

2016 BEACON AWARD WINNER



City of Santa Monica

Sustainability Best Practices Activities



ILG INSTITUTE FOR
LOCAL GOVERNMENTSM
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 customers 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			44%
Community GHG Reductions		10%	
Agency Energy Savings		13%	
Natural Gas Savings	9%		
Sustainability Best Practice Activities	2012	2013	2015





Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. In 2012, Santa Monica replaced 576 streetlights with LED lights that are operated by photocells. The LED lights use only a third of the energy required to power the previous lamps. In 2015, approximately 1500 streetlights are slated to be retrofitted.	2015

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities	Reported
Gold	1. In 2012, the city re-illuminated its historic pier with LED lights. The retrofit received cover recognition of LEDs Magazine September 2013 edition . 2. In 2013, the City of Santa Monica, in collaboration with the Energy Network, EcoMotion and SustainableWorks, conducted a block-to-block campaign to get small businesses enrolled in SCE's Direct Install program.	2015

Level	Energy Efficiency & Conservation Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. In 2013, the city's Information Systems Department partnered with Southern California Edison to reduce energy consumption associated with physical servers by moving the servers into a virtual environment. 31 physical servers were virtualized – including the additional energy requirements for new technology – which resulted in a net reduction of server energy demand by 6 kW. It also reduced the cooling load, backup power and cost of physical space required for physical servers.	2015





Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity	Reported
Platinum	1. In 2014, The City received the Cool Planet Award from the Climate Registry and Southern California Edison for Environmental Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design. 2. In 2015, the city registered its famous solar-powered, LED-lit Ferris Wheel to participate in in Earth Hour.	2015





Water & Wastewater Systems Activity

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activity	Reported
Silver	1. In 2010, Santa Monica began producing its own water from local groundwater supplies. Currently, Santa Monica provides almost 70% of its needs locally and seeks to reach 100% self-sufficiency by 2020.	2015

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Gold	- In 2013, The city completed a Complete Green Street project that included parkway/storm water biofilter swales and infiltration areas, and a drip irrigation system; in addition over 100 new trees were planted. - Santa Monica conducted a 10-year project to compare a traditional residential landscape with a drought tolerant one. The results proved that water use, yard waste and maintenance hours are far less for a sustainable landscape.	2015

Level	Water and Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Platinum	- Santa Monica's newest Pico Branch Library features a 12,000 gallon cistern that treats captured rainwater for flushing the toilets. The city prepared a case study to share best practices. - Santa Monica implemented a Landscape Rebate Program that has helped residents and businesses remove 283,989 square feet of thirsty turf since 2014. - The city provides free water-use consultations and low-cost drought-tolerant landscape consultation for residents and businesses.	2015

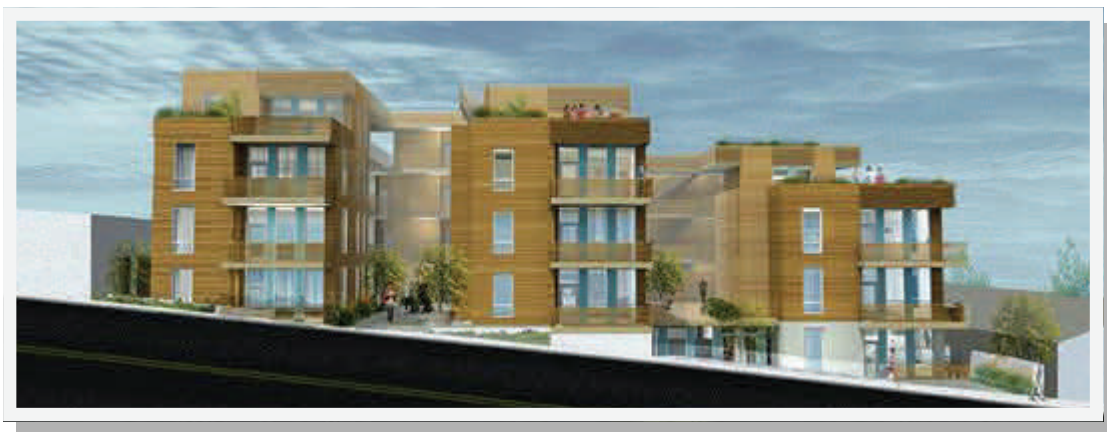




Green Building Activity

Level	Green Building Activity	Reported
Silver	1. In 2013, the city completed parking structure 6 that received LEED Gold Certification.	2015

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Gold	1. In 2014, the city completed the Pico Branch Library that received LEED Platinum Certification. 2. In 2014, the City of Santa Monica and Community Corporation of Santa Monica collaborated to attain the highest green building certification on a 32-unit affordable housing project. A video documents the process.	2015





