

GOLD LEVEL AWARD WINNER

BEACON
SPOTLIGHT
AWARD
WINNER
BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of Culver City

Sustainability Best Practices Activities



ILG INSTITUTE FOR
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Promoting Good Government at the Local Level

About This Document

This document tracks and shares local agency best practice activities completed and counted as part of a city or county's participation in the climate change and sustainability recognition program, the Beacon Program. The Beacon Program is a statewide program recognizing cities and counties that are working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save energy and adopt policies and programs that promote sustainability.

The Beacon Program is sponsored by the Institute for Local Government and the Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative. The Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative (SEEC) provides support to cities and counties to help them reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save energy. SEEC is an alliance between three statewide non-profit organizations and California's four Investor-Owned Utilities. It builds upon the unique resources, expertise and local agency relationships of each partner.



Supporting California local governments

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.



SPOTLIGHT AWARD

Areas of Accomplishment

		SILVER LEVEL	GOLD LEVEL	PLATINUM LEVEL
	Agency GHG Reductions			
	Community GHG Reductions			
	Agency Energy Savings			26%
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities		2017	





Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity	Reported
Silver	<p>1. The City of Culver City (City) works closely with The Energy Network to implement turnkey energy efficiency projects citywide. The Energy Network is administered by Los Angeles County, and was created by the California Public Utilities Commission to help public agencies in Southern California implement projects that save energy and money. The Energy Network identifies energy saving measures and works side by side with city staff from design through construction to help accomplish energy efficiency. The city is provided turnkey solutions and a range of technical services to fit specific project needs. Supporting Link: http://action.theenergynetwork.com/about-us/homepage-buttons/agencies-in-action</p>	2017

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities	Reported
Gold	<p>1. The City of Culver City is involved in a Local Government Partnership called the Westside Energy Partnership. This Partnership includes the City, Southern California Edison, SoCalGas, and The Energy Coalition as the implementing partner. Through involvement in the Westside Energy Partnership, the city is offered enhanced incentives and rebates on energy efficiency projects, and provided assistance with community outreach to encourage residents to take advantage of utility programs that save money and energy.</p> <p>2. In 2014 audits were conducted at the city's highest energy using facilities to identify opportunities for energy savings through efficiency and conservation measures. The audits focused on lighting and mechanical components at City Hall, Police Station, Senior Center, Transportation Center, and Veterans Memorial Complex. The audits determined that retrofitting facility lighting and Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) mechanical components along with implementation of new Energy Management Systems would optimize energy use.</p>	2017





Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency & Conservation Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. As a result of the 2014 audits, in 2016 the city completed interior and exterior lighting upgrades to LED's and optimized the HVAC equipment at all the city facilities included in the audits. The completion of these projects saved 659,190 kWh annually, equivalent to 635,000 lbs of CO2 savings every year. Furthermore, the city implemented a new Energy Management System (EMS) to control these components that optimized their energy use, reduced operation costs, improved comfort through better climate control, and created better working conditions. The EMS component also provides improved energy efficiency, operating cost reductions, lower bills and utility incentives. The city realized a combined incentive from Southern California Edison and SoCalGas of approximately \$141,000 annually and will save \$719,650.66 over the projects 12-year life.	2017





Water & Wastewater Systems Activity

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The City of Culver City promotes water efficiency to local restaurants. Through the city's website, restaurant owners and managers can find a checklist to become more aware of the importance of implementing water efficiency and conservation within their business. Supporting Materials: http://www.culvercity.org/home/showdocument?id=1962	2017

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In recognition of the four year drought and resulting potable water shortage, the city developed a Water Conservation Plan for Fiscal Year 2015/16. This plan was created to achieve targeted water reductions in City facilities and allocated \$200,000 toward this effort. Supporting Link: http://www.culvercity.org/home/showdocument?id=1952 2. A Water Conservation Ordinance adopted by the city that includes different levels of restriction depending on the severity of the drought. A level 1 water shortage is currently in effect, which limits watering to three days a week, prohibits watering within 48 hours of measurable precipitation, and mandates that leaks must be fixed within 72 hours. Supporting Link: http://www.culvercity.org/home/showdocument?id=6960 	2017

