

PROUD  
PARTICIPANT



Local Leadership Toward  
Solving Climate Change

# City of Tulare

## Beacon Award

### Accomplishments to Date and Best Practice Activities

#### Accomplishments to Date

(As of 9/22/11)

CRITERIA	AWARD LEVELS		
	SILVER	GOLD	PLATINUM
<b>Agency Facilities</b>			
GHG Reductions	-	-	-
Electricity Savings	5%	10%	-
Natural Gas Savings	-	-	-
<b>Community</b>			
GHG Reductions	-	-	-
Activity Promoting Energy Efficiency	-	-	-
<b>Best Practice Areas</b>			
Completed Activities in Each Area	1	-	-

## 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.

# City of Tulare

Best Practice Activities

[www.ca-ilg.org/BeaconAward/Tulare](http://www.ca-ilg.org/BeaconAward/Tulare)



## Table of Contents

1. Energy Efficiency & Conservation .....	2
2. Water & Wastewater Systems .....	3
3. Green Building .....	5
4. Waste Reduction & Recycling .....	6
5. Climate-Friendly Purchasing.....	7
6. Renewable Energy & Low-Carbon Fuels .....	8
7. Efficient Transportation .....	9
8. Land Use & Community Design .....	10
9. Open Space & Offsetting Carbon Emissions.....	11
10. Promoting Community & Individual Action .....	12



## 1. Energy Efficiency & Conservation

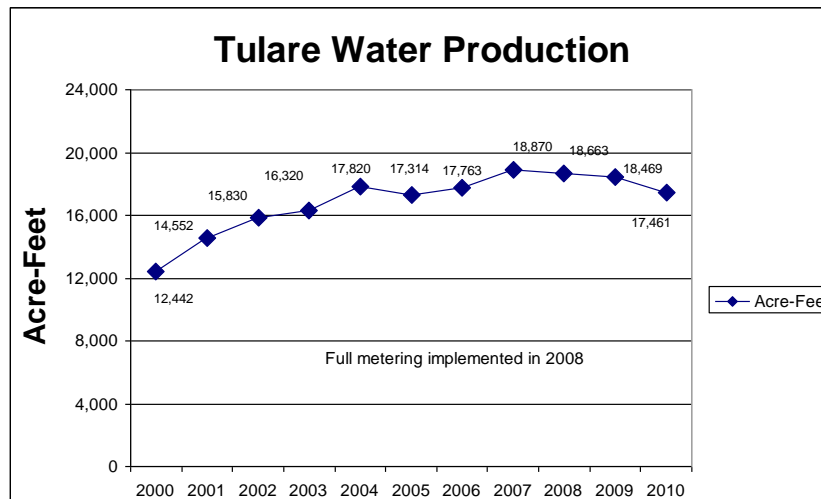
Level	Completed Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. The City entered into a Performance Agreement to retrofit all city buildings (wherever there was economic justification) with high efficiency HVAC systems, double pane windows, T5 fluorescent lighting, programmable thermostats and reflective roof coating.	08-2011
<b>Gold</b>	1. The City's 40 signalized intersections, which had been retrofitted earlier with LED bulbs, were retrofitted with 160 T5 fluorescent safety lighting fixtures.  2. A total of 200 downtown HPS (high pressure sodium) decorative lighting fixtures were retrofitted with T5 lighting.	08-2011  08-2011
<b>Platinum</b>	1. The city is a member of the <a href="#">Energy Champion Partnership</a> with Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas Company.  2. City parking lots have been retrofitted with LED lighting, and nine utility-owned streetlights surrounding the new public library have been retrofitted with LED lights.  3. <i>TBD</i>	08-2011  08-2011



## 2. Water & Wastewater Systems

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. A component of the City's Performance Agreement in 2006 was to meter all 19,000 residential water services in Tulare, meeting state requirements 15 years early. Water consumption per service connection is on the decline. The meters were equipped with remote radio reading registers allowing the entire city to be read by the same two meter readers who previously focused on commercial and industrial meters. The water consumption trend has turned downward, indicating the metering is an effective conservation measure.	08-2011
<b>Gold</b>	1. The city and Tulare Irrigation District entered into a partnership in 2006 to acquire land and construct new groundwater recharge facilities. The city raised water rates to purchase surface water in wet years to put into the recharge facilities. The goal is to recharge between 10,000 and 15,000 additional acre-feet per year to eliminate the groundwater overdraft in the region. Through 2010, we were ahead of schedule on that goal, and 2011 was a very wet water year.  2. The city constructed a new industrial wastewater treatment plant in 2009. The state-of-the-art sequential batch reactor (SBR) is the largest in the US at 12.0 million gallons per day of capacity. The blowers providing air to the treatment process, which now removes nitrates from the effluent, are high efficiency Danish Turbplex 700 hp models, for which Southern California Edison paid the city a \$256,500 incentive.	08-2011  08-2011
<b>Platinum</b>	1. The city is currently constructing a new headworks pumping and screening structure for the domestic	08-2011

	<p>wastewater plant that will include a meter and pinch valve to send wastewater in excess of domestic plant capacity to the unused capacity in the industrial plant. This will allow 8-10 years of overall treatment capability before the domestic plant has to be expanded.</p> <p>2. Treated effluent is used for irrigation of non-food fiber and feed crops, reducing the amount of pumping necessary to irrigate crops on 3,200 acres near the treatment plant.</p> <p>3. <i>TBD</i></p>	<p>08-2011</p>
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#### 4. Waste Reduction & Recycling

