



B E A C O N  
SPOTLIGHT AWARD  
W I N N E R  
BEST PRACTICE ACTIVITIES



# City of Downey

## Sustainability Best Practice Activities

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



# City of Downey

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			
Community GHG Reductions			
Agency Energy Savings		2017 (13%)	2018 (25%)
Natural Gas Savings			
Sustainability Best Practice Activities		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 joined the Southern California Edison Energy (SCE) Leader Partnership in 2006.

## Gold

2. The city prepared and implemented an Energy Action Plan (EAP), which resulted in 12% decrease in energy use, earning the city a gold level achievement in SCE's energy leader program.
3. The city collaborated with the Energy Network to retrofit high pressure sodium vapor lights to LED at the Apollo Park, Golden Park, and Community Center parking lots.

## Platinum

4. Installed high efficiency HVAC units at the theater, city hall and library, which can be controlled and evaluated remotely using Climate Tech software.





# Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

## Silver

1. The city uses reclaimed water for landscaping at five different park locations and in all medians in Lakewood Blvd. and Firestone Blvd. to help manage water use more efficiently.

## Gold

2. Rio Hondo golf course utilizes the on-site lakes for water retention and uses this water for irrigation as reclaimed water to conserve water demand.
3. Facilities currently uses waterless urinals, and toilets are retrofitted to be low flush toilets to further decrease the water demand through the Central Basin Program.

## Platinum

4. The city removed all grass in medians and replaced with drought tolerant plants or mulch with low flow irrigation systems.
5. The city installed 12 CalSense controllers at the Civic Center, Apollo Park, and Community Center to manage water usage more efficiently.





# Green Building Activities

## Silver

1. The city constructed a retention basin under the sports field in the Discovery Park to help treat storm water and reduce stormwater contamination.

## Gold

2. City collaborated with Stonewood Mall to help implement low impact development components in Firestone Blvd.
3. Implemented bioswales in new construction at Caring Way and Steven Horn Way.

## Platinum

4. Upgraded the HVAC and boiler system at the library and included optimizers to increase the system's efficiency.
5. Upgraded the HVAC and boiler system at the city theater and included optimizers to increase the system's efficiency.
6. Enrolled in the HVAC optimization program from SCE at the Barbara J. Riley Community Center to increase efficiency of system and lower energy usage.





# Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

## Silver

1. Staff actively promote paperless transaction by scanning bids and keeping communication through email whenever possible.

## Gold

2. The city uses the Accela Civic Platform, a cloud based software, for permitting which provides online services and streamlines building and permitting to reduce travel needs or paper waste.
3. Recycling bins with incorporated smaller bin for trash are used to encourage more recycling at the Civic Center offices.

## Platinum

4. Police Department holds an event to collect prescription drugs which are no longer useful to promote safety and decrease improper disposal.
5. City is a Los Angeles Regional Agency (LARA) member, which promotes recycling and reusing materials to reduce waste.





## Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

### Silver

1. A 10% bidding priority is given to local business to use local vendors and decrease traveling distance.

### Gold

2. The city purchased battery golf cars for parks maintenance and Civic Center transportation of staff to minimize large vehicle use for short trips.
3. Purchased and installed Fuel Master Program in 30 police vehicles to increase overall fuel efficiency.

### Platinum





# Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

## Silver

1. Installed eight EV charging stations at city hall (6 stations) and the parking structure (2 stations). These stations are open for staff and public use to promote alternative fuel vehicle use.

## Gold

2. The city purchased three new CNG vehicles, a sewer truck and two "Dial-a-Ride" vehicles.
3. Installed four traffic speed feedback signs powered with solar energy.

## Platinum

4. Purchased seven hybrid city vehicles for staff use.
5. Installed bicycle lanes in Gardendale Street as part of the implementation of the Bicycle Master Plan.
6. Installed custom made bicycle racks in downtown area to promote bicycle use and alleviate parking need.





# Efficient Transportation Activities

## Silver

1. The city provides the employees with incentives to participate in their "Thumbs Up Commuting" Program.

## Gold

2. The city council adopted a Bicycle Master Plan in 2016 which has been implemented.
3. The city upgraded old traffic signals at 12 intersections to modernize aging system.

## Platinum

4. Downey Link provides transportation services for residents to move around the city and reduce vehicle trips.
5. Upgraded traffic video detection to a newer and more efficient system in Lakewood Blvd. to alleviate traffic flow.





# Land Use and Community Design Activities

## Silver

1. The city council adopted a Park Master Plan in December of 2016.

## Gold

2. Carried out tree planting events in collaboration with 3 local schools to compliment sidewalk repair project.
3. Installed drought tolerant demonstration garden in the Civic Center as a resource for the public.

## Platinum

4. Planted 120 trees along both sides of the 105 freeway to increase air quality and serve as a noise buffer for the surrounding community.





# Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

## Silver

1. The city reused and reinstalled pedestrian light poles from Lakewood Blvd. to Apollo and Furman Park walkway with LED lights to increase the safety of the parks to reduce waste.

## Gold

2. Constructed jogging paths and two locations with exercising equipment in Apollo and Golden Park to promote a healthy community.
3. The city hosted Ride and Stride events in 2016 and 2017, with more than 12,600 riders in the first year and 63,000 riders the following year.

## Platinum

4. Installed new playground equipment at Independence and Apollo Park to be Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant and increase public access to community members with disabilities.





# Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

## Silver

1. City holds a mulch give away for residents annually using the green waste collected through the year.

## Gold

2. City holds an annual shredding event to minimize paper waste.
3. The city hosts clean up events during the year through the "Keep Downey Beautiful" program with the help of community volunteers.

## Platinum

4. Held various events providing residents with rain barrels at a reduced price due to rebates offered totaling 148 barrels during the events held in 2016 and 2017.
5. City has developed a Green Task Force to help educate the public and promote environmental information.
6. Provides reusable bags, reusable water bottles and items made out of recycled components with help of Los Angeles Regional Agency (LARA) at city events.







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1400 K Street, Suite 205

Sacramento, CA 95814

916-658-8208

[www.ca-ilg.org](http://www.ca-ilg.org)

