

BEACON

SPOTLIGHT
AWARD
WINNER
BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of Oxnard

Sustainability Best Practice Activities

City of Oxnard

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		2016 (10%)	
	Community GHG Reductions			
	Agency Energy Savings			2016 (27%)
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities		2016	2017
	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 participates in the in Southern California Edison's (SCE) Energy Leader Partnership and has attained the Gold Level tier. The partnership assists with identifying and addressing energy efficiency opportunities in municipal facilities and pays increased incentives for city energy efficiency projects.

Gold

2. In June 2013, the city council approved City and Community Energy Action Plan and adopted the associated Resolution No.14,371.
3. General Services renovated the Campus Park Gymnasium building with energy efficient lighting and HVAC systems. The city estimates this renovation has saved 7,800 kWh of electricity, 500 therms of natural gas, and 5 MT CO₂e.

Platinum

4. The city completed SCE-sponsored energy audits at eight government facilities in 2010 and 2011. The audits focused primarily on efficiency opportunities related to interior and exterior lighting systems. The city made a number of HVAC controls and equipment replacements at several facilities.
5. The city completed lighting upgrades at eight audited facilities, replacing outdated T12 and T8 interior lighting with energy efficient fluorescent T8 lamps and ballasts, installed LED exit signs, and incorporated lighting controls, such as occupancy sensors and timers. The city replaced exterior fixtures with fluorescent and induction lighting technologies. These upgrades have saved approximately 356,900 kWh of electricity and 103 MT CO₂e.
6. The city continually upgrades HVAC equipment to keep facilities operating as efficiently as funding allows. Several improvements include the installation of a new air-cooled chiller on the civic center east wing and the installation of a digital building automation system at the main library. Upgrades to the civic center have reduced electricity by approximately 15,500 kWh and GHG emissions by 4 MT CO₂e. Upgrades to the library have saved approximately 38,000 kWh of electricity, 700 therms of natural gas, and 15 MT CO₂e.





Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

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.

Gold

2. Launched in 1999, the city's GREAT Program is a comprehensive water supply project that is designed to improve water supply reliability, improve water quality for the future, and reduce the city's reliance on imported water supplies. The program combines wastewater recycling, recycled water distribution, and use for irrigation and industrial uses, aquifer and groundwater injection, storage and recovery, and restoration of wetlands to provide reliable water supply to the city and environs.
3. The city's Advanced Water Purification Facility (AWPF) opened in January 2015. Treated wastewater from the Oxnard Wastewater Treatment Plant is further treated at the AWPF using advanced state-of-the-art processes. The AWPF recycled water is available for landscape irrigation, industrial processes, and agricultural irrigation. The water is so pure it can be used to meet any water supply needs in the future, including replenishing Oxnard's groundwater supply.

Platinum

4. The city's Water Conservation and Education Program protects future water resources through effective conservation practices by providing education and training, funding opportunities, and technical assistance to all city water customers. Activities include public outreach, education, monitoring, and enforcing programs for efficient utilization of the city's water resources.
5. The city provides information on the agency's website about how residents can prevent stormwater pollution. The webpage contains information on not using excess fertilizers and pesticides, as well as picking up after pets. It also has information on rail barrels, permeable pavement, and grassy swales.
6. The city is a "WaterSense" partner with the U.S. EPA, helping customers use water resources more efficiently. Oxnard provides links to rebates for high-efficiency toilets and clothes washers, as well as links to free conservation devices.





Green Building Activities

Silver

1. The emPower Program 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. They also works with contractors to provide them with training on green building techniques.

Gold

2. 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.
3. The city is a participating member of the Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance (VCREA). VCREA offers utility sponsored quarterly green building standards trainings to staff from member agencies. These trainings include, but are nut limited to updates to Title 24, benchmarking, and HVAC trainings.

Platinum

4. The city completed work on its state-of-the-art Brackish Groundwater Desalter in 2008. The Brackish Groundwater Desalter raised the bar in terms of sustainability and was awarded the LEED Gold Award for conserving energy, water, and building materials.
5. The city created a dedicated page on the agency's website to help residents find green building information and resources.
6. The city has trained appropriate agency staff, such as planners, inspectors, and plan checkers, in green building standards and technologies to facilitate the permitting approval and inspection processes.





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

Silver

1. The city's Del Norte Regional Recycling and Transfer Stations hosts a Recyclable Household Hazardous Waste Center, which is responsible for accepting and recycling material from Oxnard residents that drop-off antifreeze, batteries, used motor oil, water-based paint, and electronic devices.

