

PLATINUM LEVEL AWARD WINNER

BEACON
SPOTLIGHT
AWARD
WINNER
BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of Ventura

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 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	8%		
Natural Gas Savings			
Sustainability Best Practice Activities			2016



City of Ventura

Best Practice Activities

www.ca-ilg.org/BeaconAward/



Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city participates in the in Southern California Edison’s Energy Leader Partnership and has attained the Silver Level Tier. The partnership assists with identifying and addressing energy efficiency opportunities in municipal facilities and pays increased incentives for city energy efficiency projects.	2016

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities	Reported
Gold	<p>1. The city has installed energy efficient fluorescent ceiling lights at city hall, city hall north, police and fire headquarters, west park gymnasium, Abinger Library, fire station 1, avenue adult center outdoor lighting. The city has installed LED exit signs at all large facilities. The city replaces standard light bulbs with compact fluorescents, LEDs or other energy efficient lighting. The city has installed energy efficient lights and motion sensors in the downtown and beachfront parking structures. The city used Energy Efficient and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) to install LED Energy efficient lights in city owned street lights as well as installed LED or energy efficient lights in traffic signals.</p> <p>2. City facilities department has aggressively pursued energy efficiency projects to reduce building and outside lighting electricity use. In fact, building energy use decreased by at least six percent under the 2007 baseline. Energy efficiency projects include the following: HVAC improvements at city hall, wastewater administration and operator building, police and fire headquarters and replaced the maintenance yard heat pumps with a variable refrigerant HVAC system. The city also replaces damaged weather stripping on doors and windows to increase energy efficiency and utilizes window film in city facilities for added reduction in energy loss and solar heat emissions. The city also utilizes server virtualization to increase energy efficiency. The city has also replaced the city hall chiller. The city has been honored by the California Energy Commission for conservation efforts and the Governor’s annual “Flex Your Power” award for outstanding leadership in energy efficiency.</p>	2016





Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency & Conservation Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The city completed an Integrated Demand Side Management audit at all eligible facilities greater than 200kW.2. The city installed a new energy management software at police and fire headquarters.3. Completed an Energy Action Plan for SCE Energy Leader program.	2016





Water & Wastewater Systems Activity

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city participates in the emPower Central Coast program. emPower Central Coast provides free faucet aerators and water-efficient shower heads to residents during Energy Coach site visits as well as community events. The faucet aerators and low-flow shower heads are provided by Southern California Gas Company.	2016

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ventura Water has aggressively pursued more efficient practices, including using pumps controlled by efficient variable frequency drives, pumping water during offpeak hours, and using gravity for distribution from storage tanks. These efforts have cut water treatment and distribution electricity use by 25% since 2007. Ultimately, Ventura Water would like to be “off the grid” – reduce energy through more efficient operations and using renewable energy to produce the remaining balance. The city has lowered watering times for every irrigation station. The city requires all new developments and capital improvement projects overseen by the parks to install smart meter irrigation systems. The city also utilizes Maxicom irrigation systems at agency parks. The systems automatically shuts off during precipitation to avoid over-watering. 	2016

Level	Water and Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The city converts all non-essential turf to drought tolerant plants. The city also retrofitted city fire stations with water efficient landscaping. The city’s parks division uses a significant amount of water to maintain acres of turf and landscape; however, water use has decreased since 2007 as water efficiency measure have been implemented such as turf upgrades, replacements, and ball field improvements. The city also mulches grass back into the turf to recycle nutrients and eliminate disposal of grass clippings. The city replaces inefficient water heating systems and installs low flow toilets (1.6 gpf) and water efficient devices in city kitchens, bathrooms, and locker rooms. 	2016





Green Building Activity

Level	Green Building Activity	Reported
Silver	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city has participates in the emPower Central Coast OProgram since 2014. The emPower Programs includes an Energy Coach service where coaches that spend up to two hours with a homeowner at their residence providing them with information on green building techniques and recommendations to improve their home's energy efficiency. The emPower Program also works with contractors to provide them with training on green building techniques. Please see the following link for more information: https://www.empowersbc.org/its-easy-get-started/energy-advice. 	2016

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The emPower Central Coast Program has teamed up with the statewide Energy Upgrade California program to provide homeowners with increased utility rebates for implementing energy efficient upgrades. Please see the following link for more information on emPower's rebate program: https://www.empowersbc.org/about-program. 2. The city is a participating member of the Ventura County Regional Energy Allciance (VCREA). VCREA offers utility sponsored quarterly green building standards trainings to staff from member agencies. These trainings include but are not limited to updates to Title 24, benchmarking and HVAC trainings. 	2016

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In 2007, the City of Ventura City Council approved a green building resolution that encourages and incentivizes green building for private developments and requires all new city facilities to incorporate green building components. The city incentivizes green building by implementing "front of the line permitting" for green building projects. 2. In September of 2010, the solar permitting fee was dropped from \$254 to \$1 per kilowatt installed. As a result, permit applications went up 50 percent. 3. The city uses compost and mulch in agency landscaping as a water conservation measure. The city also mulches all green waste and donates the mulch for public use. 	2016





