



# Sustainability News

Climate Change - Land Use & Environment - Healthy Neighborhoods

## About ILG

The [Institute for Local Government](#) promotes good government at the local level with practical, impartial, and easy-to-use resources for California communities.



ILG is the nonprofit research and education affiliate of the League of California Cities & the California State Association of Counties.

## In This Issue

### Featured Best Practice Area

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## We Want to Hear From You!

What is your agency doing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save energy, and promote sustainability?

Share your story to be highlighted on our website! [Fill out this online web form](#) or send an email to [sustainability@ca-ilg.org](mailto:sustainability@ca-ilg.org) and we'll follow up with you.

## About This Newsletter

Our goal is to highlight and share information about the innovative and exciting sustainability activities of California cities and counties. We invite you to share feedback about Sustainability

## Open Space & Offsetting Carbon Emissions

### Featured Climate Action & Sustainability Best Practice Area

#### Why It's Important

Forests, parks, agricultural lands and open space serve as "carbon sinks" by storing greenhouse gas emissions that otherwise contribute to climate change. Other benefits include jobs and economic activity from agriculture, recreation and tourism; better health from physical activity and access to fresh local food; and a higher quality of life and more attractive communities for businesses and residents.

#### Where to Learn More

- [Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emissions Best Practices](#)
- [Funding Open Space Acquisition Programs](#)
- [Financing Sustainability Webinar Series Archive](#)
- [Financing Local Sustainability Efforts](#)

#### Featured Resource: Housing-Related Parks Program

\$25 million is available to cities and counties in 2012 for the creation, development, or rehabilitation of park and recreation facilities through the California Department of Housing and Community Development's [Housing-Related Parks Program](#). The program was recently featured as a part of an webinar through [ILG's Sustainable Communities Learning Network](#), [view the webinar recording](#) to learn more.

#### Additional Resources

- [Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emissions Resources](#)
- [The California Land Conservation \(Williamson\) Act 2010 Status Report](#)
- [California Council of Land Trusts](#)
- [Resource Conservation Districts](#)

#### What Beacon Award Communities Have Done:

- In 2007 Santa Clarita property owners voted for the [Open Space Preservation District](#) which is funded through a special assessment on property owners.
- The Town of Apple Valley is working with state and federal wildlife agencies to create a new [Multispecies Habitat Conservation Plan](#).
- The City of Chula Vista has adopted [Climate Adaptation Strategies](#), committing the City to ensuring that its open space and wildlife preserves are resilient to expected climate change impacts.
- The City of Santa Barbara conducted a [Tree Inventory and Assessment Report](#). The data received will allow the City to effectively manage resources, develop policies, and set priorities.

#### ILG's Climate Action & Sustainability Best Practice Areas

News, Comments and suggestions can be directed to [sustainability@ca-ilg.org](mailto:sustainability@ca-ilg.org).

### Upcoming Events

#### February 8, 2012

11:00 a.m. - 12 p.m.

[Webinar: Working with Your Local Electric Utility](#)

ICLEI

#### February 16, 2012

2:00-3:00 p.m.

[Webinar: Free Resources for Energy Planning -- SEEC Tools and How to Use Them](#)

Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative- LGC

#### March 6, 2012

10:00- 10:45 a.m.

[Webinar: How to Participate in the Beacon Award Recognition Program -- Understanding the Basics](#)

Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative- ILG

#### April 3, 2012

10:00-11:15 a.m.

[Webinar: The Beacon Award - From Participant to Award Winner, Moving Your Agency Forward](#)

Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative- ILG

#### Ongoing

Multiple Locations Statewide  
[More SEEC Events & Trainings Coming Soon](#)

Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative- ICLEI

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## Beacon Award Program Update

### 35 Participating Agencies

Since our last update, six agencies have moved through the application process into full-fledged participants, including:

- [City of Delano](#)
- [City of Glendale](#)
- [City of La Mesa](#)
- [City of Rancho Cucamonga](#)
- [City of Rolling Hills Estates](#)
- [City of West Sacramento](#)

**PROUD PARTICIPANT**



**Local Leadership Toward Solving Climate Change**

Read about their climate action activities by clicking on each link above. We're delighted to welcome these agencies into our program!

