

BEACON



SPOTLIGHT  
AWARD

WINNER

BEST PRACTICE  
ACTIVITIES



# City of Claremont

## Sustainability Best Practice Activities



**ILG** INSTITUTE FOR  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT<sup>SM</sup>  
*Promoting Good Government at the Local Level*



# City of Claremont

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                   | 2015 (8%)    |            | 2017 (54%)     |
|    | Community GHG Reductions                |              | 2017 (17%) |                |
|   | Agency Energy Savings                   |              | 2015 (12%) | 2017 (21%)     |
|  | Natural Gas Savings                     |              | 2015 (15%) |                |
|  | Sustainability Best Practice Activities |              | 2015       | 2017           |
|  | Beacon Award                            |              | 2017       |                |

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. Converted the light sources for all traffic signals in the city to highly-efficient LED fixtures.

## Gold

2. Energy efficiency projects at city facilities, as described in the “agency electricity savings” section: re-lamp all large city facilities to T-8 light fixtures, install energy saver software on 150 desktop PCs, re-lamp village parking structure, consolidate multiple servers through conversion to virtual servers and occupancy sensors, install PV solar system at the city yard facility, install timers and occupancy sensors at Police Dept., use SCE Direct Install program to install efficient lights and occupancy sensors in small city facilities to replace high pressure sodium streetlights with LEDs.
3. Partnership with the Claremont Home Energy Retrofit Project (CHERP) program: CHERP is a community-driven organization that helps Claremont residents complete energy retrofits to decrease energy usage in their homes. Sustainable Claremont, the City of Claremont, and Energy Upgrade California have partnered to provide helpful information and large financial incentives to homeowners who make whole-house energy efficiency upgrades to their homes. The project has achieved its initial goal of retrofitting 130 homes, and is making progress toward its second goal of retrofitting 1,300 homes. Average modeled energy savings for participating homes is 28%, with high customer satisfaction due to additional benefits including increased comfort, increased safety and a quieter home environment.

## Platinum

4. The Energy Leader Partnership is an agreement between Southern California Edison and the City of Claremont designed to generate cost-effective energy and demand savings to the benefit of the government and community. In order to reach the gold tier, the city had to meet a number of criteria, including the completion of an Energy Action Plan, completion of energy-efficiency upgrades at 50% of city facilities, a 10% kWh reduction for city facilities and the participation of at least 25% of eligible facilities in an SCE Demand Response program.
5. The city plans to replace internally illuminated street name signs with non-illuminated, highly-reflective signs in 2015-16.





# Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

## Silver

1. City staff installed low-flow, dual-flush toilets and waterless urinals throughout its facilities, saving more than 1.5 million gallons of water per year.

## Gold

2. Golden State Water Company has partnered with Three Valleys Municipal Water District to offer rebates to Claremont homeowners who replace turf with water-wise landscaping. City staff members market the program by answering questions and publishing information about the process, appropriate design, plant selection and permitting requirements. To date, over 250 homeowners have participated in the program.
3. The city adopted and implemented an ordinance to help local water agencies respond to drought conditions and dwindling supplies of imported water. The ordinance includes a number of permanent conservation requirements and additional conservation requirements that may be implemented in the event that a water supply shortage is declared by the city manager and affirmed by the city council. Claremont is currently observing restrictions in accordance with Level 2 water supply shortage conditions.

## Platinum

4. The city adopted and implemented an ordinance that requires new development and large re-landscaping projects to be designed, installed, and operated in a water-efficient manner, including compliance with a maximum water budget for the site.
5. Claremont has made city landscaping more water efficient: installed efficient sprinklers and smart irrigation, re-landscaped medians and city hall to reduce turf.
6. The city uses water bags to provide more efficient deep watering to city trees during the drought. Information about water bags is publicized on the city's website, at the Sustainability Resource Center, and in city manager weekly updates.
7. Partnered with Sustainable Claremont to hold a Low-Water Landscape Expo.





# Green Building Activities

## Silver

1. Sustainable City Plan includes LEED certification goals: city staff publicize these goals on the city's website and include a record of LEED-certified buildings in the annual sustainability report cards.

## Gold

2. The Claremont Home Energy Retrofit Project (CHERP) offers a number of green training options for realtors, ranging from an introductory seminar to full-day certification courses to one-on-one coaching and mentoring. The city co-sponsored these events by providing meeting facilities at no charge.
3. Each annual sustainability report card contains a table of all major LEED-certified buildings in Claremont, along with a description of any new buildings that received certification that year. Additionally, the annual Claremont Architectural Commission Excellence in Design Awards has featured a Sustainable Development category since the year 2008.