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activity

Level	Waste Reduction Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city has adopted waste diversion programs to reduce municipal solid waste, including office recycling, outdoor recycling in public areas, street sweepings composting, and using City tree waste as mulch.	2016

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city provides recycling containers at all employee work stations. 2. In 2009 and 2011, the city conducted solid waste assessments at city hall, the maintenance yard, and police and fire headquarters. The city piloted a project in the maintenance yard replacing all desk-side garbage cans with small, "side-car" garbage cans to encourage recycling over landfilling. 	2016

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city requires all new construction projects to develop a solid waste management plan. City staff work with contractors to increase diversion rate to at least 60% of construction and demolition waste from the landfill. 2. The city diverts street sweeping debris to composting; which is estimated to divert an additional 2-3 thousand tons per year. 3. The city conducted an inventory of copiers and printers to give printing preference to those that have two-sided printing capability. All new city printers and copiers must have two-sided printing capabilities. The city has also implemented a best management practice that requires staff to print double-sided. 	2016





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activity

Level	Climate-Friendly Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city utilizes occupancy sensors throughout city facilities.	2016

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> In 2009, city council approved an updated Procurement Manual that included a green product/service preference section. This section outlines recommended actions for reducing the environmental footprint associated with the products purchased by the city. The city has implemented a Green Purchasing Policy that includes purchasing only 100% recycled office paper; purchasing Energy Star® certified office equipment and appliances; and replacing toxic cleaning products with environmentally friendly alternatives. The city uses Green Seal cleaning products used within facilities. The city has established “re-use” areas for staff to share unused office products. 	201

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The city considers the following environmental attributes when selecting products: pollution reduction, waste generation, carbon emissions, recycled content, energy conservation, and resource conservation. The city encourages employees to use reusable dishware, bottles and cups. The city’s Green Team raises awareness and develops programs emphasizing the importance of energy efficiency and responsible use of city resources. The city also provides energy saving tips to all employees. The Green Team educates, trains, and empowers the agency’s housekeeping contractor to properly manage the disposition of trash and recyclables. 	2016





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activity

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city has installed 10 Electric Vehicle charging stations throughout the city with grant funding.	2016

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city has installed bicycle racks, and other amenities at agency facilities to promote bicycle use by agency employees and visitors. 2. Ventura in partnership with the Community Environmental Council (CEC) kicked off the Solarize Ventura, making it simple and affordable for Ventura homeowners to go solar. The city coordinates with the CEC to provide free solar workshops to Ventura residents, businesses, and industrial property owners throughout the year. 	2016

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In 1994, the city installed a co-generation unit that uses waste gas to generate electricity. The co-generation system, which provides about 45 percent of the electricity used at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), and other energy efficiency efforts have reduced the WWTP's electricity use by 5.3 million kWh, saving over \$450,000 annually. 2. In 2005, the city's facilities department installed a 110 kilowatt solar electric system at the Sanjon Maintenance Yard. The system produces about 180,000 kilowatt hours of electricity each year -- about 45 percent of the facilities electricity needs and the amount used by 30 homes. The city utilizes solar for its water mixing system and has also installed Solar panels at the Bailey Reservoir. 3. The city continuously looks for opportunities to install solar electric and solar hot water systems on city facilities. The city also works to identify alternative renewable opportunities such as wind, co-generation, etc. 	2016





Efficient Transportation Activity

Level	Efficient Transportation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city works with other agencies such as the Ventura County Transportation Commission to make regional bus and train service available to meet citizens' needs as well as share transportation-related information, coordinate planning goals, and take advantages of opportunities to combine and leverage resources.	2016

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Gold	<p>1. The city developed an employee education campaign to promote a comprehensive fuel conservation policy, fleet efficiency efforts, and responsible use of city resources. The campaign included the following: minimal idling; optimizing routes; carpooling; using transit; and potentially shared city commuter rideshare. In 2009, the city began installing “No idle devices” in all black and white police vehicles. The city also implements a No-Idle policy that states that vehicles should not idle for more than five minutes.</p> <p>2. The city purchases hybrid and fuel efficient vehicles, when feasible, as well as select replacements vehicles with highest environmental scorecard rating. Thus far, the city has replaced fleet sedans with over 24 hybrid gas/ electric vehicles saving over 2,800 gallons of fuel per year. The city’s current “green” fleet make-up is as follows: four in community development; three in the fire department; one in finance and technology; four in the police department; three in public works; four in the general motor pool; four electric utility carts; and one electric vehicle in environmental sustainability.</p>	2016





