-018.
5. The city's Smart Landscape Rebate Program offers rebates on approved irrigation equipment and landscape materials including; irrigation equipment, water wise plants and smart irrigation controllers.
6. The city is a partner in the California Urban Water Conservation Council, which offers residential and commercial rebates for water efficient fixtures.
7. Successfully recertified the city office buildings at 630 Garden Street at the platinum level 5 years after the original certification period.
8. Established the Creeks Program in 2001, which was funded by a voter approved 2% tax increase to the transient occupancy tax. As part of its mission, the Creeks Division reviews building plans and new developments for stormwater regulation compliance.
9. Since 2010, the City of Santa Barbara has removed asphalt and replaced it with permeable pavers that capture and treat storm water and runoff from approximately 135,000 square feet of land at city facilities.





# Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

## Silver

1. The city implemented new solid waste collection rates (2009) for the business sector. The rates provide increased financial incentives for businesses to divert recyclables and food scraps from landfill disposal.

## Gold

2. The city adopted an Unscheduled Collection Permit Ordinance mandating recycling of construction and demolition debris.
3. The city provided 500 recycling containers to the Santa Barbara Unified School district to assist with recycling efforts.

## Platinum

4. The city implemented a Foodscraps Recovery Program at all Santa Barbara Unified School District elementary schools. In the 2011/2012 school year secondary schools will be incorporated into the program.
5. In collaboration with the school district, established a district wide diversion rate target of 60% achieved 55% for FY 11.
6. The city achieved a 70% landfill diversion rate in 2008.
7. In 2014, the City of Santa Barbara implemented its Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance. The ordinance prohibits certain stores from providing single-use plastic carryout bags to customers at the point of sale and requires a 10-cent charge for each paper bag provided.





# Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

## Silver

1. The city adopted an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategy in January 2004 to provide an ongoing specific program to further reduce the amount and toxicity of pesticides used on city property and, where feasible, to eliminate pesticide use in public areas using alternative methods. More information available in the city's annual report.

## Gold

2. Modified Vehicle Purchasing Policy to prioritize the purchase of the most fuel efficient vehicles for the specifications needed.
3. Adopted Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Policy.

## Platinum

4. Starting in 2013, contracted with Big Green Cleaning for over \$500,000 in annual custodial work, using as many green products as recommended by best health and safety practices.





# Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

## Silver

1. The city installed solar photovoltaic panels on four city facilities; Fire Station 2, the city corporate yard, Fire Station 1 and the airport quick turnaround facility. Information on these projects can be found in the city's Annual Energy Report.

## Gold

2. The city offers expedited permit processing for projects meeting the 2-star Built Green level, LEED "Silver" rating or other comparable program ratings.
3. The city is a partner in the County of Santa Barbara's emPowerSBC program, which provides financing and support for residential energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

## Platinum

4. Installed a solar thermal water heating system at the harbor.
5. Installed solar powered self pay parking stations.
6. The city facilities has increased the percentage of electricity from renewable energy sources from 18% in 2008 to 37% in 2014.
7. In 2013, the city installed a cogeneration system at the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant. The system provides over 4 million kWh annually. 2014 usage of electricity from this source resulted in a 15% GHG emissions decrease over 2013.
8. In 2015, the city recommissioned a 600 kW hydro electric plant at the Lauro Reservoir.
9. In 2015, the city adopted a new ordinance to expedite the permit issuance of smaller solar energy systems on single family residences. The expedited process includes only permit applications.





# Efficient Transportation Activities

## Silver

1. The city implemented a flexwork schedule for city employees in 2006 incorporating telecommuting, flex (9/80) and modified schedules.

## Gold

2. The city implemented a vehicle rideshare program in 2007, a part of the transportation demand management benefits called the Work Trip Reduction Incentive Program (Work TRIP). The purpose is to encourage sharing rides to work by making city vehicles available to city employees to make carpooling attractive. To help achieve the goal of decreasing traffic congestion and reducing pollution, other downtown employees may be permitted to join qualified carpools in the city vehicle rideshare program.
3. The city constructed a bike station that incorporates bicycle storage, showers and bicycle repair space. The city also annually reviews locations for installation of new bicycle hitching posts for public use.

