

BEACON  
 SPOTLIGHT  
 AWARD  
 WINNER  
 BEST PRACTICE  
 ACTIVITIES



# City of Chula Vista

## Sustainability Best Practice Activities


		 <i>Promoting Good Government at the Local Level</i>					

# City of Chula Vista

California communities are leading the fight against climate change. From small projects to large-scale programs, cities and counties are making great strides to create healthy, sustainable and economically prosperous communities. Participants in ILG's Beacon Program serve as leaders in this effort, making measureable contributions to reducing energy and greenhouse gas emissions, and sharing their sustainability best practices.

This document represents a collection of activities your agency has completed in 10 areas of sustainability. While local governments have a wide range of choices available to address climate change, these activities represent the unique opportunities and values in your community. These voluntary actions are essential to achieving California's goals to save energy, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and create more sustainable communities.

## SPOTLIGHT AWARD

Areas of Accomplishment		SILVER LEVEL	GOLD LEVEL	PLATINUM LEVEL
	Agency GHG Reductions		2013 (13%)	2016 (29%)
	Community GHG Reductions		2020 (12%)	
	Agency Energy Savings		2013 (15%)	2014 (24%)
	Natural Gas Savings			2013 (30%)
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities			2013
	Beacon Vanguard Award		2020	

Cities and counties throughout the Golden State should be proud of the accomplishments made through the hard work, innovation and collective community action. The Institute for Local Government applauds your achievements and thanks you for your continued participation in the Beacon Program.

The Beacon Program is sponsored by the Institute for Local Government and the Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative (SEEC). SEEC is an alliance between three statewide non-profit organizations and California's four Investor-Owned Utilities. 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.



# Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities

## Silver

1. The city retrofitted over 1,700 outdoor light fixtures at over 50 municipal sites with induction technology, which can generate 545,000 kWh in annual energy savings.

## Gold

2. The city converted 4,200 streetlights along residential roadways to LED technologies, which reduces energy use and improves light quality for public safety purposes.
3. The city's Home Upgrade, Carbon Downgrade program has provided over 1,900 rebates to local community members (using ARRA funds) for replacing their old home appliances with more energy efficient models.

## Platinum

4. The city distributed almost \$100,000 in incentives to residents to support whole-home retrofits through Home Upgrade, Carbon Downgrade under the statewide Energy Upgrade California.
5. The City of Chula Vista installed new high-efficiency condensing boilers at both municipal aquatic centers generating over 30,000 therms in annual energy savings.
6. The city upgraded the heating and air conditioning system at the Chula Vista Public Works Corp Yard generating over 300,000 kWh in annual energy savings.
7. Pilot Project: Retrofitted 205 florescent lamps to LED lighting, The total savings equals 58.6 kWh.
8. The city has launched two residential and commercial PACE programs that have helped finance more than two million in energy savings and water savings upgrades to date.





# Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

## Silver

1. The city is proposing an ordinance to require pre-plumbing in new residential homes for single-source (laundry-to-landscape) graywater systems.

## Gold

2. The city is developing a “Water Reuse Resource Guide” to help educate community members about safe, effective ways to install graywater and rain harvesting systems.
3. In partnership with San Diego Gas & Electric, distributed over 500 indoor water savings kits to residents through city-sponsored events.

## Platinum

4. Over 350 residential, business and school properties have participated in the city’s sustainable landscaping program (“NatureScape”).
5. Chula Vista is the largest city in California to receive certification through the National Wildlife Federation’s ‘Backyard Habitat’ campaign, which promotes wildlife and water-friendly landscaping.
6. The city’s new Landscape Water Conservation Ordinance establishes water budgets for new construction and major renovation projects, which emphasize water-wise plants and high efficiency irrigation systems.
7. The city has launched two residential and commercial PACE programs that have helped finance more than two million in energy savings and water savings upgrades to date.
8. In 2014, the city passed a PACE expansion guideline that enables three more providers to offer their services in Chula Vista.
9. In 2014, the city installed smart irrigation controls in 22 parks and landscaped facilities.
10. The city provides five public workshops on outdoor water conservation.





