

PROUD  
PARTICIPANT



Local Leadership Toward  
Solving Climate Change

# City of La Mesa

## Beacon Award

### Accomplishments to Date and Best Practice Activities

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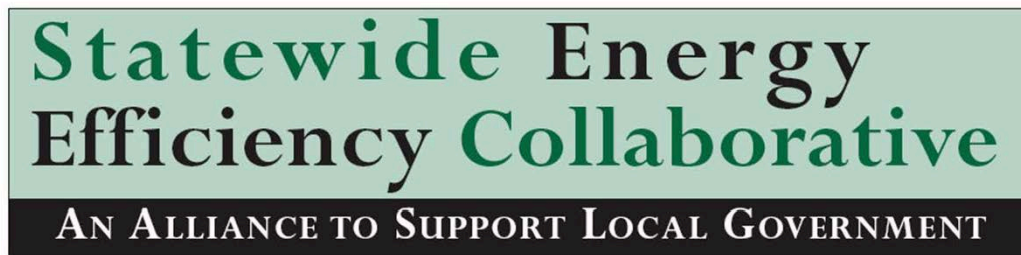
(As of 4/4/2012)

CRITERIA	AWARD LEVELS		
	SILVER	GOLD	PLATINUM
<b>Agency Facilities</b>			
GHG Reductions	-	-	-
Electricity Savings	-	-	-
Natural Gas Savings	-	-	-
<b>Community</b>			
GHG Reductions	-	-	-
Activity Promoting Energy Efficiency	-	-	-
<b>Best Practice Areas</b>			
Completed Activities in Each Area	1	3	-

## 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 Award: Local Leadership toward Solving Climate Change. The Beacon Award 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 Award 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.



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## 1. Energy Efficiency & Conservation

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. Energy audits performed on city facilities and operations through SANDAG's Energy Roadmap program.	01-2012
<b>Gold</b>	1. Window replacements are planned for the Recreation Center.	01-2012
	2. The city has retrofitted all traffic signals with green and red LED (light-emitting diode) lights.	01-2012
<b>Platinum</b>	1. The city's new police station has a high-efficiency HVAC system.	01-2012
	2. High efficiency induction street light replacements have been installed using ARRA funding.	01-2012
	3. Smart meters installed throughout city facilities that are more accurate and allow customers to view close to real-time data on their use.	01-2012



## 2. Water & Wastewater Systems

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. A <a href="#">Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG)</a> Control Program was implemented to help reduce blockages within the wastewater system which can lead to overflows and impact surface water quality. Staff enrolls food service establishments which are required to participate in the program and the majority of applicable establishments were issued a five-year FOG permit.	01-2012
<b>Gold</b>	1. EDCO Waste and Recycling in La Mesa now accepts fats, oils and grease for free from the public to be recycled into biofuel by a local company in San Diego.  2. The city is actively upgrading the wastewater collection system to mitigate any storm water inflow or infiltration into the collection system. Reducing this burden on the treatment plant results in lower environmental impacts to the plant and the surrounding environment.	01-2012  01-2012
<b>Platinum</b>	1. Irrigation systems have been upgraded at all parks, several landscaped medians and most facilities resulting in more efficient water use.  2. Information kiosks are located in four city parks as part of the city's storm water pollution prevention efforts.  3. Staff participates annually in the <a href="#">Creek to Bay Cleanup and Coastal Cleanup Day</a> events.	01-2012  01-2012  01-2012



### 3. Green Building

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. La Mesa has a Sustainable Building Task Force that includes representatives from various fields within the building industry and other groups to evaluate the feasibility of integrating sustainable building techniques into all new buildings as well as major retrofits.	01-2012
<b>Gold</b>	1. The new police station is in the process of achieving LEED Silver Certification.  2. Through the city’s Development Review process, new development is encouraged to incorporate energy conservation and green building concepts at the early stages of project development.	01-2012  01-2012
<b>Platinum</b>	1. Installed a cool roof on the La Mesa Community Center.  2. The city replaced older backup generators with cleaner, more energy-efficient units at the new Fire and Police facilities.  3. The city is working to implement a C&D online tracking system that actively assists projects in gaining LEED credits.	01-2012  01-2012  01-2012



#### 4. Waste Reduction & Recycling

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. Using a grant from the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) the city is distributing thousands of reusable recycling bags to multifamily complexes to help residents separate and carry recyclables to collection bins, along with space-saving can crushers and hundreds of recycling receptacles for common areas such as pools and laundry rooms.	01-2012
<b>Gold</b>	1. The city's mandatory recycling ordinance covers all sectors and has a community-wide compliance rate of 99%.  2. In the most recent Annual Report to CalRecycle the 2010 estimated trash disposal rate by residents was 4.1 pounds/person/day (PPD) and 10.5 PPD by employees of local businesses. This is lower than the maximum disposal allowed in La Mesa, 6.2 PPD and 13.8 PPD respectively, under AB 939 which mandates 50% diversion from landfills.	01-2012  01-2012
<b>Platinum</b>	1. The city's waste and recycling hauler, now accepts all rigid plastics through its curbside collection to allow for more comprehensive recycling.  2. Recycling containers are located in the downtown village as well as all city parks and facilities.  3. An aerosol recycling system captures propellant for safe disposal. This is done by and for the city Public Works operations division.	01-2012  01-2012  01-2012



## 5. Climate-Friendly Purchasing

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. The city has a formal written policy in the city's Purchasing Manual for procurement of recycled products and sustainable purchasing is considered for all materials and items.	01-2012
<b>Gold</b>	1. All playground upgrades and replacement use recycled materials when available, including flooring materials that are either recycled tires or wood chips, depending on grant availability.  2. The city has warehouse space devoted to used office equipment, supplies, and furniture for reuse by departments.	01-2012  01-2012
<b>Platinum</b>	1. Periodic public auctions are held for surplus items.  2. Bidding for services and equipment are performed electronically whenever possible to save paper.  3. <i>TBD</i>	01-2012  01-2012





