

BEACON
SPOTLIGHT
AWARD
WINNER
BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of Colton

Sustainability Best Practice Activities



ILG INSTITUTE FOR
LOCAL GOVERNMENTSM
Promoting Good Government at the Local Level

City of Colton

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

SPOTLIGHT AWARD		SILVER LEVEL	GOLD LEVEL	PLATINUM LEVEL
Areas of Accomplishment				
	Agency GHG Reductions			
	Community GHG Reductions			
	Agency Energy Savings	2018 (8%)		
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities		2019	
	Beacon Award			

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 of Colton completed a facility air conditioner audit to improve SEER ratings of its current AC inventory and to mitigate some of its peak demand by installing ice bear thermal energy storage on city facilities.

Gold

2. In August of 2017, the city council approved the plan to replace two AC units at the Luque Community Center as a pilot demonstration for thermal energy storage. The pilot program was successful, resulting in the city performing an audit of the AC units at all city facilities. The audit results identified five city buildings that can benefit from the replacement of 11 existing AC units with ice bear 20 energy storage cooling units. The ice bear operates by shutting off its self-contained compressor as scheduled and automatically dispatching an equivalent amount of energy storage cooling energy from the ice bear unit. Whenever cooling is required outside the period of time when the cooling is provided from the stored cooling energy, the ice bear units compressor provides up to 5 tons of cooling operating like a conventional AC unit.
3. Residential Energy Efficiency Rebate program: the city offers a variety of residential customer rebates for specific energy efficiency home improvements. Rebates are provided for the following product list: occupancy sensors (limit eight), ceiling fan (limit four, must be Energy Star approved), box fan (limit four), wholehouse fan, evaporative cooler, room AC (must be Energy Star approved), solar attic fan, solar light tube (limit two), pool pumps (two speed and variable speed only), clothes washer (must be Energy Star approved), dishwasher (must be Energy Star approved), refrigerators (must be Energy Star approved), and LED holiday/decorative lights rebate.

Platinum





Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

Silver

1. To promote water efficiency, the City of Colton provides \$2 per sq ft, up to \$800, for turf removal. Additional rebates are available to residents for planting of drought tolerant plants, high efficiency sprinkler heads, drip irrigation, weather based irrigation, and mulch/gravel.

Gold

2. Commercial Water Efficiency Rebate programs: Colton Water District (CWD) offers commercial as well as industrial and institutional customers the same rebates as residential customers, however the maximums allowed are considered on a case-by-case basis, depending on the type of rebate as well as the customer type. Greater consideration is given to these types of customers since they typically will be reducing their water use by a greater amount than residential customers. They still must meet all the same requirements as the residential customers to be considered for the rebate programs.
3. Residential Indoor Water Efficiency Rebate Program: CWD offers residential customers rebates for specific water efficiency home improvements inside their home. Rebates are provided for the following products: toilets (limit three, must be water sense approved), clothes washer (must be Energy Star approved), dishwasher (must be Energy Star approved), and shower heads (limit three, must be water sense approved).

Platinum

4. The City of Colton developed a custom measure rebate program for any new construction buildings that go above Title 24 at 10 cents per kWh for the first year of estimated savings.





Green Building Activities

Silver

1. The City of Colton began retrofitting all their main medians that had grass with high efficiency irrigation and drought tolerant plants and trees.

Gold

2. The city adopted the CALGreen Building Code on January 1, 2014 and facilitates the use of green building standards and LEED or similar programs in both private and public projects to conserve natural resources.
3. Colton adopted the Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance November 11, 2014.

Platinum

4. The City of Colton retrofits several city facilities every year replacing all lighting to LEDs. In 2019, the city replaced the lighting in its warehouse, public works building and fire station bays.





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

Silver

1. The city is a partner in the Zero Waste Communities of San Bernardino County. Comprised of 15 cities and the County of San Bernardino, these agencies have partnered to educate residents and businesses on waste reduction, reuse, and recycling.

Gold

2. The city launched its organics recycling program in 2018. All commercial business, including city departments have an active organics program. All food waste goes to a processing center in Perris run by CR&R that has a state of the art anaerobic digester making food into natural gas that is so pure its pumped right back into the SoCal Gas pipe line. They reuse the fuel to fuel their trash trucks.
3. The city participates in a storm water waste reduction program with 15 cities and the County of San Bernardino. It promotes education and giveaways to engage the community to properly dispose of the household hazardous waste to prevent it from going into storm drains.