Gold

2. The city's Environmental Resources Division is working to develop a Zero Waste Strategic Plan. The plan will serve as a roadmap to reduce waste going to the landfill, increase reuse and recycling opportunities, generate clean energy, and explore new policies and technologies in order to conserve natural resources and reduce GHG emissions.
3. The city includes recycling opportunities on the agency's website.

Platinum

4. In 1995, the city council adopted a Solid Waste Source Reduction Policy. From double-sided copies to citywide facility office paper recycling, city staff actively participates in helping to reduce the amount of waste going to the landfill. Other items recycled include batteries, fluorescent lights and e-waste, such as outdated or broken computers, monitors, and other electronics.
5. The city provides free "biohazard" rigid plastic sharps containers for used needles and lancers at collection facilities for individuals to use at home. The collection centers are located at Oxnard Public Health, Las Islas Urgent Care, Magnolia Family Clinic, and Las Islas Urgent Care.
6. Each year, the city conducts numerous neighborhood clean-up events throughout the community. These events include collecting e-waste, greenwaste, trash, and donations of non-perishable food items for Food Share.





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

Silver

1. The city established a Green Team in 2009. The Green Team is comprised of staff from multiple city departments and is responsible for coordinating sustainability and environmental initiatives, policies, and programs in municipal operations. Four department directors and the city manager's office form an Energy Initiatives Steering Committee that sets direction and coordinate executive-level decisions.

Gold

2. The city council adopted a Green Procurement Policy in 1995. Green procurement includes buying products made with post-consumer recycled content, which helps create a marketplace for materials collected through municipal recycling programs. The city's green procurement efforts include the purchase of envelopes, file folders, memo pads, and copier paper made with post-consumer recycled content.
3. The city distributed the SCE energy solutions brochure to all city employees.

Platinum

4. The city considers efficient transportation methods when purchasing goods and services, such as using local vendors and or locally produced goods to reduce GHG emissions.
5. The city has reviewed current purchasing practices to identify possible green procurement opportunities.
6. The city considers life cycle pricing to ensure that the maintenance, operating, insurance, disposal, and replacement cost of producers or services are considered when evaluating purchase options.





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

Silver

1. The city has installed over 13 public electric vehicle charging stations.

Gold

2. The Oxnard Wastewater Treatment Plant produces methane gas as a byproduct of the digestion processes. The methane is used to fuel three cogeneration engines that can supply approximately 40% of the plant's electrical demand. To maximize the volume of fuel for its cogeneration plant, the Oxnard Wastewater Treatment Plant also accepts fats, oil and grease waste steams into its digesters and can add natural gas purchased from SoCalGas to the digester gas stream at the cogeneration engines.
3. 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.

Platinum

4. The city has installed bicycle racks and other amenities at agency facilities to promote bicycle use by agency employees and visitors.
5. The city adopted Ordinance 2915 in December 2016, which includes a Solar Ready Policy requiring new agency buildings to be pre-wired and pre-plumbed for solar photovoltaic and solar hot water systems.
6. The city adopted Ordinance No. 2892, which expedites small residential photovoltaic solar applications to encourage installation of photovoltaic systems on new or existing residential buildings.





Efficient Transportation Activities

Silver

1. The city's fleet services is proud of the many environmentally friendly "green" practices used to take care of the city's 900 vehicles ranging from police cars and fire trucks to refuse equipment. Each year, the city garage recycles more than 10,000 gallons of used motor oil, hydraulic fluid, and antifreeze; oil change intervals have been stretched out leading to a 35% reduction in oil use; drip pans are used to prevent loss of antifreeze to the environment. Fleet services also uses state-of-the-art equipment to maintain air conditioner refrigerant systems. Since 2008, two of the fleet services facilities have been recognized as a California EPA "Green Shop".

Gold

2. As part of the Oxnard Police Department's Operation Safer and Stronger Campaign, a short video was produced to inform the public on bicycle safety. The six-minute video was created specifically for children and their parents to learn the basics of bike safety, bicycle laws in California, and how to conduct regular bike maintenance.
3. In 2006 and 2007, the city replaced all incandescent traffic and pedestrian signal lamps with LED lamps, reducing operational costs through direct energy cost savings and reduced maintenance cost due to the extended life of LED lamps. The city estimates these improvements have saved 2,028,600 kWh of electricity and 584 MT CO₂e.