Level	Water and Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. The city has permanent water conservation requirements listed in Chapter 5.03.030 of the city's Municipal Code. Such requirements include, limits on watering hours, watering duration, runoff, and more. Supporting Link: http://library.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/California/culver/themunicipalcodeofthecityofculvercitycal?f=templates\$fn=default.htm\$3.0\$vid=amlegal:culvercity_ca	2017





Green Building Activity

Level	Green Building Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city is in partnership with the HERO program to provide assistance to residents, making energy efficiency, water efficiency, and renewable energy upgrades to their homes more affordable. Supporting Link: https://www.heroprogram.com/ca/Culvercity	2017

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Gold	<p>1. The city implements a Green Building Ordinance entitled “Green Building Program and Requirements”, with the goal of reducing the use of natural resources, creating a healthier living environment and minimizing the negative impact of development on local, regional, and global ecosystems. Furthermore, this ordinance requires all new buildings with 49,999 square feet or less of gross floor area and major renovations to existing buildings of the same size, shall comply with a minimum of 20 items from a list of requirements including, for example, that gas heating shall be a minimum of 90% efficient, and HVAC units shall have a minimum of Seasonal Energy Efficiency Rating (SEER) of 17. Supporting Link: http://www.energy.ca.gov/title24/2005standards/ordinances/2009-03-09_CULVER_CITY_GREEN-BUILDING.PDF</p> <p>2. The city has created Greenhouse Gas Technical Reports for proposed project sites to assess and discuss the impact of potential greenhouse gas emissions that may occur with implementation of the project. Examples of Greenhouse Gas Technical Reports include the proposed projects for the Platform, 8777 Washington Boulevard & The Ivy Station.</p>	2017

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Platinum		





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activity

Level	Waste Reduction Activity	Reported
Silver	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A portion of the city's website is dedicated to Residential Refuse & Recycling Services. This site provides information to educate the community and help meet the city's requirement of State Law (AB 939) to divert 50% of the waste materials generated in Culver City from landfill disposal through source reduction, recycling and composting programs. Supporting Link: http://www.culvercity.org/live/home-property/residential-recycling-trash-services 	2017

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In an effort to divert household hazardous waste from ending up in a land fill, the city has dedicated a webpage to inform residence about the importance of keeping the environment safe from toxic pollution. Supporting Link: http://www.culvercity.org/live/home-property/residential-recycling-trash-services/household-hazardous-waste 2. The city has successfully implemented Waste Reduction and Recycling programs to adhere to California's waste management regulations and requirements. Since the October 2010 implementation of the Multi-Family Recycling Program, the city has seen a 33% increase in annual recycling tonnages. This program overcame the challenges of improving upon a poorly-performing recycling program with low participation and a high level of contamination. The program dovetailed with the statewide mandatory recycling regulations that took effect in July 2013. Additionally, the program established outreach programs and the service infrastructure necessary to address high density developments with complex logistical challenges. Supporting Link: http://www.culvercity.org/live/home-property/residential-recycling-trash-services/recycling/multi-family-recycling 	2017

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In 2013, after a successful Organic Pilot Program at Sony Pictures Entertainment, the city implemented a Food Waste and Organics Recycling Program for all commercial businesses generating food waste. The program created new organics collection routes, educational outreach materials, and workshops dedicated to educating businesses on the California Mandatory Commercial Organics Recycling regulations. Since the start of this program in 2013, the city has realized a 17% annual increase in organics waste collection tonnages. The city is currently working on plans to expand the organics waste collection program to residents, thereby diverting more waste from landfills Supporting Link: http://www.culvercity.org/live/home-property/residential-recycling-trash-services/recycling/food-waste-recycling 	2017