## 6. Renewable Energy & Low-Carbon Fuels

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. Solar powered radar feedback signs are used on two streets.	01-2012
<b>Gold</b>	1. Three city street lights have been converted to solar power.	01-2012
	2. Solar powered smart parking meters are in use in the Downtown Village.	01-2012
<b>Platinum</b>	1. Solar and renewable energy is encouraged in private development and several large projects are in place including retail and medical locations through a streamlined permitting process that allows faster and easier incorporation of these features.	01-2012
	2. The city owns four hybrid vehicles and as city vehicles are replaced, fuel efficiency and reduced emissions will be important criteria in selecting replacement vehicles and equipment. The city retrofitted six diesel vehicles to reduce emissions in compliance with the State's Tier 3 requirements and has three more to be installed with diesel particulate filters. Three additional diesel particulate filters are to be installed on off-road equipment to reduce emissions.	01-2012
	3. <i>TBD</i>	



## 7. Efficient Transportation

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	<p>1. Low-draw LED emergency lighting is being installed on all new public works vehicles, allowing the lights to be used without the engine running. Additionally, AIMS Fuelmaster automatic fuel monitoring devices, currently used on all emergency medical service vehicles, will be installed on all new vehicles and incrementally installed on existing vehicles.</p>	01-2012
<b>Gold</b>	<p>1. The city is working with SANDAG's iCommute program and the Metropolitan Transit System to encourage alternative transportation and carpool options through <a href="#">Sustain La Mesa</a> and the annual environmental festival.</p> <p>2. <a href="#">Walkability</a> has been a focus of planning and design. Two mid-block crosswalks were constructed on Allison Avenue at the community library and trolley station and another at Grossmont Hospital which include sensor-activated flashing LED lights.</p>	01-2012  01-2012
<b>Platinum</b>	<p>1. The city worked with developers and the transit authority to develop a <a href="#">major multifamily residential project</a> at the Grossmont trolley station and staff worked with the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System to construct the new station on Alvarado Road along a major transit corridor.</p> <p>2. The city is preparing a <a href="#">Bicycle Master Plan</a> and Circulation Element update in accordance with AB 1358 "Complete Streets" legislation funded by a \$75,000 SANDAG grant awarded in July 2009.</p> <p>3. The city assisted in the planning and development of the EV Project, a nationwide pilot program to</p>	01-2012  01-2012



	install electric vehicle chargers in homes and public places and facilitate more practical use of electric and hybrid vehicles.	01-2012
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## 8. Land Use & Community Design

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
Silver	1. A comprehensive update to the <a href="#">La Mesa General Plan</a> is underway and scheduled for completion during the city's centennial in 2012. It will include goals, objectives, and policies that further environmental sustainability, health and wellness in the community.	01-2012
Gold	1. Existing policies reduce urban sprawl, preserve open space, and create a more compact urban community.	01-2012
	2. The <a href="#">Mixed Use Overlay Zone</a> supports compact urban development and pedestrian oriented neighborhoods.	01-2012
Platinum	1. A <a href="#">Sidewalk Master Plan</a> is leading to new sidewalk construction where it is most needed, improving the walkability of the community. Construction of a new sidewalk, landscaped parkway and utility undergrounding was completed behind Helix Charter High School to increase walkability.	01-2012
	2. The <a href="#">University Avenue Revitalization</a> project is underway that will maximize walkability on this major commercial corridor and improve the streetscape.	01-2012
	3. <i>TBD</i>	



## 9. Open Space & Offsetting Carbon Emissions

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. The city is leading an effort to establish a community garden.	01-2012
<b>Gold</b>	1. The city runs a weekly farmer's market that includes food and arts & crafts.	01-2012
	2. The General Plan <a href="#">Urban Design Element</a> encourages use of greenery in design.	01-2012
<b>Platinum</b>	1. The city has been recognized as a <a href="#">Tree City USA</a> since 1980.	01-2012
	2. The city maintains <a href="#">14 parks</a> (approx. 1:4000 residents) and many include native vegetation such as the natural trails at Harry Griffen Regional Park.	01-2012
	3. <a href="#">The Art Walk, Walk La Mesa, Walk &amp; Talk La Mesa, and an urban walking trails map</a> and regular volunteer-led meets encourage outdoor exercise and sociality.	01-2012



## 10. Promoting Community & Individual Action

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. Online access includes <a href="#">La Mesa e-Gov</a> which allows anyone 24-hour access to services electronically including announcements of programs and events through Twitter, Nixle and Notify Me. The La Mesa FOCUS online publication includes various items on environmental topics throughout the year and information on various environmental topics is available through links to SDG&E, Helix Water District, EDCO, CalRecycle and the EPA.	01-2012
<b>Gold</b>	1. Homeowners assistance is provided by the Building Department regarding ways to improve energy efficiency.	01-2012
	2. The Environmental Sustainability Commission is comprised of members from environmentally linked industries and the general public to address issues and establish guidelines related to climate change.	01-2012
<b>Platinum</b>	1. The "Sustain La Mesa" Environmental Festival is held annually in Harry Griffen Park, and includes dozens for booths and activities as well as expert speakers promoting a variety of environmental topics. The festival also features a recycling zone for electronic waste and hard to recycle materials including plastic wrap/bags and Styrofoam.	01-2012
	2. Presentations are made to schools for all grade levels under a contract with I Love A Clean San Diego to educate on topics of pollution prevention and recycling.	01-2012
	3. Special giveaway items have been developed to appeal to kids and adults while carrying important	01-2012



	messages about sustainability.	
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