

BEACON

SPOTLIGHT
AWARD

WINNER

BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of Manhattan Beach

Sustainability Best Practice Activities





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

City of Manhattan Beach

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

SPOTLIGHT AWARD		SILVER LEVEL	GOLD LEVEL	PLATINUM LEVEL
Areas of Accomplishment				
	Agency GHG Reductions	2015 (9%)		
	Community GHG Reductions	2015 (9%)		
	Agency Energy Savings			2013 (26%)
	Natural Gas Savings	2016 (8%)		
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities		2013	2015
	Beacon Award	2016		

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's volunteer environmental task force created and promoted an energy efficiency contest geared towards encouraging residents to reduce energy use. Several contest participants made use of other environmental task force programs, including the free mulch and landscape checkup programs. The city received national recognition for this program with an honorable mention at the 2012 U.S. Mayors Conference.

Gold

2. The city has partnered with its solid waste hauler to encourage businesses to reduce energy consumption and pollution generation. The program is halfway to its goal of registering 20 local businesses in the first year. Businesses that qualify for the program and make certain sustainable business practice improvements receive recognition from the city, as well as a plaque for recognition for their efforts.
3. The city is using its Energy Efficiency and Community Block Grant funding to replace inefficient Strand (beach path) lighting, downtown and walk street lighting, and parking garage lighting with LED lighting technologies.

Platinum

4. The light fixtures in all city facilities have been upgraded to more energy efficient fluorescent lamps and electronic ballasts. Specular reflectors were also installed to further enhance light distribution. Where retrofitting was not an option, light fixtures were replaced in their entirety.
5. Variable frequency drives (VFDs) and high efficiency motors were fitted to frequently-used electric motors and pumps, especially at sewer and water pumping facilities.
6. The City of Manhattan Beach attained the Platinum Level in Southern California Edison Energy Leader Program (ELP). The ELP is a tiered system providing increased incentives as cities complete more energy efficiency projects. The city worked to update municipal systems to the highest efficiency available, reduce energy costs, and lead the community by example.





Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

Silver

1. The city has made significant reductions in its energy use by auditing pumps and motors to identify inefficiencies. Two motors for the city's water wells were replaced with efficient motors, resulting in nearly half a million dollars in electricity savings over the pump's lifetime. The pump replacement also resulted in sizable rebates from SCE.

Gold

2. In an effort to conserve water and reduce the amount of runoff to our oceans, the city has provided a free mulch program to the community. Open year-round, the program is self-service and is highly successful. Resource materials are provided online for those that want to learn more about the use of mulch and sustainable landscaping.
3. The city is assessing and replacing inefficient plumbing with low-water use toilets through some grant funding from the West Basin Municipal Water District. Fixtures in the civic center have been replaced with low-water use technologies. The city is also replacing inefficient irrigation systems with drip irrigation, where feasible.

Platinum

4. Nearly of the city's parks and medians are irrigated with reclaimed water.
5. In order to promote sustainable landscaping and water conservation, the city promotes free gardening and water conservation classes at the Manhattan Beach Botanical Garden.
6. The city partnered with West Basin to promote a Turf Removal Program, where rebates were available at \$2.00 per square foot of turf removed.
7. Manhattan Beach received a Project of the Year Award in the Storm Water Quality category from the American Public Works Association, Southern California Chapter, for its work to protect beach health and water quality. The "Greenbelt Low Flow Infiltration Project" utilizes the Greenbelt to intercept and infiltrate dry weather and wet weather low flows from the existing storm drain system, which includes a 55.2 acre tributary area. Previously, low flows were discharged at an existing storm drain outfall located adjacent to the beach.





Green Building Activities

Silver

1. The city's police and fire facility was designed by a LEED-certified architect. The facility integrated facets of SCE's Savings by Design Incentive Program and incorporated other sustainable design concepts, as well.

Gold

2. In preparation for the new CalGreen building codes, the city adopted sustainable building standards for residential properties requiring energy efficiency standards to be exceeded by 15%, among other measures.
3. For new projects and projects exceeding 50% building valuation, landscape plans must be submitted showing no more than 20% of the landscape/hardscape area containing high water use plants.

