

SILVER LEVEL AWARD WINNER



# City of Whittier

Sustainability Best Practices Activities



**ILG** INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT<sup>SM</sup>  
*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		12%	
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities	2016		



## Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. In 2012, the city replaced two-thirds of the original windows at city hall with dual-glazed windows. The benefits of the new windows include energy conservation and improved comfort for employees and visitors.	<b>2016</b>

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	1. The city replaced boilers in city hall. 2. The lobby lights in city hall were updated to LED.	<b>2016</b>

Level	Energy Efficiency & Conservation Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	1. Both the Central Library and the Whittwood Branch Library recently has heating ventilation and air conditioning systems replaced with new, energy-efficiency systems. 2. The city updates all traffic signals to LED signal heads. 3. The city implemented a network virtualization system that decreases the number of physical servers required to run the network, lowering the cost and electrical usage to run the network and cool the server room.	<b>2016</b>





# Water & Wastewater Systems Activity

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activity	Reported
Silver	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The city adopted a water efficient landscaping ordinance in 2009 to establish provisions for water management practices and water waste prevention. Since the adoption of the ordinance, hundreds of properties have submitted landscape and irrigation plans adhering to the ordinance requirements.</li> </ol>	2016

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The city installed native and other low-water plants in many city parks and landscaped areas, including the Whittier Greenway Trail. In addition, a native plants demonstration garden was opened at Laurel Station. These plants can dramatically reduce the use of water save between 20-40% of irrigation costs.</li> <li>The city has converted irrigation systems at most parks and city hall to newer models with smart controllers. The smart systems detect moisture in the ground and deliver irrigation only as needed to sustain plant life. Drip systems deliver the water directly to the plants' roots to avoid evaporation. The system also sends messages when an unusually high level of water is recorded to warn of possible leaks in the system.</li> </ol>	2016

Level	Water and Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funded by a state prop 84 grant, the city constructed the Whittier Greenway Trail Bioswale adjacent to Whittier Boulevard abetween Mar Vista and Pickering Avenue. The bioswale addresses an existing urban runoff problem into a swale area lined with rocks, gravel and plants to slow the drainage and facilitate its reintroduction into the ground.</li> <li>As a demonstration project, many public buildings have been outfitted with waterless urinals to conserve water.</li> <li>The city uses recycled water to irrigate portions of Founders Park, Guirado Park and Palm Park.</li> </ol>	2016





# Green Building Activity

Level	Green Building Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city adopted the 2013 Green building code as part of the California building code to establish environmentally sound design and to address energy sustainability in a number of areas. <i>(Was this beyond what was required?)</i>	2016

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The City of Whittier recently adopted a Low Impact Development ordinance as part of the Whittier Municipal Code. The ordinance prescribes green practices for new construction, with an emphasis those that reduce the amount of pollutants that are carried by storm water to creeks, rivers and the ocean.</li> <li>2. The city dictates that all new construction must reduce the overall use of potable water within a building by 20% and comply with statewide goals for water conservation.</li> </ol>	2016

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city passed a new code establishing new fireplace emissions standards to prevent any unused fuel from escaping the sealed fireplace to maintain indoor air quality and increase energy efficiency.</li> <li>2. The city passed a new code to set limits on volatile organic compounds (VOCs) of finish materials commonly installed in construction projects, which will help to improve air quality for building occupants.</li> <li>3. The city requires that newly constructed projects must reduce the amount of light and glare from both interior and exterior light sources, leaving the site. These standards will minimize light pollution and maintain dark skies.</li> </ol>	2016





# Waste Reduction and Recycling Activity

Level	Waste Reduction Activity	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. The city makes available personal and community recycling containers to encourage recycling and waste reduction. As a result, hundreds of city workers and community members regularly recycle paper products, beverage containers, which has substantially reduced the amount of solid waste going to the landfill.	<b>2016</b>

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All residential buildings up to fourplexes are provided blue containers for mixed recycling automated collection and green containers for green waste automated collection. Since the program was put into place, the city's total waste diversion increased to 65%.</li> <li>2. In 2013, the city implemented a commercial and multifamily recycling program. Apartment complexes with more than four units and businesses now have the same opportunity to subscribe to recycling services.</li> </ol>	<b>2016</b>

