

## 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 customers 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			
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities	2015	2017	



# City of Indio

## Best Practice Activities

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



# Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. Imperial Irrigation District (IDD), the local energy provider, offers a light bulb replacement event. The city partnered with IDD to staff a booth to educate on environmental programs and give away free reusable bags.	<b>2015</b>

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The City of Indio water authority partnered with Southern California Gas to distribute living wise educational materials to 6th grade students in the city. This program provides each student with retrofit kit for both water and energy savings. Students track and report how much resource savings are received after installation of the kit materials at their homes.</li> <li>2. The city replaced incandescent lights with more energy efficient lighting, such as compact fluorescents, overhead fluorescent lights or light-emitting diodes (LED's).</li> </ol>	<b>2015</b>

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city replaced a 10 ton condensing unit serving the city council chambers with a new high efficiency unit between 2014 –2015.</li> <li>2. The city continues to convert older inefficient lighting with higher efficiency lighting throughout the city. The city has upgraded inefficient tree lighting with LED lights in 220 Date Palm Trees.</li> </ol>	<b>2015</b>





# Water & Wastewater Systems Activity

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Beginning 2013 the Indio water authority provides a home retrofit kit that includes low flow shower heads, leak detection materials and aerators, from Niagra, to any water account holder in good standing.	2015

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Indio water authority sources pumps are tested each year for efficiency. Beginning 2011, Indio water authority uses the American water works association leak detection software to assess leaks in the water infrastructure. The Indio water authority also runs a program to replace old meters with “smart meters” that help detect leaks so that the residents or businesses can be informed when a leak occurs.</li> <li>All Indio municipal parks have smart irrigation meters.</li> </ol>	2015

Level	Water and Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2011, the Indio water authority adopted a recycled water master plan in 2011.</li> <li>The Indio water authority runs residential and commercial water conservation programs which includes:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>turf reduction programs for residential and commercial meters (2008).</li> <li>outdoor residential water audits (2008).</li> <li>outdoor large commercial facility audits (2014).</li> <li>conservation based pricing (budget tiered rates)(2014).</li> </ul> </li> <li>The Indio water authority partners with the other water agencies in the region for the Coachella Valley integrated water management group. This group runs regional water conservation outreach effort that includes the website <a href="http://www.cvwatercounts.com">www.cvwatercounts.com</a>.</li> <li>The Indio Water Authority continues to provide water conservation rebates and has expanded those rebates to include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low-flow toilets 1.28 gallons or less per flush. \$150 rebate for each toilet limit 2.</li> <li>Washing machines with water factor of 6 or lower. \$150 rebate</li> <li>Irrigation upgrades for smart controllers and more efficient rotary heads and drip irrigation. \$750 for residential and \$1500 for commercial.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	2015





# Green Building Activity

Level	Green Building Activity	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. The city utilize water efficient plants and trees. Facilities have water efficient landscapes and ET clocks. The city has now begun to focus on lighting and landscaping districts on city owned property.	<b>2015</b>

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In 2015, the city removed the sod from the palazzo lighting and landscaping district and replaced it with drought tolerant landscaping.</li> <li>2. In 2015, the city approved an ordinance to expedite the review/permit process for solar projects.</li> </ol>	<b>2015</b>

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In 2015, the city removed the sod from the palazzo lighting and landscaping district and replaced it with drought tolerant landscaping.</li> <li>2. In 2015, the city approved an ordinance to expedite the review/permit process for solar projects.</li> <li>3. Enact a construction and demolition debris recycling ordinance that requires 50 percent or more diversion of project waste.</li> <li>4. The city has an ordinance (1501) that requires 50 percent diversion of waste from construction and demolition sites. However, the city currently requires 65 percent diversion as the new code requires and the ordinance is being updated to reflect this.</li> </ol>	<b>2017</b>





# Waste Reduction and Recycling Activity

Level	Waste Reduction Activity	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. The city provides battery recycling bins for residents located at five municipal facilities throughout the city. The batteries are collected and recycled.	<b>2015</b>

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The City of Indio in conjunction with Burrtec, the local waste hauler, began a commercial food recycling program in 2012.</li> <li>2. The City of Indio in conjunction with Burrtec, the local waste hauler established commercial recycling rates in 2011 that are lower than waste hauling rates. Burrtec provides free voluntary commercial waste audits to commercial facilities.</li> </ol>	<b>2015</b>

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city has produced and began airing a television commercial promoting recycling in the city.</li> <li>2. The City of Indio has passed an ordinance banning single use plastic bags.</li> <li>3. The city has applied for used oil grant monies from CalRecycle and held oil recycling events. In 2013, the city added waste tires to these collection events and the events are still ongoing.</li> </ol>	<b>2015</b>





# Climate-friendly Purchasing Activity

Level	Climate-Friendly Activity	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. In 2012, the fleet services department switched to no spill systems by Femco for oil changes and replaced the oil drain plugs on all fleet vehicles to the no spill system. This system does not require the drain plug to be removed. A special hose is attached to the no spill system and oil is released directly into a collector reducing the possibility of oil spills or splashes.	<b>2015</b>