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activity

Level	Climate-Friendly Activity	Reported
Silver	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The city considers green products as its first choice when purchasing its supplies. Over 600 cases of recycled paper are purchased annually. As of 2017, Culver City furthers this mission through participation in the Office Depot Green Program, which gives preference to environmentally-friendly, climate-conscious office supplies and goods. Supporting Link: https://officedepotdigital.s3.amazonaws.com/2016_greenbook/Greener_Purchasing_Guide.pdf?cm_sp=office_supplies-_-greener_office-no_offer-_-clp_ad1_landing_11332 	2017

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Ordinance of chapter 11.18 Polystyrene regulations, was added to Title 11, Business Regulations, of the Culver City Municipal Code. The purpose of this chapter is to reduce and prevent presence of this type of litter in the environment and to promote environmentally sustainable practices. Supporting Link: http://www.culvercity.org/home/showdocument?id=8040 The City of Culver City initiates a year round Farmers Market that offers fresh fruits, vegetables, and a selection of other fine foods. When space for vendors becomes available, the city gives consideration to: healthfulness, eco-consciousness; local/nearness of production, and enhancement of market variety. Further supporting the purchase of climate friendly purchasing in the community. Supporting Link: http://www.culvercity.org/home/showdocument?id=42 	2017

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Platinum		





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activity

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Silver	1. In the city's 2016-2017 Fiscal year budget, work plans include a solar study to determine the technical and financial feasibility of implementing rooftop and parking facility photovoltaic energy generation systems at various City facilities. Supporting Link: https://www.culvercity.org/Home/ShowDocument?id=3108 (pg. 332)	2017

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Gold	<p>1. The City of Culver City further reduces carbon emissions by purchase Renewable Natural Gas. In 2016 the city approved an agreement with Clean Energy Renewable for the purchase and delivery of clean energy redeem 100% Renewable Natural Gas and consulting services for the management of the city's participation in the low carbon fuel standard program for a five-year term.</p> <p>2. City has converted its fleet from primary diesel and gasoline to Compressed Natural Gas (CNG). The city became the first 100% CNG transit fleet in the South Coast Air Quality Management District, and second in California. The city has a fleet of more than 500 alternative-fuel vehicles, including 54 CNG buses, 21 heavy-duty CNG refuse trucks, and various other light, medium and heavy-duty vehicles. The city has been recognized for its alternative fuel practices over the years. Awards and recognition include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognized as a North American Elite Fleet by Government Fleet Magazine (2014 and 2015) • Named as the Number #1 Best Fleet in North America out of 38,000 municipal fleets in the nationally recognized 100 Best Fleets certification program (2013) • Named as the Number #1 Best Green Fleet in North America out of 38,000 municipal fleets in the nationally recognized 100 Best Fleets certification program (2009) • Presented with NGV Achievement Awards for Environmental Stewardship, 2009, 2010, 2011 	2017

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Platinum		





Efficient Transportation Activity

Level	Efficient Transportation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Culver City provides transportation updates to keep residents and commuters informed about traffic advisories and allow them to plan ahead. Supporting Link: http://www.culvercity.org/live/transportation-parking	2017

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city has a strong partnership with Culver City Unified School District to jointly administer the Culver City Walk & Rollers Safe Routes to School Program. Supporting Links: http://www.culvercity.org/Home/Components/News/News/420/718 http://www.ccwalkandroll.com/ 2. The city is currently working with the community to envision and improve Culver City's Mobility through the city's Transit Oriented Development Visioning Plan. Supporting Link: http://www.culvercity.org/how-do-i-/learn/transit-oriented-development-visioning-plan 	2017

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. The Culver City Bike & Pedestrian Master Plan (BPMP) is a comprehensive plan for bicycling and walking, and was created through a partnership between the city and the Policies for Livable, Active Communities and Environments (PLACE) Program of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. BPMP seeks to articulate a new paradigm for transportation planning in the city that embraces the concept of "Complete Streets." The BPMP also provides a guide for the future development of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, as well as education, enforcement, and encouragement programs within the city. In so doing, the BPMP will encourage walking and biking and lead to a host of associated benefits, including reduced congestion; lower greenhouse gas emissions; a thriving, walkable business environment; and the promotion of healthier lifestyles and improved quality of life in the city and adjacent communities. Supporting Links: http://www.culvercity.org/home/showdocument?id=2082	2017





Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activity	Reported
Silver	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sustainability and environmental conditions of approval are built into the Culver City Municipal Code for development projects. The city enforces the 2016 California Building Standards and the 2008 City Mandatory Solar Photovoltaic Requirement for new construction, major renovation, or additions of 10,000 square feet or greater. Some conditions of approval include guidelines on solid waste management, transportation demand and trip reduction measures, low voltage induction streetlight installations along the project frontage, bike lane installations, reasonable efforts to reuse and recycle construction and demolition debris, and development of a Standard Urban Stormwater Mitigation Plan to comply with the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System requirements. 	2017

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city's Art in Public Places Program was established by ordinance in 1988, with the view that cultural and artistic resources enhance the quality of life for individuals living and working within a city; and, preserve and improve the quality of urban environment, increase real property values, and have a positive economic impact. Supporting Link: http://www.culvercity.org/how-do-i-/learn-about/public-art 2. The city has Historic Preservation Program that was established by Ordinance in 1991 and includes a process by which sites can be designated cultural resources at one of three levels based on their architectural, historical, and/or cultural importance. Current program guidelines are included in the city's Municipal Code under Chapter 15.05. Supporting Link: http://www.culvercity.org/live/community-neighborhood/historic-preservation 	2017

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Platinum		





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Silver	1. The city provides a park profile and locator map on their website. The map makes all Culver City Parks easy to locate and provides background information on each, including address and amenities. Supporting Link: http://www.culvercity.org/enjoy/culver-city-parks	2017

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Gold	<p>1. The City of Culver City Parks & Playgrounds program staff nine parks in the city where Recreation Leaders provide a friendly and safe environment for park patrons. The city offers free drop-in activities at all staffed parks for all ages. Residence are encouraged to stop by all local parks. List of City Parks in the Parks & Playgrounds Program include: Blanco Park, Culver City Park & Skate Park, Culver West Alexander Park, El Marino Park, Fox Hills Park, Lindberg Park, Syd Kronenthal Park, and Veterans Memorial Park. Parks & Playgrounds Program activities include seasonal sorts, carom games, arts & crafts, group games, and special events. Supporting Links: http://www.culvercity.org/live/education-resources/parks-playgrounds-program#ad-image-0</p> <p>2. The city operates one community garden with 16 rental plots. These "Culver City Community Gardens" were established to provide a place for the active participation in gardening for residents of the city who would otherwise not have the opportunity. The gardens are managed by Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department. Supporting Links: http://www.culvercity.org/live/community-neighborhood/community-gardens</p>	2017

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Platinum		





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Silver	1. Culver City participates in the largest volunteer day on the planet, Coastal Clean Up Day. Each year, the city, along with the help of local volunteers, help clean up the Ballona Creek bike path to demonstrate their commitment to healthy water. Supporting Link: http://www.culvercity.org/enjoy/things-to-do/annual-special-events/ballona-creek-cleanup	2017

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Gold	<p>1. The city informs the public about environmental, community and financial benefits of actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The city finds that the annual Fiesta La Ballona to be a great place to educate the community about such topics and hosts a Westside Energy Partnership booth promoting Southern California Edison and SoCalGas programs that will help residents save money and energy. The city also invites Bulbman, the mascot for TECs PEAK Environmental Education program, to attend the event to inform children of the importance of sustainable practices. Supporting Materials: Fiesta La Ballona - Energy Education Picture</p> <p>2. The Culver City Sustainable Business Certification Program promotes actively implementing practices and forming policies that reduce energy and water consumption, pollution, waste diversion, and ensure fair treatment of its employees. It is beneficial to the business residence as well as the community at large by reducing its carbon footprint. Supporting Link: http://www.culvercity.org/how-do-i/learn/sustainable-business-certification-program</p>	2017

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Platinum		





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