# Green Building Activities

## Silver

1. The city adopted a mandatory Green Building Standard and is the only jurisdiction within San Diego County to have done so. Since its inception in 2010, 630 new residential and commercial units have complied with the standards.

## Gold

2. The city adopted "Solar Ready" ordinance requiring residential units be pre-wired and pre-plumbed for solar photovoltaic and solar hot water systems, respectively.
3. The city is currently completing a cost effectiveness study to determine the feasibility of incorporating "cool" roof and paving standards to help increase energy savings and mitigate the "Urban Heat Island Effect."

## Platinum

4. Chula Vista's Green Building Standard requires a 20% improvement in indoor water conservation for new and renovated buildings.
5. The Green Building Standard requires a 15-20% improvement in energy efficiency for new and renovated buildings, energy efficiency and indoor air quality.
6. The Green Building Standard requires low volatile organic compounds (VOC) construction and finishing materials to sustain healthy indoor air quality in new and renovated buildings.
7. In 2014, the city passed the Chula Vista Landscape Water Conservation Ordinance requiring new homes to be pre-plumbed for single-source (laundry to landscape) grey water irrigation.
8. In 2014, the city hosted workshops focused on green building topics for city staff and general residents.





# Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

## Silver

1. The city adopted a comprehensive Construction and Demolition Debris Ordinance, which requires 100% of inert materials and at least 50% of remaining debris generated from a project to be recycled or reused.

## Gold

2. The City of Chula Vista offers master composter classes to community members helping to educate them about sustainable landscaping and diverting organic materials from the landfill.
3. The city continues to successfully implement numerous reduce, reuse and recycling initiatives allowing the jurisdiction obtain a 50% diversion rate.

## Platinum

4. The city completed a pilot project that incorporated recycled asphalt roof shingles into roadway pavement capital projects.
5. The city of Chula Vista expanded material management services to include pharmaceutical collection and document shredding events for the community.
6. As part of Household Hazardous Waste program, the city initiated door step collection for disabled and elderly residents and mail-back, sharp waste (needles and syringes) containers at 20 local pharmacies.
7. In 2014, the city has a an experimental program to determine logistics and operational issues associated with food waste collection citywide.
8. The city's master composter training course has expanded to include free weekly backyard composting training programs at the Living Coast Discovery Center, city subsidized compost bins are made available to workshop attendees. In 2014, 250 residents attended the workshop.





# Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

## Silver

1. The city adopted an Environmental Preferable Purchase Policy.

## Gold

2. The city updated the Environmental Preferable Purchase Policy to provide a more effective, streamlined method to ensure that the city is leveraging its “purchasing power” to promote sustainable products/services.
3. The city encourage municipal departments to purchase products/services from local businesses enrolled in the city’s CLEAN Business recognition program.

## Platinum

4. The city launched a “virtual warehouse” to facilitate the reuse and sharing of existing office supplies and equipment amongst city departments.
5. The city hosted a green purchasing training, in collaboration with Office Depot, for local businesses and city procurement specialists.
6. The city is completing a study to evaluate opportunities to integrate “cool paving” materials into municipal parking lot and street rehabilitation projects.
7. The city has started training to assure 80% of all items purchased by the city are certified green. Currently 50% of all city items are certified green.





# Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

## Silver

1. The city created a Municipal Building Energy Policy requiring new and renovated city buildings to incorporate on-site renewable energy systems to meet at least 20% of building energy demand.

## Gold

2. The city installed a 12,000-gallon biodiesel tank at its public works yard allowing over 125 heavy-duty vehicles to convert to the low carbon fuel source.
3. The biodiesel fuel is refined from locally-collected used restaurant grease and oil, thus turning a waste product into a valuable resource.

## Platinum

4. The city installed a solar hot water system at the city's main aquatic center drastically reducing natural gas consumption.
5. Using federal stimulus funds, the city has completed installation of over 450 kW of solar photovoltaic systems at 11 facilities over the past year.
6. The city of Chula Vista has worked with the city-contracted trash hauler and transit fleets to transition to 100% alternative fuel sources.
7. The city has installed a system to monitor all 18 solar producing sites in order to help save time, money and fuel cost associated with driving to each site inspection.