Green Building Activity

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. Santa Monica's city council directed staff to pursue a feasibility study to construct a 60,000 sq. ft. building to meet the Living Building Challenge standard. If completed, the City Services Building would be the largest and the first municipal project in the country to achieve this recognition. 2. In 2015, city staff hosted a first-of-its-kind regional workshop to discuss onsite water reuse. Over 40 participants from across the West Coast attended with high-level expertise spanning architecture, engineering, policy, regulation, finance, risk management, technology and academia. City staff and its non-profit partner, Global Green, are producing a summary pamphlet to present a roadmap for leading the way in intelligent water management strategies. 3. 2015 – The City worked with Community Corporation, Santa Monica's largest affordable housing provider, to <u>retrofit</u> 522 1.6 gpf toilets with 0.8 gpf toilets. Faucet aerators and showerheads were provided as well.	2015





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activity

Level	Waste Reduction Activity	Reported
Silver	1. In 2010, Santa Monica piloted a food scraps collection program to 600 single-family homes. The program is now fully active for all single-family residences. In the fiscal year of 2013-14, organics collection had increased by 8.8%.	2015

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Gold	1. In 2012, The City began providing home collection services for household hazardous waste. 2. In 2013, the City adopted its Strategic Zero Waste Operations Plan to achieve 95% landfill diversion by 2030.	2015

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. The City now collects unused or expired medicines with its anonymous medicine drop-off container located in front of the Public Safety Facility. 2. The City hosts annual Repair Cafes in which residents are encouraged to bring clothes in need of hemming, appliances in need of tinkering and bikes in need of fixing to reduce these items from going into the landfill. 3. The City established NeighborGoods – a community forum to promote reuse and the sharing economy.	2015





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activity

Level	Climate-Friendly Activity	Reported
Silver	1. In 2012, the Office of Sustainability and the Environment developed <i>Easy Guides</i> to provide accessible information for city purchasers to select products that are the most environmentally preferable.	2015

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Gold	- In 2014, the city purchased almost 27 MW of Renewable Energy Credits from wind power for 2014, providing 100% of its electricity needs with green power. The City is consistently recognized as a Green Power Partner by the EPA. - In 2014, the city developed a Healthy and Sustainable Food Guidelines document to support sustainable food procurement within the city and local community institutions.	2015

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Platinum	- In 2014, the city worked with the Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative to promote awareness about worker and client safety and exposure to hazardous chemicals. - The City has drafted a Sustainable Fleet Purchasing Policy to drive emissions reductions through vehicle purchases. - Santa Monica's Print Shop Purchasing Policy requires the city's print shop to exclusively purchase and use recycled paper and vegetable-based printing inks. Print shop staff estimates that 99% of all printing jobs are completed using recycled paper and vegetable-based inks.	2015





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activity

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Silver	1. In 2013, the city installed 30 electric vehicle chargers and an 80 kW solar system at its new Parking Structure 6 .	2015

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Gold	1. In 2013, the city installed 10 kW of solar at its Pico Branch Library . 2. In 2015, Solar Santa Monica, a free program providing technical assistance for residents and businesses to go solar, was recognized by the US Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Awards . To date, Santa Monicans have installed over 4.5 MW of solar.	2015

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Platinum	1. In 2015, the Big Blue Bus renegotiated its contract to receive biogas from landfills significantly reducing the carbon intensity of its primary fuel. 2. In collaboration with other Westside Cities, Santa Monica led the procurement of 8 solar-powered portable light towers that can be used at public events, police activity and emergency operations. 3. The city is participating with the Center for Sustainable Energy in its NEM-V pilot research program . Multifamily units interested in going solar will be profiled to identify barriers and opportunities to accessing the NEM-V rate.	2015





Efficient Transportation Activity

Level	Efficient Transportation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. In 2011, Santa Monica adopted a Bike Action Plan to increase biking in the city. Since, adoption the bicycle network has increased from 37 miles to 82 miles and peak period cycling has increased by 79%.	2015

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Gold	1. The City of Santa Monica, the Santa Monica Bike Center and Santa Monica Spoke created a partnership known as "Team Bike Santa Monica." The team, consisting of more than 30,000 riders logged almost 19 million miles in the second year of the online competition. 2. In 2014, Santa Monica received recognition as a Silver-level Bike-Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists.	2015

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. In 2014, Santa Monica oversaw the completion of Phase I of the Metro Expo Light Rail Line, which will connect Santa Monica all the way to Downtown Los Angeles. 2. In 2015, Santa Monica adopted its new Zoning Ordinance, which increases number of large employers subject to trip reduction requirements by 99.4%. 3. In 2015, the city has hosted several 'Kidical Mass' rides as a part of its Safe Routes to Schools program. The weekend rides introduce families to safe biking and fun activities.	2015





Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Santa Monica's General Plan Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE) conserves the city's neighborhoods and historic resources, expands open space, and creates new opportunities for housing where few or none currently exist. It reduces the amount of regional commercial growth and encourages smaller-scale local-serving uses and housing. It encourages new development connected directly to transit, creating a multimodal transportation system that incentivizes walking, biking and transit. It also encourages local-serving retail within walking distance of existing and new neighborhoods, serving to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The LUCE was honored with awards for Sustained Leadership by the Southern California Association of Governments and for Best Comprehensive Plan (Small Jurisdiction) by the Los Angeles and California chapters of the American Planning Association.	2015