## Platinum

4. All new city facilities to be designed to meet LEED Gold standards or higher: Although the city has not designed or constructed any new facilities since this policy was implemented, the city partially funded the construction of a 75-unit affordable housing project, Courier Place Apartments. The project received LEED Platinum certification in 2012.
5. All major (over 20,000 square feet) private non-residential construction to be designed to meet LEED Silver standards or higher: From 2009-2014, all new non-residential construction with more than 20,000 square feet of habitable floor area has been designed to meet LEED standards. All project developers have indicated that they are seeking LEED Certification of Silver or higher for these projects.
6. All private development to be designed to LEED Certified level standards or higher: In 2014, Pitzer College's renovation of the President's residence received LEED for Homes Certification, becoming the first single-family residence in Claremont to do so.





# Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

## Silver

1. Claremont's green waste is separated from the landfill waste stream, hauled locally, and converted into mulch under a commercial contract. The program has very high participation rates. Claremont's green waste is the cleanest in Southern California and usually represents 20-30% of the city's waste stream.

## Gold

2. Free mulch program: the city's tree maintenance contractor creates mulch from tree trimmings, which is then distributed to residents free of charge several times per year.
3. Prescription drug drop box: a drop box for the safe disposal of prescription drugs is located at the Police Department. Additionally, the Police Department hosts two Drug Take Back Events per year, collecting hundreds of pounds of medication at each event.

## Platinum

4. The city contracts with Greenway Solid Waste and Recycling, Inc. to conduct free door-to-door electronic waste collection, recycling and disposal service within Claremont. Greenway collects, recycles and disposes of most electronic waste including televisions, phones, DVD players, computers, and other electronic devices. Additionally, the city holds two Household Hazardous Waste and E-Waste Roundups per year in cooperation with LA County Sanitation Districts, with high participation levels.
5. The Claremont Sanitation Division and Senior Program partnered to offer a free used needles disposal program. Approved needle containers are available to residents at the Joslyn Senior Center. Full containers are returned to the center for disposal, and an empty container is provided in exchange.





# Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

## Silver

1. City purchasing requires that paper products contain a minimum 20% post-consumer material.

## Gold

2. City purchasing requires that cleaning products be recognized by the U.S. EPA Design for the Environment Program.
3. The city adopted an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategy with regards to its urban forest. This strategy involves an emphasis on biological, cultural, mechanical and physical controls rather than chemical controls (pesticides), which are used very selectively. Specifically, the city has discontinued the purchase of plant growth inhibitors and the most toxic classes of pesticides.

## Platinum





# Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

## Silver

1. Since 2006, the majority of heavy fleet vehicles have been converted from diesel and gasoline to cleaner fuel types such as compressed natural gas (CNG) and gas hybrid vehicles. Additionally, the city makes its CNG fueling facility available to other entities such as nearby school districts to help increase use of this cleaner fuel type.

## Gold

2. Track and publicize the total amount of solar photovoltaic energy installed citywide annually: the Annual Sustainability Report Card features a section on renewable energy, which contains a graph of existing solar photovoltaic energy in Claremont (in kWh) by year. The number of installations, as well as the amount of energy they produce, is tracked through electrical permits.
3. Installed a 20 kW solar photovoltaic system at the City Yard (2012): the city installed a photovoltaic solar energy system on a large metal carport at the City Yard. The 20 kW (AC) system is now producing, on average, over 3,100 kWh per month.

## Platinum

4. The Police Department purchased an all-electric Chevy Spark vehicle for parking enforcement, which is the first all-electric vehicle in the city's fleet.





# Efficient Transportation Activities

## Silver

1. Partner with Foothill Transit: Foothill Transit was the first public transit agency to put fast charge electric buses into service, and they opened the first all-electric transit line (the 291 in Pomona and La Verne). Foothill Transit is featured on our the city website, and at the annual Earth Day event—they often bring one of their new Ecoliner electric buses for display.

## Gold

2. The city has installed a number of improvements to make roads more friendly to bicyclists and pedestrians, including crosswalks, signals, bike lands, bike racks, sharrows (“share the road” markings on designated bike routes), and bicycle loop detectors to help trigger stoplight changes at intersections.
3. The city designated a Bike Priority Zone (BPZ) within the Village, the Claremont Colleges, and the residential neighborhoods south of Foothill Boulevard and north of Arrow Highway. The BPZ emphasizes safe bicycle routes and parking facilities, and includes 100 bicycle racks, way-finding signs, designated bicycle routes, sharrows and bike detection loops.

## Platinum

4. The city secured a federal Safe Routes to Schools grant to fund education programs in all Claremont public elementary and middle schools to help encourage students to bicycle and walk to and from schools in a safe manner. Funds have been used for pedestrian and bicycle safety training (including the adoption of a Safe Routes to School curriculum by Claremont Unified School District), pedestrian facilities in the proximity of a number of schools, and the provision of helmets to K-8th grade students who need them. The program will also include compilation of pre- and post-training surveys and site audits and the preparation of a Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Plan.
5. The city installed two dual-mount electric vehicle charging stations for public use, one in the village parking structure and one on the west side of city hall. Thus far, the stations have been successful with a high number of unique users (nearly 80 per month) and high turnover rate, with most users charging for two to three hours at a time, which is considered optimal. In 2015, city council adopted an ordinance restricting parking in stalls adjacent to the charging stations to electric or hybrid vehicles utilizing the charging stations, and making this restriction enforceable by tow.