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Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

Silver

1. The city began a thermostat replacement program. Smart thermostats help reduce cooling waste by programming the units to not run when offices are closed and limiting access to staff changing the temperatures to ones that would often freeze out the condensers on old units. The city discovered that many of the ACs were running seven days a week even though staff work 4/10 hour days.

Gold

2. The city conducts electric vehicle (EV) and alternative fuel purchasing for fleet.
3. The city offers an EV rebate to promote zero-carbon transportation. A resident who owns or leases a used EV under Colton Electric service territory are eligible to receive a \$1,000 rebate. Customers enrolled in the low-income program are eligible to receive an increased rebate of \$1,500.

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Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

Silver

1. The City of Colton has committed to install EV chargers for any staff that purchases an electric vehicle. Currently three different offices have EV charging stations.

Gold

2. The electric vehicle charger rebate offers \$500 to EV drivers who install level 2 (240-volt AC) plug-in chargers at their residences in the service territory of Colton Electric Department.
3. The City of Colton installed 17 EV charging stations throughout the city to foster the growth of zero emission vehicles.

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Efficient Transportation Activities

Silver

1. The city website provides trip planning resources designed to make transit ridership easy and accessible to residents.

Gold

2. The General Plan Circulation Element and Land Use Element requires all new non-residential, mixed-use, and large-scale residential development projects, through the development review process, to include public transit, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities.
3. Through the General Plan, the city requires new developments of more than 100 employees (per building or per tenant/company) to develop transportation demand management programs to minimize automobile trips and to encourage transit, ridesharing, bicycling and walking.

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Land Use and Community Design Activities

Silver

1. In 2015, the city adopted the Climate Action Plan (CAP), which presents greenhouse gas inventories and builds upon regional work on the San Bernardino County Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan. The CAP refines the regional information to provide city-specific information and includes a local implementation and evaluation plan for greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction measures. The City of Colton selected a goal to reduce its community GHG emissions to a level that is 15% below its 2008 GHG emissions level by 2020.

Gold

2. On May 1, 2018, the city adopted an Active Transportation Plan (ATP), which creates a comprehensive pedestrian and bicycle network through improving pedestrian and bicycle connections both within Colton and to adjacent destinations. The plan seeks to address transportation gaps in a city where walking, biking, and riding public transit are often the only transportation modes available for residents and students; a significant portion of Colton is considered “disadvantaged” by the State of California. The plan provides detailed and informative engineering recommendations for all pedestrian, bicycle, and safe routes to school corridors, and is complemented with detailed cost estimates. The plan also includes an extensive outreach component. Overall, \$18.5 million in infrastructure improvements are proposed.
3. The South Colton Livable Corridor Plan was adopted in July 2019. This plan incorporates planning land use principals to help a disadvantaged community struggling community have a plan for redevelopment. The plan incorporates a better planning design for zoning for older residential housing surrounded with mixed use and industrial businesses. It helps South Colton not be divided by the train fly-over that is a separation grade from the down own area of Colton.

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Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

Silver

1. To reduce electricity use and increase shading, the city offers tree planting rebates of approved low-water trees to residents for up to \$250 for five trees.

Gold

2. To offset carbon emissions the City of Colton enrolled in the Low Carbon Fuel Standard. These credits are sold to fund more program for GHG-reducing vehicle emissions programs, such as expanding electric vehicle infrastructure and used electric vehicle rebates.
3. The city has a curbside adopt-a-tree program. The city will plant a tree in the parkway in front of a residence or business. As long as they sign a care agreement to water the tree, the city will maintain it. This was another program developed to increase the city's tree canopy to 30% over the next 20 years.

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4. The city adopted an Urban Forestry Management Plan on January 12, 2018. Colton's vision for an urban forest is a sustainable and resilient mix of healthy trees throughout public parks, avenues, parkways, arroyos, rivers, and open spaces. Colton's trees provide residents and the business community with beauty, shade, comfort, health, and economic benefits. Colton's trees are cared for, valued, and protected by the city and its citizens as a treasured community asset.





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

Silver

1. The city actively engages with residents through the conservation program's social media accounts, sharing upcoming sustainability events, resources, and ways to get involved.

Gold

2. The City of Colton annually unites the community with planting events twice a year and invites the residents to plant trees and plants to rehabilitate landscaping throughout the city.
3. The City of Colton launched its community sustainability partners program to recognize businesses in Colton that meet the three categories of sustainability (energy efficiency, water conservation and recycling). The businesses will be honored once a year at an April city council meeting, with a plaque along with media and press releases for their efforts.

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