## Platinum

4. The city provides electric vehicle charging stations in one public parking garage. Additional electric vehicle charging station locations have been identified and a project to install new stations is in development. Additional electric vehicle charging station locations have been installed in 2013.
5. In 2013, the city council approved the Average Unit-size Density (AUD) Incentive Program Ordinance. The intent of the program is to support the construction of smaller, more affordable residential units near transit and within easy walking and biking distance to commercial services and parks.
6. The city conducted neighborhood outreach workshops in the spring of 2015 and provided an interactive online map to survey the community regarding the update to the Bicycle Master Plan.
7. During May 2015, employees of the City of Santa Barbara participated in CycleMaynia, a local bike commuter challenge. In one month, riders logged over 3,000 miles on bikes, 51% of which were for transportation rather than recreation.





# Land Use and Community Design Activities

## Silver

1. The city adopted and implemented a Bicycle Master Plan (Resolution 98-133 October 1998).

## Gold

2. Adopted and implemented a Pedestrian Master Plan (Resolution 06-065 July 2006).
3. Adopted a climate action plan to reduce community greenhouse gas emissions within the City of Santa Barbara, and identify climate change adaptation measures.

## Platinum

4. In 2014-15, the City of Santa Barbara sponsored a Master's Thesis project conducted by UCSB Bren School of Environmental Studies to assess Santa Barbara's vulnerability to future potential sea level rise.
5. In 2014, the city commissioned Environmental Science Associates to produce the Goleta Slough Inlet Modeling Study with findings to inform the Airport Master Plan.
6. The 2013, Safety Element Update to the city's General Plan, which addresses community resiliency in the context of all hazards and risks including those predicted by climate change models. Details found in Appendix J the Safety Element Technical Background Report include the possible effects of climate change on sea cliff retreat, wildfires and stream flooding.





# Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

## Silver

1. The city has been a recipient of the Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA designation for 31 consecutive years.

## Gold

2. The city conducted a street and park tree inventory and the data received will allow the city to effectively manage resources, develop policies, and set priorities.
3. The city completed and presented Urban Forest Management Plan, which plans for increased tree canopy.

## Platinum

4. In 2013, the city received a grant for coastal education and outreach. The \$27,000 grant will support web-based coastal education and outreach, including development of a coastal walking map and a central source of information about the city's waterfront. The walking map will be available in multiple formats, including a mobile platform, and will link to interpretive signs installed along the California Coastal Trail and in parks, viewpoints, and other public areas along the city's 6.3 miles of shoreline.
5. The city reduces pesticides, often containing hydrocarbons derived from petroleum, through the implementation of an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM). The IPM prohibits or limits the amount of pesticides in open spaces.
6. The Parks and Recreation Department manages 1,183 acres of open space. The city, in partnership with the US Forest Service and the County of Santa Barbara, manages more than 35 miles of trails for day hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding.





# Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

## Silver

1. The city is participating in regional efforts to implement greenhouse gas emission targets related to transportation projects. The travel model upgrade is complete as well as the Regional Growth and Transportation plans. The next step is the creation of a regional Sustainable Communities Strategy.

## Gold

2. Included global climate change in Santa Barbara's General Plan update and public outreach process.
3. The city established Solar Energy System Guidelines and a Solar Recognition Program.

## Platinum

4. The city is a member of the South County Energy Efficiency Partnership. This group is focused on making south Santa Barbara County a progressive leader in energy efficiency. Through local outreach events and educational resources provide solutions to reduce energy use in homes, businesses and the city industries.
5. In 2007, 2008 and 2010 issued a sustainability achievement reports. These report includes tips for residents on how to conserve energy, reduce waste and protect the environment.
6. The city has a history of soliciting community input. Most recently, the Bicycle Master Plan held several neighborhood events and collected surveys to inform a 2015 update to the plan. An interactive map showed survey results.







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