Efficient Transportation Activity

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="342 543 1273 898">1. The city's fleet services currently manages over 600 vehicles and small equipment. In 2007, Fleet vehicles consumed over 280 thousand gallons of fuel, resulting in 2,555 metric tons (MT) of carbon emissions. Through various fuel reduction efforts, including purchasing more fuel efficient vehicles and eliminating underutilized vehicles, annual fuel use decreased to 232 thousand gallons in 2011. This 18 percent reduction in fuel use cut fuel costs by over \$135,000 and reduced municipal carbon emissions by 450 MT. In recognition of these fuel efficiency efforts and other sustainable practices, fleet services received the national Top Green Shop Award from Fleet Equipment Magazine in 2009. <li data-bbox="342 909 1273 1224">2. The city offers many bike programs such as free bike rack installation on city sidewalks in front of Ventura businesses as long as the location meets the minimum requirements. The city offers free bike valets for city sponsored events, for example over a hundred people avoided the hassle of parking and rode their bikes to the July 4th street fair this year where the transportation division provided a free bicycle valet service from 10am to 5pm. Riders thoroughly enjoyed the convenience and were happy their bikes were kept safe while attending the street fair. The city also offers free bike lockers to all residents. <li data-bbox="342 1234 1273 1371">3. The city distributes brochures showing the community bicycle and walking trail systems to encourage reduction of vehicle miles traveled. For more information please see the following link: www.goventura.org/?q=travel-ventura/bike/bike-maps. 	2016





Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city participated in Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) development of the Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), in compliance with SB 375. The addition of the sustainable communities strategy to the RTP means that the RTP now integrates not only transportation and land-use planning, but also housing and environmental planning with the goal of reducing regional greenhouse gas emissions. The city uses the RTP/SCS when conducting its own transportation, land use, and environmental planning to assist in efforts to reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions.	2016

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Since 2014, the city has offered the CaliforniaFIRST program as an energy financing program for residential, commercial, industrial and multifamily property owners to install energy efficient retrofits, solar photovoltaic, or hot water systems on new or existing residential and commercial buildings. In 2015, the city added HERO, Ygrene, and Figtree energy financing providers. 2. As part of the general plan housing element update, the city identified potential infill development sites, and maintains a community-wide database of vacant and underutilized infill sites to monitor the community's growth and change. 	2016

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. The city has reviewed zoning codes and development policies to identify changes that could improve implementation of land use and transportation policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	2016





Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
<p>Platinum</p>	<p>2. In May 2011, the city council adopted a new Bicycle Master Plan: www.cityofventura.net/files/file/SAadopted%202011%20Bicycle%20Master%20Plan.pdf.</p> <p>3. In an ongoing effort to improve travel modes, the city installed colored bike lanes. The city's primary reason for the use of the colored bike lanes was to improve safety. "Highlighting" these areas of bike-vehicle interaction is one of the city's efforts to heighten attention of people in vehicles and on bicycles. The city identified seven locations on Main St between Mills and Telephone, including a two stage left turn queue bike box, to install colored bike lanes. There is currently one additional project designed with green lanes also along Main St near Ventura High School.</p>	<p>2016</p>





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Silver	1. The city hosts three certified farmers market throughout the week: one on Saturdays from 8:30 am to noon at the corner of Palm and Santa Clara Streets, one on Wednesdays from 9am to 1 pm at Pacific View Mall, and one on Thursdays from 3 pm to 7 pm at Ventura Community Park.	2016

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city's parks division maintains more than 800 acres of parkland and facilities, which includes over 35 parks and recreation facilities serving various interests from sailing, surfing, tennis, league sports, skateboard parks, playgrounds and picnic areas. The city's numerous park ensures the long-term health and viability of trees and other vegetation. 2. The city utilizes integrated pest management practices at agency parks to reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers. 	2016

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city plants native trees and drought tolerant vegetation throughout the community. 2. In 2016, the city is expanding the community's open space by adding a park in western Ventura. 3. The city has plans to develop an Urban Forestry Management Plan. 	2016





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Silver	1. The city participates in the emPower Central Coast Program, which provides LED lightbulbs, reusable bags, and other give-away items at community events in Ventura to encourage environmental responsibility.	2016

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Gold	1. The city collaborates with other local government agencies to share information about climate change and best practices to reduce greenhouse gases. For example, the city participates on an advisory working group for implementing a community choice aggregation program in Ventura County. 2. The city publishes weekly environmentally related articles in the "Open Line".	2016

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. The city participates in a Coastal Clean-up Day every September. 2. The City's Green Business Certification Program (GBCP) recognizes and rewards small and medium sized Ventura businesses that demonstrate a substantial and purposeful commitment to environmental stewardship through solid waste reduction, energy and water conservation, environmentally preferable purchasing, air quality improvement and pollution prevention. The purpose of the free program is to help Ventura businesses become more efficient and competitive, in addition to being environmentally friendly. Businesses are not expected to make unreasonable capital investments. Most of the certification criteria are behavioral- and process-oriented and do not require additional expenditures. The city promotes Certified Green Businesses on the city website, in publications and recognizes them at a city council meeting. Certified Green Businesses receive a plaque and the official Ventura Certified Green Business logo to display in their window, use on their website and display in other marketing materials. 3. The city's Sustainable Ventura webpage is a portal for the City's environmental programs: www.cityofventura.net/environmental .	2016





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