

BEACON

SPOTLIGHT
AWARD

WINNER

BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of El Centro

Sustainability Best Practice Activities



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

City of El Centro

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			
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities	2020		
	Beacon Vanguard 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. El Centro is a member of the Imperial Irrigation District (IID), which offers online do-it-yourself energy audits for residential customers free of charge to identify energy-saving opportunities tailored to their homes.

Gold

Platinum





Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

Silver

1. The city has Sewer and Water Master Plans that evaluate development projects' water and sewer needs and the impacts of those needs on the city's water and sewer systems. The city updates the plan as necessary and evaluates the need for additional piping capacity.

Gold

Platinum





Green Building Activities

Silver

1. El Centro has ten facilities with green building certifications through the U.S. Green Building Council.

Gold

Platinum





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

Silver

1. El Centro is a member of the Imperial Valley Resource Management Agency (IVRMA), who assists the city in developing and implementing sustainable programs for waste reduction, reuse, and recycling. IVRMA also assists in developing and implementing programs for hazardous waste management, composting and recycled-content purchasing for El Centro citizens.

Gold

Platinum





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

Silver

1. El Centro requires recycled-content products for city facilities.

Gold

Platinum





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

Silver

1. El Centro has a fully operational 150-megawatt solar plant that supplies energy to San Diego Gas & Electric under a 25-year power purchase agreement. The plant generates enough electricity to power approximately 55,000 homes.

Gold

Platinum





Efficient Transportation Activities

Silver

1. In February 2019, the El Centro City Council adopted an Active Transportation Plan/Safe Routes to School Plan. The plan aims to improve non-motorized transportation, promote public health, reduce automobile usage and promote transportation equity.

Gold

Platinum





Land Use and Community Design Activities

Silver

1. El Centro's 2050 Vision Plan has eight strategies that address its goal of creating a bustling downtown with a mixture of land uses that celebrates the city's history and heritage. Doing so results in enhanced business development, improved quality of life for residents, increased choices for shopping, housing, work and recreational opportunities.

Gold

Platinum





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

Silver

1. The city's Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan has strategies to “embrace the desert” by creating an Environmental Education Program for youths to understand the unique value of Desert Habitat, creating a Desert Demonstration Garden to highlight and adapt drought-tolerant desert plant material and creating policies that demand new developments to adhere to Best Management Practices and consider solar and geothermal power.

Gold

Platinum





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

Silver

1. The City of El Centro held an International Water Safety Day in May 2020. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness about water safety education and drowning prevention. The city gave out free at-home water safety activity kits and the first 40 kids registered were sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

Gold

Platinum





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