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city has used rubberized asphalt street resurfacing in some street resurfacing projects. This material is made from crumb rubber and recycled tires which would have otherwise been disposed of in the landfill. Public works most recently completed a project on Janine Drive.</li> <li>2. Whittier owns and operates its own landfill in the center of the city. The location substantially reduces the traffic and air quality impacts of transporting solid waste.</li> <li>3. The city has a Construction and Demolition policy dictating that half of all construction and demolition waste must be recycled to reduce the amount of waste generated, thereby extending the life of the landfills. This also encourages material resource efficiency through reuse of construction waste products.</li> </ol>	<b>2016</b>





# Climate-friendly Purchasing Activity

Level	Climate-Friendly Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Some of city's newer and recently remodeled buildings were equipped with paperless hand dryers that reduce solid waste and energy consumption.	2016

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city purchased electric and hybrid vehicles instead of conventional gas vehicles for the city fleet.</li> <li>2. The city purchased 60 virtual desk top machines for the central library and Whittwood Branch which cost less and use less electricity. Virtual PCs have fewer parts and a longer life span than traditional computers. They are also more environmentally-friendly to recycle.</li> </ol>	2016

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Platinum		





# Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activity

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city's Savage Canyon Landfill captures methane gas from the decomposing waste. The gas is pumped through underground pipelines to PHI Health for its energy use. The gas is used to operate engine generators to create electricity for the hospital campus. This project saves thousands of dollars in hospital power bills and serves as an alternative energy use.</li> </ol>	<b>2016</b>

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Whittier was ne of the first cities in California to being converting its fleet to clean burning compressed natural gas (CNG) install of gasoline diesel. Now virtually the entire fleet of city garbage trucks is comprised on CNG trucks. In addition, the city has CNG fueled lift trucks, sewer maintenance trucks, transit buses and street sweeping vehicles.</li> <li>2. The city constructed a CNG filling station at the city yard to serve its growing fleet of CNG vehicles and equipment.</li> </ol>	<b>2016</b>

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city received a federal grant to improve bus stops and shelters. As part of the project, bus stop lights and poles were converted to solar energy.</li> </ol>	<b>2016</b>





# Efficient Transportation Activity

Level	Efficient Transportation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The City of Whittier completed a Bicycle Transportation Plan. The plan provides guidance for incorporating bicycle facilities into maintenance and development projects. The city has been very aggressive about competing for grant funding to provide new and improved bicycle facilities. One of the city's most impressive projects is the Whittier Greenway Trail which opened in 2009 on the old railroad right-of-way.	2016

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. City employees are encouraged to rideshare in a number of ways. An annual commuter survey tracks commuting patterns and offers employees the option of being linked with other employees who live nearby, City employees who rideshare qualify for reserved preferential carpool parking at city hall and receive other incentives.</li> <li>2. The city provides Whittier residents with a discount for Metro's monthly bus passes.</li> </ol>	2016

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city hosts an annual Bike to Work Day event on the Greenway Trail near Palm Park, encouraging employees and residents to try to bike to work and take advantage on this community resource.</li> <li>2. The city updated bicycle parking requirements to ensure the newly constructed projects provide short and long term accommodations for bikes.</li> <li>3. The city updated parking requirements to promote the use of clean air vehicles. Parking is reserved for alternative fuels, flexible fuels and other fuel efficient vehicles in an effort to conserve natural resources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</li> </ol>	2016





# Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activity	Reported
Silver	1. In 2013, Whittier adopted a Green Streets Policy and Green Guidance Manual which provide a policy of design and street improvement projects to encourage the reduction of polluted surface water runoff.	2016

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city adopted the Uptown Whittier Specific Plan to guide development within the uptown area. The plan provides for mixed use development in a way that allows residents to live, work and play in one area.</li> <li>2. The city council adopted the Whittier Boulevard Specific Plan to encourage mixed use development patterns in an effort to eliminate the need to drive.</li> </ol>	2016

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Platinum		





# Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Silver	1. The city has implemented online payments and permit renewals for business licenses, utility payments and recreation class registration and payments. By allowing the public to conduct these transactions online, the city reduces the need for citizens to travel to city hall, thus saving energy, improving air quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.	2016

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Gold		

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Platinum		





# Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Silver	1. The city provides live streaming video of city council and planning commission meetings online in addition to the longstanding meeting videos on city Channel 3. Residents who may not have access to cable television can view meetings live and in the video archives on the website to members of the public can more easily learn about decisions affecting the community.	2016

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Gold		

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Platinum		





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