



City of Santa Cruz

Sustainability Best Practices Activities



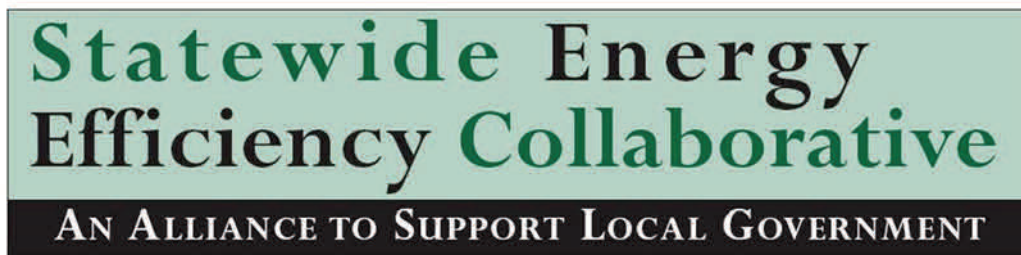
Silver Level Award Winner



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.



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 Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Set a goal to reduce energy use in municipal building by another 40%. The City completed a Municipal Facility benchmarking study of 20 city facilities and implemented energy reduction strategies to reduce energy use in them by an additional 10% over the baseline.	5-2014

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities	Reported
Gold	1. Installed Energy Accounting System to reduce usage and costs of electricity and natural gas. 2. Wastewater Treatment Facility averages 58% on-site energy generation from digester gas. Outdoor plant lighting was replaced with low energy LEDs, saving 79 tons CO2/year and \$600,000.	5-2014

Level	Energy Efficiency & Conservation Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. The San Lorenzo Park lights have been converted to LED in 2013 with seven in total. The city went from 175 watt bulb usage to 56 watt per light x 9 lights = 1,071 total watt savings. 2. Phase three streetlight LED conversion is completed, converting 1,198 street lights to LED (over half way to the 100% goal!) reducing our energy use by 502,469 kilowatts annually and emissions by 81 tons CO2/ year. 3. Use real-time metering and off-peak scheduling for water and wastewater treatment plants.	5-2014





Water & Wastewater Systems Activity

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Converted irrigation in city medians to drip systems reducing the city's water needs.	5-2014

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Installed waterless urinals in East Zone Parks (4 DeLaveaga, 2 San Lorenzo, 1 Frederick Park) netting an annual water savings of 1,120,000 gallons! 2. Adopted a Water Efficient Landscaping ordinance and standards (more info). 	5-2014

Level	Water and Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. The city requires mandatory water conservation retrofits upon the sale of all properties within service area.	5-2014



Green Building Activity

Level	Green Building Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The City of Santa Cruz Green Building Program was one of the earliest founders of a mandatory Green Building Program nationwide. Adopted green building regulations in 2005.	5-2014



Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mandatory Green Building standards for both commercial and residential construction (Jan., 2007). Adopted a residential green building program in 2008. 2. Implemented a “lot-by-lot” development program to help provide low density affordable housing options for residents. 	5-2014

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In 2002, Santa Cruz encouraged increased density through changes to the permitting process which allowed for the construction of accessory dwelling units (granny flats). 	5-2014



Waste Reduction and Recycling Activity

Level	Waste Reduction Activity	Reported
Silver	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopted zero waste as a long-term city goal. 	5-2014



Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Gold	<p>1. The School Recycling and Waste Reduction Program assists schools with developing and maintaining recycling programs and waste reduction strategies. This free service provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance in setting up your school recycling program • Classroom presentations and school-wide assemblies • Compost bins, worm bins and accessories for Life Lab garden programs • Dori poles and pennants - the no-waste decoration • Earth Day Santa Cruz • Recycling and trash bins, plus informative and colorful stickers and signs • Santa Cruz Recycles! poster contest • Teacher resource library including DVDs, videos, books and paper-making kits • Tours of the City of Santa Cruz Resource Recovery Facility and Landfill • Trash Talk! - a kids newsletter dedicated to local waste reduction and recycling issues. Trash Talk! is distributed to all 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students in the City of Santa Cruz. <p>2. City Resource Recovery staff is collaborating with UCSC staff to offer UCSC Zero Waste Move-Out events in June to off-campus students to reduce illegal dumping.</p>	5-2014

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Platinum	<p>1. The community center has implemented software to allow residents to make reservations by phone and email reducing the amount of paper used.</p> <p>2. With strong support from environmentally minded businesses, organizations, and residents, the Santa Cruz City Council voted unanimously to prohibit local shops from sending home their products in single-use plastic bags.</p> <p>3. City residential refuse customers are provided with a 68-gallon cart for deposit of yard trimmings, grass clippings and other organics. GreenCycle! helps prolong the life of the landfill and keeps valuable organic material from being thrown away.</p>	5-2014





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activity

Level	Climate-Friendly Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Adopted a "Buy Efficiency" resolution to purchase energy efficient products.	5-2014



Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activity

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Set a goal to Increase solar to 2000 residences and 200 businesses by 2016.	5-2014

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Installed over 100 kW of solar photovoltaic systems on city facilities since 200, including solar parking arrays near city hall complex and police station, saving 150 tons CO2/year. 2. The California FIRST PACE solar financing program is now up and running. 	5-2014