### Beacon Award Informational Webinars

Interested in learning more about the Beacon Award? Join ILG for two informational webinars this Spring to learn the basics of our program and take advantage of the opportunity to have our staff answer any questions that you may have. [Click here to read more about the webinars and register now!](#)

### Interim Accomplishments

As cities and counties participating in the Beacon Award program work to complete the criteria necessary to achieve a [Silver, Gold or Platinum Beacon Award](#), we are providing the opportunity to recognize interim accomplishments. [Click here to read about participant accomplishments and completed best practice activities.](#)

### Join the Beacon Award!

Applications to participate are being accepted on an ongoing basis. Information about the Beacon Award program, including an online application and support materials, is available at: [www.ca-ilg.org/BeaconAward](http://www.ca-ilg.org/BeaconAward).

## Engaging the Public in Open Space, Parks & Recreation Development

### Why It's Important

Involving the public in the development of parks and recreational opportunities provides local officials with information as to which options would be most utilized and valued by community members.

### Where to Learn More

- [How To Tips for Parks and Recreation Outreach Activities](#)

[Involving Youth in Your Agency's Sustainability Activities](#)

- [Beyond the Usuals: Ideas to Encourage Broader Public Involvement in Your Community](#)
- [Ten Ideas to Encourage Immigrant Engagement](#)

Read about what local agencies around the state are doing to engage the public in open space, parks & recreation activities:

- [City of Folsom](#)
- [City of Lancaster](#)
- [City of Long Beach](#)
- [City of San Rafael](#)

For more information see [ILG's Public Engagement Program](#).

## Additional Sustainability Resources

### New Tools

- [Financing Program Decision Tool](#) (US EPA)
- [Clean Energy Financing Programs: A Decision Resource for States and Communities](#) (US EPA)
- [Energy Award Facility Siting & Permitting Guide](#) (California Energy Commission)
- [Energy Efficiency in Local Government Operations: A Guide to Developing and Implementing Greenhouse Gas Reduction Programs](#) (US EPA)

### New Reports & Fact Sheets

- [Delivering Energy Efficiency to Middle Income Single Family Households](#) (Lawrence Berkeley National Lab)
- [Valley Innovative Energy Watch Benchmarking](#) (Statewide Local Government Energy Efficiency Best Practices Coordinator)
- [North Park Main Street Energy Makeover](#) (Statewide Local Government Energy Efficiency Best Practices Coordinator)
- [Strategies for Sustainable Communities: A Guidebook Based on California Community Types](#) (Governor's Office of Planning & Research)
- [Active Transportation Beyond Urban Centers: Walking & Bicycling in Small Towns & Rural America](#) (Rails-to-Trails Conservancy)
- [Bicycling and Walking in the U.S.: 2012 Benchmarking Report](#) (Alliance for Biking & Walking)
- [Retrofitting the Suburbs to Increase Walking](#) (UC Transportation Center)
- [Putting Smart Growth to Work in Rural Communities](#) (International City/County Management Association)
- [Supporting Sustainable Rural Communities](#) (Partnership for Sustainable Communities)

### Webinar Recordings

- [Energy Program Funding for Local Governments, December 1, 2011](#) (Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative- LGC)
- [Financing Energy at the Local Level, December 6, 2011](#) (Sustainable Communities Learning Network)
- [Climate Action Planning and CEQA: Resources and Answers for Local Governments, January 26, 2012](#) (Statewide Energy

Efficiency Collaborative- ICLEI)

- [Opportunities to Fund Local Parks & Open Space, January 31, 2012](#) (Sustainable Communities Learning Network)