# Efficient Transportation Activities

## Silver

1. The city is implementing a grant from the National Association of Realtors to educate large local employers and professional realtors about alternative commute options, with a special focus on bicycling.

## Gold

2. The city of Chula Vista hosted a presentation highlighting the economic, environmental, health and broader quality of life benefits from bicycling. Attended by over 300 businesses, employees and realtors.
3. As part of this grant, the city also created its first "Bike Chula Vista: Map & Resource Guide" that included bicycling safety tips and local bike shop information.

## Platinum

4. In partnership with all eight bike shops in Chula Vista, over 5,000 bike maps were distributed to community members in less than six months.
5. The city of Chula Vista applied for "business-friendly" recognition from the American League of Bicyclists.
6. The city updated its Bikeway Master Plan to assess current bicycle infrastructure deficiencies and to plan for 50+ miles of additional bike paths, lanes and routes.
7. The City of Chula Vista received the bronze award for Bicycle Friendly Business by the League of American Bicyclist in 2014.
8. The city hosted an employee Lunch-N-Learn and Bike to Work pit stop events to help educate employees on alternative commute options.





# Land Use and Community Design Activities

## Silver

1. In coordination with a community stakeholder group, Chula Vista began developing a new general plan, zoning and operation guidelines for Electrical Generating Facilities (EGF) including peaker power plants, emergency generators and private facilities.

## Gold

2. The city's draft regulations in the zoning and operation guidelines of the General Plan would require any new energy generation facility to offset 100% of their greenhouse gas emissions through local energy efficiency and other mitigation projects.
3. The city's new policy would also incentivize clean and renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, fuel cells and biogas.

## Platinum

4. The city of Chula Vista has updated its Air Quality Improvement Plan guidelines to require integration of energy efficient building and transportation design into large development projects (50 or more dwelling units or equivalent).
5. The city's design guidelines were updated to emphasize sustainable design features (such as shade trees, water-wise landscaping, passive solar/ventilation and multi-modal transportation) into smaller development projects (less than 50 dwelling units).
6. For new development projects, Chula Vista requires that all new development projects analyze their GHG emissions and design their projects to exceed "business as usual" by at least 20%.





# Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

## Silver

1. The city adopted climate adaptation strategies, committing the city to ensuring that its open space and wildlife preserves are resilient to expected climate change impacts.

## Gold

2. The city is currently revising the city's habitat monitoring, management and restoration protocols to address different climatic conditions in the future.
3. The city evaluating opportunities to leverage the emerging "carbon market" as a means to fund the ongoing management and expansion of its urban forests.

## Platinum

4. The city adopted a new Shade Tree Policy that requires 50% shade cover for parking stalls and encourages preservation of existing shade trees.
5. The city installed master valves throughout the city's open space network to prevent water leaks from irrigation line breaks.
6. The city is developing a new Natural Resources Management Plan, through a stakeholder-driven process, to better manage the Chula Vista bayfront's sensitive species and habitat.





# Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

## Silver

1. The city is implementing part of a federally-funded grant with the California Center for Sustainable Energy to develop the Chula Vista Community Savings Initiative, a “group buy” program for whole home energy upgrades.

## Gold

2. The city assisted Rancho del Rey residents in selecting preferred Energy Upgrade California contractors, who will offer generous discounts and extended warranties to participating homeowners in their neighborhood through the initiative.
3. The City of Chula Vista collaborated with the California Center for Sustainable Energy and San Diego Gas & Electric to develop an Energy Showcase Home providing residents an opportunity to learn firsthand about home energy upgrades.

## Platinum

4. The City of Chula Vista created and maintains facebook page for Chula Vista Clean promoting regional sustainability events and opportunities.
5. Under the Free Resource & Energy Business Evaluation (FREBE program), Chula Vista provided approximately 3,000 free energy and water evaluations to businesses as part of the city’s licensing process.
6. The city enrolled over 100 local businesses into its CLEAN Business recognition program to highlight their sustainable operations and facilities.
7. The city started participating in the Georgetown University Energy Prize to challenge and encourage residents to save energy.







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