

GOLD LEVEL AWARD WINNER



City of Union City

Sustainability Best Practices Activities

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

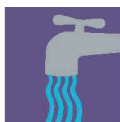
The Beacon Program is funded by California utility ratepayers and administered by Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Diego Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas Company under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.



SPOTLIGHT AWARD

Areas of Accomplishment

		SILVER LEVEL	GOLD LEVEL	PLATINUM LEVEL
	Agency GHG Reductions			
	Community GHG Reductions			
	Agency Energy Savings		11%	
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities	2012	2013	





Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Performed energy audits of all city facilities.	2012

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities	Reported
Gold	1. Installed the following improvements at city facilities: Central plant retrofit at City Hall/PD Station; Rooftop air handler units and cool roofs at City Hall and Holly Center; Energy management system at City Hall, Library, and Holly Center; Heat pump unit replacement at Kennedy Center; and Interior / exterior lighting retrofit. 2. Completed street light retrofit of 4,200 high pressure sodium street lights with energy-efficient induction lights.	2012

Level	Energy Efficiency & Conservation Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. Launched the Union City Energy Smart Campaign in September 2011, is a partnership between the city, PG&E and the Chamber of Commerce to offer Union City businesses valuable no-cost energy assessments, no-cost programs and financial incentives and rebates. 2. Provided funds to Rising Sun to establish a California Youth Energy Service (CYES) program, which promotes energy conservation and sustainable living via an employment program for youth ages 15-22. The program trains and employees youth during the summer to perform Green House Calls. 3. Worked with Pacific Gas and Electric to host an energy efficiency forum for high energy users within the city.	2012





Water & Wastewater Systems Activity

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activity	Reported
Silver	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Updated landscape regulations to include additional water reduction measures that addressed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance requirements Bay-Friendly landscaping requirements (which includes water-efficient components) Requirement for use of compost and mulch in City and private development projects 	2012

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Installed six Bay-Friendly landscapes at city facilities. Installed a Bay-Friendly demonstration garden at a local park, which includes a self-guided tour that explains bay friendly practices to the public. Garden was designated the highest rated Bay-Friendly landscape in the Bay Area. 	2012

Level	Water and Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Upgraded existing public landscape watering systems to be more water efficient (i.e. evapotranspiration based). 	2012





Green Building Activity

Level	Green Building Activity	Reported
Silver	Expanded existing Municipal Green Building Ordinance to apply to private development projects in 2010. New residential construction is required to be GreenPoint Rated and commercial projects must comply with the Stopwaste.Org Small Commercial Green Building Checklist.	2012

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Require all new city facilities to meet at least LEED Silver certification standards. 2. Constructed a new Fire Station that obtained LEED Gold certification. 	2012

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To incentivize solar energy, the city established a fixed fee (previously based on valuation) for residential and commercial solar permits. 2. Trained appropriate agency staff (including planners, inspectors and plan checkers) in green building standards and technologies to facilitate approval and inspection processes. 3. TBD 	2012





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activity

Level	Waste Reduction Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Worked closely with Stopwaste.org to draft county-wide mandatory commercial recycling ordinance which requires businesses and multi-family dwellings of five or more units that generate four cubic yards or more of solid waste collection per week to recycle.	2012

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implemented a Food Scrap Recycling program for commercial uses. To date, have successfully recruited nearly 40 restaurants and other food waste generators. 2. Conducted solid waste/recycling audits on behalf of the Alameda County Green Business Program. 	2012

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Set printers at City facilities to print double-sided as default. 2. Switched to electronic city council meeting packets in place of printed packets. 3. Performed recycling outreach at several community events including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Union City / Hayward business expo where staff distributed materials promoting City's commercial recycling program; Science in the Park event which attracted several thousand visitors. Hosted popular recycling booth, and shared recycling information with general public and business leaders; and National Night Out event where staff distributed information about recycling program 	2012





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activity

Level	Climate-Friendly Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Implemented an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) policy for city facilities that addressed a variety of sustainable priorities including: recycled content products, energy and water saving products, products that reduce pollution and products that promote forest conservation.	2012