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Gold	1. In 2013, the city initiated a working group to reimagine its historic, yet underutilized, Civic Auditorium (which once hosted the Academy Awards) and parking lot into a mixed-use cultural arts district for community use. 2. The city completed the first phase of its Michigan Avenue Neighborhood Greenway (MANGo) which is intended to create an inviting streetscape along Michigan Avenue and adjoining streets. This could be achieved through elements including roadway calming, increased landscaping, sidewalk widening, bike facilities, and enhanced crosswalks.	2015





Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. The city initiated a Memorial Park Neighborhood Specific Plan, aimed at creating strong connections to major destinations in the area, parkland and existing neighborhoods with particular focus on urban design and place-making. The Plan will combine strategies to create multi-modal access to the Light Rail station, shared parking on key sites, and neighborhood integration of the future improved Memorial Park open space including greening of freeway connections. 2. The city is implementing changes to improve Santa Monica High Schools' major access point at the intersection of Michigan Avenue and 7th Street for all modes, and to improve walking and biking safety at this key destination. 3. In 2013, the city completed a Complete Green Street project that included: wider sidewalks, new marked crosswalks with enhanced overhead flashing beacons, painted bike lanes, traffic striping, new artist-designed bike racks, street furniture, recycling cans, 75 pedestrian-scaled light poles and traffic signal improvements.	2015





Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Platinum	- In 2015, Santa Monica adopted its new Zoning Ordinance, which features: - Density Calculation Modification: eliminates half of the rear alley in calculating residential unit density in the R2, R3, and R4 districts, thus reducing the number of allowed units in a new development. - Multifamily Unit Cap: limits maximum density to four units in the R2, five units in the R3, and six units in the R4 districts. “A-Lots” Reversion: reverts 85 commercial parcels to residential land use designations. - Neighborhood-Serving Land Use Incentives: adds new restaurant categories to promote small, local eateries. Larger, commercial tenant spaces will require a discretionary permit. - Legal Non-Conforming Use Classification for Some Hotels: allows existing hotels to remain in residential districts but prohibits intensifying their operations. - Big Box” Retail Restrictions: requires conditional use permits for commercial spaces exceeding size thresholds.	2015





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Silver	1. In 2011, Santa Monica opened a Bike Center that offers bike valet, lockers, showers and free commuter trial bikes for a 2-week period.	2015

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Gold	1. In 2012, the city installed hundreds of bike racks downtown on Main Street, other commercial corridors and at various locations where they were requested or where the existing racks were heavily used. More racks will be installed citywide, including the City's Parks and other popular destinations. 2. In 2013, Santa Monica completed its award-winning Tongva Park, adding 7 acres of botanical diversity, open space and recreation. It is one of six finalists in the Urban Land Institute Global Award of Excellence for Urban Space.	2015

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. In 2013, Santa Monica opened its first universally accessible playground. 2. In 2014, Santa Monica began participating in a pilot program to monitor the net carbon benefit from its urban forest and maintenance inputs. 3. In 2015, the Santa Monica city council adopted a resolution to join a study to assess the feasibility of a regional Community Choice Aggregation entity.	2015





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Silver	1. In 2012, the city initiated a Safe Routes to School Program in response to growing community interest in bicycling and walking at schools, particularly in light of the impressive growth of the annual Bike It! Walk It! Days in October and May (begun in 2007 by the Samohi Solar Alliance). Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a comprehensive program designed to making walking and biking to school a customary part of everyday life.	2015

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Gold	1. Santa Monica is home to one of the largest volunteer events in the world, Coastal Clean-Up Day. In 2014, 700 children from 10 schools in underserved communities came to the beach to play marine conservation-themed games, clean the beach (filling our nine-foot "butt-o-meter" to the brim with cigarette butts) and to tour the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium. 2. In 2015, the city launched a water conservation campaign at the 24th Annual Santa Monica Festival. Residents were encouraged to become water-saving superheroes!	2015





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. The city, in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce and SustainableWorks, hosted the 20th Anniversary Sustainable Quality Awards (SQA) recognizing three Santa Monica businesses with SQA Grand Prize Awards and ten SQA Excellence Awards. Each year the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, the City of Santa Monica, and Sustainable Works come together to identify and recognize Santa Monica businesses that have successfully incorporated sustainable practices into their operations. Significance is placed in the areas of sustainable economic development, social responsibility, and stewardship of the natural environment. The SQA is the oldest and most rigorous sustainable business award in Southern California and has awarded 175 awards to 131 businesses since 1995. 2. The city, in collaboration with SustainableWorks, hosted its 7th Annual Student Sustainability Poster Contest, highlighting water conservation. 3. The city, in collaboration with RideAmigos, Urban Trans and Paradise Consulting, launch a Commuter Challenge program and website www.commutesm.com to encourage carpooling.	2015







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