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	1. In 2014, the city began to purchase Aquaphalt on a limited basis for fixing potholes in the city because of the environmental friendly aspects. Use of the product has slowly expanded. 2. The city purchased Rubberized Emulsion Aggregate Slurry to slurry roadways in 2016. This product uses rubber from waste tires to blend into the slurry diverting these tires from the waste stream. The slurry uses 78 waste tires per lane mile	<b>2015</b>

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	1. Consider efficient transportation methods then purchasing goods and services, such as using local vendors and or locally produced goods to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. 2. The city continues to purchase and place waste and recycling receptacles and benches in parks and other public places from Greenday LLC that produces these products using recycled glass bottles and contain a minimum of 70 percent recycled material. This vendor is a local vendor.	<b>2017</b>





# Efficient Transportation Activity

Level	Efficient Transportation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. In 2012, 48 street lights were synced and timed to allow traffic to flow. Jefferson Street from Westward Ho to Indio Boulevard were synced in 2010 but in 2014 the traffic flow had increased and the signals were re-synced to allow current traffic patterns to flow better.	2015

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The City of Indio had a standard for traffic cameras to be installed that can detect bicyclist in the roadway. In 2012, the camera signals were recalibrated to incorporate the appropriate time for bicyclist and pedestrians to clear intersections.</li> <li>The city has now purchased two electric vehicles from EcoCentre®, one pick-up and one van style vehicle. One vehicle is used by the parks department and the other by the environmental department to facilitate recycling and outreach at events.</li> </ol>	2017

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Platinum		







# Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activity

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. The city has increased the number of PACE programs operating in the city by adding two more PACE providers totaling four approved PACE	<b>2015</b>

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city also purchased and EV ARC™ from Envision Solar and this is a solar electric vehicle charging station. This solar charging station effectively takes the two electric vehicles the city has purchased completely off the grid and they run entirely on sunshine.</li> <li>2. The city installed a parking structure at City Hall that is covered with solar panels. The PV system covers 82 percent of the electrical needs at City Hall. The system size is 149 kW DC.</li> </ol>	<b>2017</b>

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	1. Solar lighting is now used in some parks including the new dog park and Hjorth Park. Solar irrigation Controllers have been installed in Hjorth Park and the Santa Fe Landscape and Lighting District.	<b>2017</b>





# Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activity	Reported
Silver	1. In 2013, the city completed the Housing Element. Policy Action 1.5 explains the intended use of known and inventoried infill opportunities for very-low to low income housing including assistance the city may consider to support the development.	2015

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The city participates in regional planning efforts as a part of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) including regional transportation planning. Indio supports CVAG and is included in the regional transportation planning including combining and leveraging local transportation funding.</li> <li>The city has a Mobility Element Technical Report to support the General Plan Update process. The Report summarizes the existing transportation network and provides future conditions up to the year 2035. It includes pedestrian, public transportation and bicycle operations and plans improvements for each mode of transportation.</li> </ol>	2017

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Platinum		





# Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2012, the city completed Hjorth Park. This new park has recycling and water containers made from recycled materials. The benches at the park are also made from recycled materials. The lights in the park are solar.</li> </ol>	<b>2015</b>
Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The city is a Tree City so every year new trees are planted at the Annual Arbor Day event.</li> <li>At the 2016 Arbor Day event, the city planted 19 trees in South Jackson Soccer Park that will provide shade to the participants and their families.</li> </ol>	<b>2015</b>
Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase number, type and accessibility of parks and other recreational opportunities in the community, including promoting associated public health benefits.</li> <li>In January 2017, Indio opened the first city dog park with solar lights. The trash/recycling receptacles and benches made from 70 percent recycled materials.</li> </ol>	<b>2017</b>





# Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. In 2015, the city issued the first environmental programs newsletter which included articles on recycling, special waste collection events and the plastic bag ban.	<b>2017</b>

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city created a sustainability commission in 2014.</li> <li>2. Collaborate with schools to educate students about opportunities to be more energy efficient and to reduce, re-use and recycle. The city worked with five elementary schools to bring the EcoHero program to the schools. The EcoHero works with music to teach recycling and sustainability to students in a 90 minute assembly.</li> </ol>	<b>2017</b>

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Participate in the CoolCalifornia Challenge which challenges local agencies to engage residents in taking action to reduce household energy and vehicle miles traveled. The City of Indio participated in the CoolCalifornia Challenge in partnership with the Indio High School Environmental Club. The city and high school did not win the challenge but earned enough money to purchase a state of the art Soofa Solar Bench for the Indio High School campus.</li> <li>2. The city purchased solar panels and a solar generator for our outreach events to educate about renewable energy as well as reduce the amount of printed material needed at the community events.</li> </ol>	<b>2017</b>





# INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT<sup>SM</sup>

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