

PROUD  
PARTICIPANT



Local Leadership Toward  
Solving Climate Change

# City of Santa Rosa

## Best Practice Activities & Accomplishments to Date

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## 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.



This 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.



## 1. Energy Efficiency & Conservation

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. Completed an Integrated Energy Audit for the City of Santa Rosa Laguna Wastewater Treatment Plant (LTP) in March 2012 .This multi-month long study was exhaustive and comprehensive. While the LTP was found to be among most efficiently run, several valuable improvements to increase energy efficiency were identified. These improvements have been implemented.	4-2013
<b>Gold</b>	1. Conducted a number of formal energy efficiency audits for the myriad of City operations and buildings including participation in the PG&E financed Sonoma County Energy Watch Program (SCEW). This program has helped us to retrofit our lighting in City office buildings and in businesses in and around Santa Rosa with the result being reduced energy costs, fewer emissions and a very short payback period; usually less than a year.  2. TBD	4-2013
<b>Platinum</b>	1. TBD  2. TBD  3. TBD	



## 2. Water & Wastewater Systems

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. The Santa Rosa Water Use Efficiency program has been in effect since 1992. Each year it improves to help more and more users become more efficient in their domestic and business water use. This program not only reduces water use and saves money for our customers, it also reduces our need to deliver, collect, treat and reclaim over 1.4 billion gallons of water annually. This significantly reduces our energy use, costs, and GHG emissions related to that energy use.	4-2013
<b>Gold</b>	1. Received official Environmental Management System certification by the National Biosolids Partnership. This certification denotes our on-going commitment to state-of-the-art management of municipal sewage biosolids and required third-party verification for the initial designation and regular internal and external audits for maintenance.  2. Currently exploring the best methods to produce energy and beneficially reuse biosolids with a consultant including ways to improve and extract more energy from our digestion system. The collection and introduction of Fats, Oils and Greases (FOG) to our digesters will improve our waste water collection system by reducing time, money and energy required to maintain this infrastructure. It will also allow us to introduce this waste stream directly into the digesters and enhance methane production.	4-2013  4-2013
<b>Platinum</b>	1. Manages a sub-regional wastewater treatment and beneficial reuse system. We reclaim all of the	4-2013



	<p>wastewater we receive. Over 11 million gallons of our reclaimed water a day is pumped to the Geysers Steam Field located north of the city. Introduction of our reclaimed water is responsible for an additional 185 megawatts of clean, green geothermal steam energy annually.</p> <p>2. TBD</p> <p>3. TBD</p>	
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### 3. Green Building

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. Launched the voluntary Santa Rosa Build It Green (SR BIG) Program. SR BIG followed the US Green Building Councils' Build it Green guidelines for residential construction in 2002.	4-2013
<b>Gold</b>	1. Adopted an ordinance making the SRB BIG guidelines mandatory for new residential construction in 2006.  2. Adopted CalGreen Tier One green building standards.	4-2013  4-2013
<b>Platinum</b>	1. Require any new City buildings to meet LEED Gold performance standards for new construction and remodels.  2. TBD  3. TBD	4-2013



#### 4. Waste Reduction & Recycling

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. Placed blue recycling bins located in every city office and conference rooms in an effort to promote office recycling.	4-2013
<b>Gold</b>	1. The city staff established a library of dishes and cutlery for city functions and events to eliminate the use of single-use plates and utensils. This library can serve groups of over 200 people and has gone viral. We get requests to use the library on a weekly basis. One city event in which over 200 people were served resulted in only 6 pounds of waste going to the landfill. This is a small but fun step in illustrating what is possible and helping people internalize the impact of what can be done to reduce waste. We took donations from City staff to establish the dish library.  2. TBD	4-2013
<b>Platinum</b>	1. TBD  2. TBD  3. TBD	







## 6. Renewable Energy & Low-Carbon Fuels

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. Installed new combined heat and power system at the Laguna Wastewater Treatment Plant. Santa Rosa can now use all of the methane we produce in our biosolids digesters with room for expansion. This facility also allows us to improve our digestion process to produce and use more methane from our existing feedstock of waste.	4-2013
<b>Gold</b>	1. The city has a current portfolio of 11 Photovoltaic (PV) arrays which produce nearly 1 megawatt of solar-generated energy for city operations.  2. Established a unique and award-winning Fuel from Aquatic Biomass, (FAB) Project at the Laguna Treatment Plant.	4-2013  4-2013
<b>Platinum</b>	1. TBD  2. TBD  3. TBD	



## 7. Efficient Transportation

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. Bus fleet is a mix of natural gas and clean diesel fuel. As busses are retired, newer cleaner busses are added to the fleet.	4-2013
<b>Gold</b>	1. City vehicle fleet contains an ever-increasing percentage of hybrid and all-electric vehicles. The fleet currently features 100 vehicles which are hybrid or all-electric.	4-2013
	2. Rideshare programs to enhance carpooling and reduce car trips have been in place for a decade. Special premium parking spaces are awarded to participants.	4-2013
<b>Platinum</b>	1. Any city employee can ride on the City Bus system busses for free by showing their employee ID badge	4-2013
	2. Encourage the use of webinars and teleconferencing to reduce the use of vehicle trips.	4-2013
	3. Installed ten charging stations or plug-In electric vehicles for employee and public use. These stations are part of a regional Plug -In Vehicle Charging Network. This network is coordinated program with other Sonoma county partners to place these stations strategically to promote All-electric vehicle use and reduce 'range anxiety'.	4-2013



### 8. Land Use & Community Design

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. Adopted Community Action Plan, (CCAP) which contains goals and strategies which promote in-fill development and transit oriented development practices. The	4-2013
<b>Gold</b>	1. Adopted Station Area Specific Plan which incorporates housing, neighborhood-serving retail, recreational facilities and mass transit to reduce the need for vehicular travel.  2. Price the fee for on-street parking so that it is relative to congestion	4-2013  4-2013
<b>Platinum</b>	1. Adopted Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan in 2010.  2. TBD  3. TBD	4-2013



## 9. Open Space & Offsetting Carbon Emissions

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. The City of Santa Rosa partners with local farmers and helps them to stay in farming by offering low-cost irrigation water and the infra-structure to maintain the irrigation systems. This helps provide a green-belt of agriculture land around the City of Santa Rosa.	4-2013
<b>Gold</b>	1. Promote local agriculture in many forms including residential fruit and vegetable gardens, community gardens, and revised city codes to allow raising of chickens and bees in the urban areas.  2. TBD	4-2013
<b>Platinum</b>	1. TBD  2. TBD  3. TBD	



## 10. Promoting Community & Individual Action

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. Developed an educational Coloring Book describing the award-winning Fuel from Aquatic Biomass, (FAB) Project at the Laguna Treatment Plant to help children and others understand how it works.	4-2013
<b>Gold</b>	1. Since 2010, the city has organized an annual Earth Day celebration. This event provides a fun, entertainment, creek clean-ups and activities for all people to celebrate our natural environment. Last year over 2000 people attended. The event is solar-powered.  2. TBD	4-2013
<b>Platinum</b>	1. TBD  2. TBD  3. TBD	