# Land Use and Community Design Activities

## Silver

1. The city and redevelopment agency created a specific plan aimed at transitioning underutilized land to a vibrant mixed-use and transit-oriented expansion of the city's downtown. The area is higher density than most of Claremont and utilizes transit and shared parking strategies to reduce the impact of cars and create a lively pedestrian district. The district has become a great success and model for similar small suburban towns to develop transit-oriented districts adjacent to transit stations.

## Gold

2. The city drafted and passed an ordinance that provides a reduction in required parking for colleges that prohibit entire classes of students from bringing cars to campus. The intent is to provide an incentive for colleges to significantly reduce car trips on and around campus. It also reduces the VMT of students who no longer have cars and must walk, bicycle, carpool or take transit.
3. The city revised zoning standards to increase height limits to accommodate the Village Lofts, a new mixed-use development in the Claremont Village. The project includes apartments, live-work lofts and retail spaces on a vacant industrial site located just three blocks from the city's main transit hub. The project is an example of transit-oriented development that also includes vertical mixed uses to further reduce the need for auto trips.

## Platinum

4. Claremont has been supportive of the construction of a Claremont station along the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension. Planning for the Azusa to Montclair phase of the project began in 2003, and advanced conceptual engineering began in 2014. Foothill Gold Line is another organization featured at our annual Earth Day street fair.
5. The planning commission advises the city council on all matters dealing with the present and future development of the city, in accordance with the values and goals defined in the city's general plan. This includes reviewing, approving, or recommending city council approval of requests for zone changes, subdivision maps, and variances. The City of Claremont has for many years been recognized for its highly participatory citizenry and responsive local government.





# Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

## Silver

1. The Claremont Hills Wilderness Park, which is preserved as open space, opened in 1996 with 1,440 acres and was dedicated as a City Nature Park in 1997. The 2008 incorporation of Johnson's Pasture increased the park to 1,620 acres. The Claremont Hills Wilderness Park Management Plan was created to provide general guidelines concerning park management for city officials with the goal of preserving the natural characteristics of the park while providing visitors the opportunity for passive and recreational enjoyment of the park.

## Gold

2. Achievable Claremont Oak Regeneration Now (ACORN) project: a community-based project that seeks to re-establish oak woodlands in the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park to enhance fire protection and biodiversity. Volunteers gather acorns from local native oak trees, propagate them with help from the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, plant the oak seedlings in the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park, and water and maintain them until they become self-sufficient. The city has provided funding to help support this effort.
3. Sycamore Canyon Park Restoration project: this 144-acre project included the phased removal of non-native Eucalyptus trees and replacement with native Sycamore and Oak trees.

## Platinum

4. The City adopted a Tree Policies and Guidelines Manual. This document refers to several policies relating to trees, including Chapter 12.26 of the Claremont Municipal Code, which established the duties, authorities and regulations governing all city trees. The document acts as a guide to the policies that protect city trees as well as guidance for best practices for tree care.
5. The city maintains 24 city-owned parks, sports fields and public plazas that provide over 150 acres of constructed open space throughout the community.
6. The city maintains an extensive network of street and park trees, which in return provide Claremont with much of its unique character and beauty. Claremont is a Tree City USA. In addition, the city's 2015 greenhouse gas inventory showed that the urban forest sequestered enough carbon dioxide to offset over 60% of the greenhouse gas emissions for all municipal operations.





# Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

## Silver

1. The City of Claremont Sustainable City Plan establishes a framework in which the Claremont community can achieve its vision of becoming a sustainable city and enable all who live and work in Claremont to live in ways that allow them to meet their needs while preserving the ability of future generations to do the same. The Sustainable City Plan is based on the city's General Plan (adopted in 2006), which is organized around a theme of sustainability. The General Plan creates a vision of a sustainable community; one that balances needs, maintains environmental health, and provides for continued economic prosperity. Every year, the city produces a Sustainability Report Card, a succinct yet comprehensive measure of how we are progressing toward the goals laid out in the Sustainable City Plan.

## Gold

2. The city's website features a section on sustainability, which provides information on each of the sustainability goal areas.
3. The City Manager's weekly updates include information about current sustainability initiatives and events as they occur.

## Platinum

4. Over 500 residents participated in the 2015 CoolCalifornia Challenge, a competition between California cities to motivate and reward residents for reducing their household energy and motor vehicle emissions. Claremont placed first overall, earning the title of "Coolest California City" and over \$51,600 in proceeds for Sustainable Claremont to use in implementing sustainability programs in the community.
5. Claremont Energy Challenge volunteers have embarked on an ambitious campaign to "Walk the Town," where they have pledged to visit every home in town to discuss energy conservation and the importance of participating in the challenge.
6. Claremont is an annual participant in the League of American Bicyclists' National Bike to Work Week. Every year, Claremont hosts a pit stop on Bike to Work Day.







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