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Established an Interdepartmental Green Action Team (GAT) that meets regularly to discuss a variety of sustainable topics including implementation of the City's EPP program. The GAT was instrumental in establishing the EPP and their continued support and feedback ensures that the program is being successfully implemented. 2. EPP policy requires the city purchase remanufactured products such as toner cartridges, tires, furniture, equipment and automotive parts whenever practicable, but without reducing safety, quality or effectiveness. 	2012

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EPP policy requests vendors to eliminate packaging or use the minimum amount necessary for product protection, to the greatest extent practicable. 2. EPP policy requires all products for which the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has established minimum recycled content standard guidelines in the Agency's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines, such as those for printing paper, office paper, janitorial paper, construction, landscaping, parks and recreation, transportation, vehicles, miscellaneous and non-paper office products, shall contain the highest postconsumer content, but no less than the minimum recycled content standards established by the U.S. EPA Guidelines, when practicable. 3. EPP requires that all products purchased by the city and for which the U.S. EPA Energy Star certification is available shall meet Energy Star certification, when practicable. When Energy Star labels are not available, the City of Union City shall choose energy-efficient products that are in the upper 25% of energy efficiency as designated by the Federal Energy Management Program. 	2012





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activity

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Installed the largest CNG fueling station in Southern Alameda County.	2012

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Gold	1. Allow public use of city CNG fueling station. 2. In process of converting the majority of city-owned vehicles (including busses owned by the City's Transit Agency) to run on CNG.	2012

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Platinum		2015





Efficient Transportation Activity

Level	Efficient Transportation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Updated Zoning Ordinance to provide incentives for new development to implement transportation demand management strategies.	2012

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Working with the Southern Alameda County Air Resources Team to put together a White Paper on private shuttles in the hopes of organizing Union City businesses to work together to establish a shuttle system between the City's Industrial areas and BART. Installed bicycle racks at city facilities to promote bicycle use by employees and visitors. 	2012

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. Updated Zoning Ordinance to require multi-family and nonresidential development to provide bicycle parking and added bicycle parking requirements that reflect best practices.	2012





Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Put plans and policies in place to facilitate development of a transit-oriented new town center (Station District) around the city's existing Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) station that allows for densities up to 160 units per acre.	2012

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Utilized approximately \$45 million of City Redevelopment monies to partially fund a 157-unit affordable housing development adjacent to the BART station. The project received a LEED Platinum certification from the USGBC. Put plans and policies in place and completed the environmental review for the development of an Intermodal Station to provide much-needed linkages between heavy rail (ACE Train, Capital Corridor) and BART and provide opportunities for the development of additional rail systems (Dumbarton Rail and Super Ace). 	2012

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Developed a paid parking program (eliminated free parking) in Station District to encourage people to walk, bicycle and utilize transit. Completed a substantial upgrade to the existing BART Station that included new solar facilities and improved pedestrian, bicycle and transit access. Developed Union City's first Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan in 2006 and updated it in 2012. 	2012





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Silver	1. Plant approximately 500 new trees per year at city-owned facilities, city parks, and within the city's rights-of-way (i.e. in sidewalk areas and medians).	2012

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In 2011, restored a portion of Old Alameda Creek by planting 70 native trees. 2. In 2011, restored portions of Dry Creek by planting 30 native trees and mulching all bare areas with wood chips that were recycled from tree crew operations. 	2012

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planted an additional 75 native trees in riparian areas throughout the City 2. Worked with the community to establish a community garden and recently added an additional 20 new plots. 3. Gave away 200 saplings at annual Earth Day event. 	2012





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Silver	1. Member of Bay Area Regional Advisory Working Group for SB 375 implementation. Responsible for reviewing and providing feedback on the draft Sustainable Communities Strategy.	2015

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Gold	1. Member of the sub-committee working group for the Adapting to Rising Tides (ART) project. The ART project is working on understanding the impacts of climate-related sea level rise on Union City and a few additional cities to the north. Several public reports have been prepared or are in process. 2. Established the Climate Protection Task Force to review and provide feedback on the City's CAP and to help monitor and assess plan implementation.	2015

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. Provide yearly update reports to the City Council and public regarding CAP implementation.	2015







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