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. Member of the Consolidated Waste Management Authority comprising the County of Tulare and seven of its eight cities. The recycling rate is 68% for the CWMA.	08-2011
<b>Gold</b>	1. Provides curbside recycling and green waste collection (composting).  2. <i>TBD</i>	08-2011
<b>Platinum</b>	1. <i>TBD</i>  2. <i>TBD</i>  3. <i>TBD</i>	





## 5. Climate-Friendly Purchasing

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. On November 18, 2008, Tulare approved an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy as an addendum to the City's existing Procurement Policy Section 1C, General Provisions, Recycled Goods.	08-2011
<b>Gold</b>	1. The Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy gives a 5% preference to bids from local vendors.  2. <i>TBD</i>	08-2011
<b>Platinum</b>	1. <i>TBD</i>  2. <i>TBD</i>  3. <i>TBD</i>	



## 6. Renewable Energy & Low-Carbon Fuels

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. The city operates four 300 kW FuelCell Energy biogas fuel cells. This 1.2 MW installation is among the largest in the country operating on biogas. The 9.5 million kWhrs generated annually offset 6,200 tons of CO <sub>2</sub> .	08-2011
<b>Gold</b>	1. The city operates a 450 kW internal combustion engine generator running on biogas.  2. The city has installed a 1.0 MW solar photovoltaic power plant that compliments an earlier 30 kW solar carport at the wastewater treatment plant. The 1.8 million kWhrs generated annually offset 1,175 tons of CO <sub>2</sub> .	08-2011  08-2011
<b>Platinum</b>	1. Member of the US EPA Green Power Partnership. Ranked 16th largest on-site Green Power Generator.  2. The city has provided a public access compressed natural gas (CNG)/liquefied natural gas (LNG) fueling station for fifteen years.  3. The city sponsored the opening of the third public E85 ethanol fueling station in California in February 2008.	08-2011  08-2011  08-2011



## 7. Efficient Transportation

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. The city fuels its diesel fleet with B20 biodiesel.	08-2011
<b>Gold</b>	1. The city LNG fleet includes 21 refuse trucks and transit buses	08-2011
	2. The city CNG fleet includes 30 transit buses, street sweepers and light vehicles.	08-2011
<b>Platinum</b>	1. The city operates a light fleet of 65 flex fuel vehicles on E85.	08-2011
	2. The City established a partnership with the city of Visalia and College of the Sequoias (CoS) to develop a new transit route between Visalia, Tulare, and the CoS campus in each community. This will help facilitate access to each campus, and allow for the utilization of public transportation, therefore reducing reliance on vehicles. In July 2011, there were 3,856 riders on Tulare's buses on the 11x route.	08-2011
	3. <i>TBD</i>	



## 8. Land Use & Community Design

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. The Tulare Redevelopment Agency has established a priority for infill sites, many of which are environmentally contaminated, and is working to promote the sustainable redevelopment of infill sites through an active Brownfield's revitalization program, Façade improvement program in the downtown and active Economic Development department that works to revitalize vacant and underutilized buildings.	08-2011
<b>Gold</b>	1. In the previous five years, the Redevelopment Agency has secured over \$1,000,000 to assess, plan, and cleanup a variety of contaminated infill sites within the City of Tulare. This effort included the cleanup of a railroad site adjacent to the downtown corridor, which is being redeveloped as a Fresh & Easy and other retail providers. Additionally, the program includes a health & safety component, so the Agency has been able to integrate tracking of contaminated sites with permitting systems, and support additional training opportunities for the fire department.  2. Implementing <a href="#">Brownfields 2010 Job Training</a> through the US EPA.	08-2011  08-2011
<b>Platinum</b>	1. <i>TBD</i>  2. <i>TBD</i>  3. <i>TBD</i>	



## 9. Open Space & Offsetting Carbon Emissions

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. Tulare has an integrated non-motorized transportation program in West Tulare, which includes evaluation of non-motorized transportation about Mulcahy, Roosevelt and Maple Schools, the installation of over 24,000 sq. ft. of new sidewalks and improvements, and the development of a new neighborhood Park at Mulcahy School. All of the improvements are either connected by new sidewalks or the Santa Fe recreational trail, which travels 6 miles east/west through the city of Tulare. These improvements promote access to open space by children at the schools and the neighboring 57-unit affordable housing development Tule Vista. This collaboration is a prime example of how successful planning and coordination between municipal departments can lead to safer community, reduced vehicle usage, and improved access to open space and recreational opportunities.	08-2011
<b>Gold</b>	1. <i>TBD</i> 2. <i>TBD</i>	
<b>Platinum</b>	1. <i>TBD</i> 2. <i>TBD</i> 3. <i>TBD</i>	



## 10. Promoting Community & Individual Action

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. The City of Tulare has implemented a Tulare Affordable Solar Program (TASP), which provides gap financing to install individual solar systems on affordable single-family housing, in conjunction with the state Single-family Affordable Solar Homes (SASH) rebate. Through TASP and partnering with <a href="#">GRID Alternatives</a> , Tulare anticipates installing solar on over 30 residential single family homes in Tulare. To date, there have been approximately 20 residential systems installed utilizing the SASH rebate, in partnership with GRID Alternatives.	08-2011
<b>Gold</b>	1. The City is actively marketing and utilizing the California PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) program, in coordination with FIGtree Energy Resource Company. Tulare launched a marketing campaign in August 2011 for the program, in the hopes of expanding utilization and energy retrofits to commercial facilities in Tulare.  2. <i>TBD</i>	08-2011
<b>Platinum</b>	1. <i>TBD</i>  2. <i>TBD</i>  3. <i>TBD</i>	