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A plug-in electric vehicle charging station has been installed on the Wharf. 2. Of the city's 433 vehicle fleet, 174 (40%) are low-carbon fuel vehicles (B-20 diesel, CNG, LPG, all electric and Hybrid combination). Departments are investigating opportunities to purchase additional electric vehicles. 3. Resource Recovery collections purchased one CNG and one hybrid refuse/recycling collection truck to evaluate operation maintenance and fuel performance. 	5-2014





Efficient Transportation Activity

Level	Efficient Transportation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. City staff completed an employee commute survey that reported 17% of staff carpoled, 9% used public transportation, 31% biked and 16% walked at least once a week during the 2010 calendar year. More than 35 employees presently drive vehicles that get 35 miles per gallon or better.	5-2014



Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city has several community gardens available for city residents to use their green thumb to grow vegetables for the table, flowers for the home and native plants to attract bugs and birds. Trescony gardens is an organic garden with 54 plots for City of Santa Cruz residents. The Lighthouse gardens is an organic garden with 18 plots for City of Santa Cruz residents.	5-2014

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Gold	1. The City of Santa Cruz Public Works Department is working with Ecology Action on a two year project to create a Complete Streets Plan for Santa Cruz City Schools - researching 10 school sites to take inventory of what conditions exist in order to create visioning plans for the future.	5-2014





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Silver	1. Established Urban Forest Program and recognized as a Tree City for several years.	5-2014

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Gold	1. The city implements a neighborhood tree program: As city residents remove trees that are in decline, they can select as their mitigation requirement to make a donation to the "tree trust fund." Donations are then used to purchase young trees and materials. These trees are given out to neighborhoods for FREE. Staff helps coordinate with residents the type of tree and the quantity of trees each home will receive.	5-2014





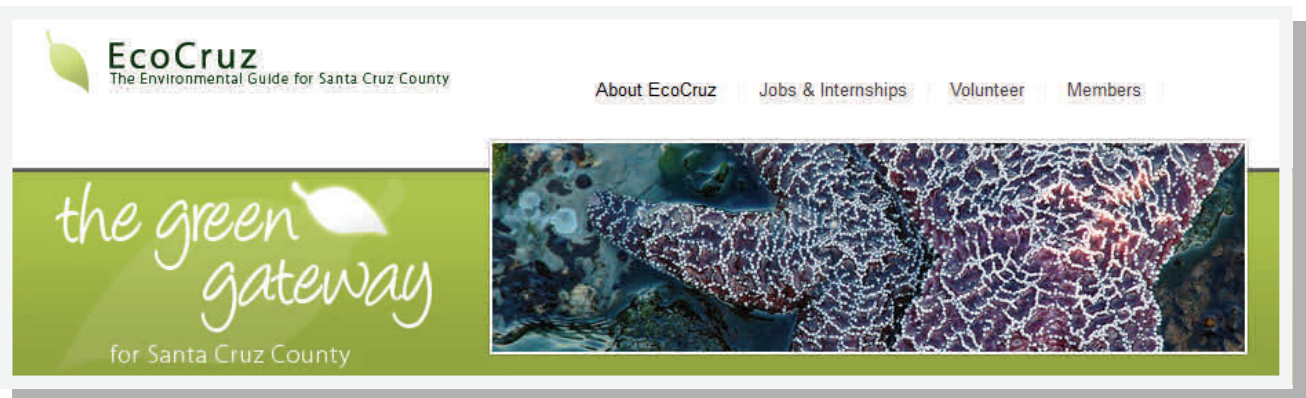
Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Silver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Eco-Tour of the city coastline and Wharf has been in place for six months. Out at the beautiful Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf, there are shops and restaurants that are visited every week by locals and tourists alike. The city is committed to helping the environment is apparent as you walk around– the city does everything from recycling to working with research groups to find ways to harness wind power. Here are a few examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarded Green Business Certification for Wharf Headquarters. • Partnered with UCSC to install and monitor an alternative energy test bed on the wharf to measure wind and solar energy potential. • Use power generated by test bed wind generators and solar panel to charge electric maintenance vehicle. • Partnered with UCSC to retrofit the wharf street and pedestrian lighting with LED lamps. • Partnered with UCSC to install an EV charging station on the wharf. • Partnered with UCSC to examine waste to energy power potential on the wharf. • Currently switching out failed HPS and CFL building lighting for LED fixtures as failures occur. • Changed out beach restroom urinals for low flow urinals recommended and funded by SC Water Dept. • Currently replacing an additional maintenance pickup truck with an electric vehicle pickup truck. • Employed Roma Design Group and Moffat and Nichol Engineering to develop a Wharf Master Plan that will identify actionable steps and identify funding sources towards realizing the city’s climate action goals on the wharf. 	5-2014



Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> UCSC just received a \$4.5 million sustainable energy education grant in partnership with universities in Denmark. Adopted a Clean Ocean Business Program. The total number of Green Business certifications increased substantially in 2012: 2011/12 Certified Green Businesses 47 Currently In-Process: 49 Total Certified Businesses in Santa Cruz: 111 Total GHG reductions = 500 tons annually. 	5-2014

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The city parks departments hosts a Street Tree Planting Program which offers free 15 gallon trees for the city right-of-ways in front of residents homes. City hosts and annual Earth Day community event for the whole family ecocruz.org. It consists of a teen recycled fashion show, poster and video contest and other games. 	5-2014





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