

BEACON
SPOTLIGHT
AWARD
WINNER
BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of Carson

Sustainability Best Practice Activities



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

City of Carson

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			2017 (26%)
	Community GHG Reductions		2017 (17%)	
	Agency Energy Savings	2017 (9%)		2019 (22%)
	Natural Gas Savings	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities	2018	2019	
	Beacon Award	2018	2019	

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 demand response programs through Southern California Edison (SCE) that provide on-bill credits including the Summer Discount Plan and Save Power Days Program.

Gold

2. The city participates in rebate programs through SCE and SoCalGas for appliances, air conditioner alternatives, electric water heaters, light bulbs, space heaters, water heaters, pool heaters, showerheads, washers and insulation.
3. The city accesses technical and financial assistance programs through SCG's Direct Install Weatherization Program for income-qualified renters and homeowners. Links for residents about the Weatherization and Home Energy Assistance Programs through PACE are included on the city website.

Platinum





Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

Silver

1. The city supplies links on its website directing residents to Cal Water conservation programs, tips and resources for water conservation.

Gold

2. The city requires automatic or computerized irrigation control systems for purposes of water conservation on public land. Staff is identifying opportunities for future conversion to the computerized system.
3. The city is working with the West Basin Municipal Water District to ensure the completion of reclaimed water facility infrastructure in the City of Carson.

Platinum

4. The city requires the installation of reclaimed water lines in new projects and redevelopment projects as appropriate (based on location and use) in anticipation of completion of the reclaimed water facility infrastructure.





Green Building Activities

Silver

1. The city requires, where feasible, all new buildings and subdivisions to be designed and oriented in such a way as to take maximum advantage of the sun and wind for natural heating and cooling.

Gold

2. Carson incorporates materials that are renewable, reusable, recyclable, recycled, non-toxic and those that have zero or low volatile organic compounds; the city has used recycled rubber in place of traditional mulch.
3. The city develops and implements sustainable landscaping standards for public agency facilities to reduce water consumption.

Platinum

4. Incorporate water efficient plants, trees, green roofs and rain gardens in agency landscaping.
5. Use compost and mulch in agency landscaping as a water conservation measure.
6. Train appropriate agency staff in green building standards and technologies to facilitate the permitting approval and inspection processes.
7. Require new and renovated commercial construction to incorporate smart irrigation technology systems that save water and energy.





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

Silver

1. Carson conducts organic waste recycling outreach and education for businesses; the city formally launched massive education and outreach efforts to prepare area businesses for California's new recycling law, AB 1826, which requires businesses, including commercial or public entities, must recycle their organic waste to be in compliance.

Gold

2. The city posts links for used motor oil and oil filter collection events.
3. The city offers discounted trash pickup service to seniors 62 and older. Included on the signup page is a recycling guide.

Platinum





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

Silver

1. The city continues to promote the use of clean fuel vehicles for personal and business use. To this end, the city considers the use of electric, fuel cell or other non-polluting fuels for Carson circuit buses and other city vehicles.

Gold

2. The city purchases copier/print paper with 30% recycled content.
3. The city council approved the purchase of five electric fleet vehicles on June 4, 2019.

Platinum

4. The city has an internal process for posting of unwanted furniture or equipment between departments and encourages the practice of not purchasing new materials through the reuse of existing items in surplus when appropriate and feasible.





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

Silver

1. The city is preparing a feasibility study of the use of electric or other alternative fueled vehicles for Carson circuit buses.

Gold

2. The city will continue and expand the use of city-owned alternative fuel vehicles.
3. As a member of the Clean Power Alliance, the city is on track to get 50% of its electricity from renewable sources.

Platinum





Efficient Transportation Activities

Silver

1. The city will continue to develop a cooperative program to further increase transit ridership.

Gold

2. The city continues to encourage and assist employers in developing and implementing work trip reduction plans, employee ride-sharing, modified work schedules, preferential carpool and vanpool parking, or any other trip reduction approaches consistent with the Air Quality Monitoring Program for the South Coast Air Basin.
3. The city will continue to encourage infill projects to provide convenience to key destinations and minimize trip generation.

Platinum

4. The city requires new developments to provide pedestrian and bicycle trail access to nearby shopping and employment centers, thereby encouraging alternate modes of transportation and reducing vehicle miles traveled.
5. The city updated the Bicycle Master Plan to enhance opportunities for access to open space and/or recreation areas.
6. The city recently completed a 1.75 mile streetscape project to revitalize one of its major corridors. The project also included the following improvements: installation of new, colorful, drought-tolerant landscaping at parkways and medians with distinctive street trees as unifying elements along Carson Street between the 110 and 405 freeways; installation of street furniture, such as benches, trash receptacles, bike racks and pedestrian lights; removal and replacement of existing light poles on the median along Carson Street; consolidation of existing meter services; upgrade street lights to LED; installation of seating nodes for pedestrian rest areas; reconstruction of all driveways for ADA compatibility; installation of shared bike lane markings; installation of bus shelters with solar panels; installation of curb extensions and artistic elements into the streetscape; installation of way finding signs for direction to major destinations.





Land Use and Community Design Activities

Silver

1. The city will continue to work with other South Bay cities and Los Angeles County to create and implement a plan to: (1) enhance Dominguez Hills with landscaping and walking and bicycle trails, and (2) provide landscaping along Compton Creek.

Gold

2. Carson plans to develop and adopt a Community-wide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan and Capital Investment Program that maximizes the potential for residents to walk or bike within and between neighborhoods.
3. Carson is updating the General Plan and incorporating a Sustainability Element.

Platinum





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

Silver

1. The city will continue to preserve areas of open spaces which, if developed, could pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the community. To this end, the city is working with the county, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and Southern California Edison to conserve and maintain existing flood control facilities and electric transmission corridors within the city.

Gold

2. The city is increasing the number, type and accessibility of parks and other recreational opportunities in the community, including promoting associated public health benefits.
3. Carson is building environmentally sustainable parks by incorporating reused and recycled materials, water-efficient landscaping and water-efficient technology systems.

Platinum

4. The city manages parks, open space, recreational facilities and other natural areas owned or operated by the agency to ensure the long-term health and viability of trees and other vegetation.
5. Carson provides tree planting resources and information on the agency website to encourage residents.
6. Carson participates in regional tree planting efforts to mobilize and encourage the community to plant trees.





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

Silver

1. The city will continue to develop a program by which volunteers are solicited to assist in recreational and human services programs and recognized for their service.

Gold

2. Carson hosts informational workshops to educate residents and businesses about sustainability opportunities, such as those from energy efficiency, water conservation and solar panel installation.
3. The city develops information and positive messages about activities individuals and businesses can take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Platinum

4. Carson informs the public about the environmental, community and financial benefits of actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
5. The city distributes giveaway items, such as reusable bags and compact fluorescent lights to encourage environmental responsibility.
6. The city helped host the LA County-wide Sustainability Plan public workshop in Carson in April 2019.





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