Platinum

4. Thousands of recycled tires were diverted from disposal through the use of 94,683 square yards of rubberized asphalt concrete (RAC) for city street projects. RAC incorporates ground tire (crumb) rubber into the hot mix. The RAC Program helps divert material from the landfill and conserves natural resources.
5. The city's Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Master Plan describes policies, goals, and objectives for developing a safe, convenient, and effective citywide system that promotes bicycling and walking as safe and viable transportation and recreation opportunities.
6. The Oxnard Transit Center (OTC) opened in 1986, providing residents with a two-story, 13,000 square foot brick building. This regional multi-modal transportation facility offers connections between Los Angeles, local and commuter bus service, Metrolink commuter rail service, Amtrak, Greyhound bus service, VISTA, Gold Coast Transit, and Harbor Beaches Dial-A-Ride.





Land Use and Community Design Activities

Silver

1. The city participated in SCAG's development of the Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). The addition of the SCS 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 GHG emissions. The city uses the RTP/SCS when conducting its own transportation, land use, and environmental planning to assist in efforts to reduce regional GHG emissions.

Gold

2. The 2030 General Plan, Chapter 2, Sustainable Community, provides the majority of energy-related goals and policies, including Energy Efficiency Performance Standards and generation from renewable sources. Infrastructure and Community Services also provides energy-related policies.
3. 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.

Platinum

4. As part of the General Plan Update, the city reviewed zoning codes and development policies to identify changes that could improve implementation of land use and transportation policies that reduce GHG emissions.
5. In 1998, the city adopted the SOAR (Save Open Space and Agricultural Resources) Initiative, establishing the City Urban Restriction Boundary (CURB) and re-designating as Agriculture (AG) all land previously designated Agricultural Planning Reserve (AG/PR). The CURB defines the urban development boundary for the city until December 31, 2020.
6. The city included the Sustainable Community Element of the 2030 General Plan. The policy states: "develop a Climate Action and Adaption Plan that implements requirements adopted by the California Air Resources Board and/or the Ventura County APCD that establishes a GHG emissions qualitative and quantitative threshold of significance, establishes GHG reduction targets, and supports the regional SB 375 Sustainable Communities Strategy."





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

Silver

1. The city has been a designated Tree City USA for more than 27 years.

Gold

2. The city hosts certified farmers markets on Thursdays from 9 am to 2 pm at Plaza Park and from 4pm to 8pm at the Collection at River Park.
3. The city also operates more than 50 park facilities for its residents.

Platinum

4. The city's Santa Clara River Trail (SCRT) Master Plan evaluates a 4.87 mile, Class I multi-use trail along the southern bank of the Santa Clara River (SCR) and a connection trail from the SCR at Victoria Ave to Gonzales Road for a bikeway connection to the Pacific Ocean, and a spur connection to E. Vineyard Avenue at Central Avenue. The flood control levee built along the SCR provides a unique opportunity to connect the communities, recreational areas, and commercial uses in North Oxnard via a bicycle and pedestrian path.
5. The city signed a Greenbelt Agreement with the City of Camarillo, County of Ventura, and LAFCO to preserve agriculture and open space between communities around the city. The agreement protects open space and agricultural lands and reassure property owners located within these areas that lands will not be prematurely converted to agriculturally incompatible uses.
6. The city provides community gardens, located at the Wilson Senior Center and on Pleasant Valley Road, where individuals and families can reserve a raised bin or garden plot to grow organic fruits and vegetables on their own. Gardening lessons are provided.





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

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 Oxnard to encourage environmental responsibility.

Gold

2. The city developed a Green Sustainability Program page to promote the city's sustainability activities. The website provides convenient access to information, services, and programs that support the city's commitment to become a sustainable and green community.
3. The city distributes maps showing the community bicycle and walking trail systems to encourage reduction of vehicle miles traveled.

Platinum

4. Each year, the city's Water Resources Division partners with local elementary schools to learn about the importance of water and ways to conserve water.
5. Since 2014, the city has participated in a regional climate action partnership with the County of Ventura, VCREA, and the cities of Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, and Ventura. This partnership resulted in the development of the Climate on the Move Report. The Report includes GHG inventories for the region as a whole and all eleven participating jurisdictions, 2020 GHG emission forecast, and reduction target options.
6. The city offers a City Corps Program that is designed to give youth work experience in ten general categories including: tree planting, litter patrol, recycling and zero waste events, ecological restoration, waste characterization, water conservation gardening, water auditing, and wastewater and storm water support. Oxnard City Corps serves youth ages 12-24 and teaches them valuable skills and how to serve their community. Youth also learn the value of caring for their town while gaining valuable team-based work experience.





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