Platinum

4. The city is implementing sustainable landscape practices in any new landscape projects, and is promoting a free landscape sustainability audit to the community as a way to reduce water and energy consumption.
5. In 2015, the city put in place a requirement that new building projects have to include drip irrigation. This new requirement enables Manhattan Beach as a community to evolve into a city that is built for water conservation.
6. The city's environmental task force recommends that all large construction fall under LEED Silver requirements, and any new municipal facilities follow LEED Gold standards.





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

Silver

1. Through the new solid waste contract, residents can now schedule convenient “at your door” pickup service of hazardous materials and e-waste.

Gold

2. The city maintains a free pharmaceutical drop-off service at the civic center where unwanted controlled substances can be taken and disposed of safely instead of entering the environment.
3. Through the new solid waste contract, selected residents and businesses are participating in a free Food Waste Pilot Program, which allows participants to further increase their recycling levels. The goal is to increase diversion levels and reduce the amount of waste taken to landfills.

Platinum

4. The city’s landmark case against the plastic bag industry put Manhattan Beach on the map in terms of sustainability planning. The city’s ordinance was placed on hold for several years due to litigation from the Save the Plastic Bag Coalition, but the city and its community partners still focused on education and incentives to promote individuals to take action and make the switch to reusable bags to reduce environmental pollution and support resource conservation.
5. All food vendors must comply with the city’s polystyrene ban to ensure that food service ware containers and utensils provided to customers are not made from polystyrene. This was done in an effort to protect the coastal environment and public health of residents.
6. The city has taken steps to regulate smoking to protect the health of its residents and environment. The city council voted to adopt Ordinance 14-0008 to prohibit smoking in all public places within the city and prohibit the use of electronic cigarettes wherever smoking is not allowed.
7. The city installed water-filling stations. The city raised funds to install “H2.o Stations” around high-traffic areas in the city to encourage the use of reusable water bottles, and reduce disposable plastic bottle waste. The state-of-the-art water filling stations provide a modern dispensing source for the city’s fresh water.





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

Silver

1. The city adopted a Climate Friendly Purchasing Policy to include environmental considerations in our purchasing process. The plan establishes the framework for an environmentally based purchasing program in the city.

Gold

2. The city purchases paper products with recycled content including, copier paper, hand towels and tissue paper.
3. The city purchases law enforcement ammunition with lead free primers.

Platinum

4. The city uses paint with low volatile organic compounds (VOCs).
5. The city purchases recycled tire stops for parking spaces and recycled rubber matting for city playgrounds.
6. The city requires its service providers (waste hauler and street sweeping) and taxi franchise to utilize alternative fuel and hybrid vehicles. For example, the city's waste hauler utilizes liquid natural gas and ultra low sulfur diesel in the vehicles that service the city.
7. As part of the city's Green Business Program, environmentally friendly purchasing practices are included as a measure for certification in the program. These measures include purchasing paper materials with the highest possible recycled content, and replacing disposable items with refillable and permanent wares.





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

Silver

1. The city is purchasing electric, hybrid, and low-carbon fuel vehicles as part of its Fleet Replacement Program.

Gold

2. The city has approved permanent fee waivers for solar permits. In addition, the city has several other incentives for solar installation, including renewable energy amendments that allow administrative approval of solar energy systems (both producing electricity and heating water) up to a maximum of twelve inches over the maximum allowed height limit as needed to meet state regulations.
3. The city's renewable energy recommendations also address small wind energy systems and allow alternative fuel vehicle charging systems to project into the garage parking clearance or required side setbacks. Turbines are allowed within the building footprint, though they may not exceed the height of structure. Alternative fuel vehicle charging systems are allowed to overhang into garage parking clearances, and can project into interior side yard setback.

Platinum

4. The city provides information on incentives and rebates for residents that are interested in purchasing electric vehicles.
5. In partnership with Waste Management, the city has developed its Food Waste Recycling Program into an energy generation process. Waste Management's CORE®- produced BioSlurry is being used by the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County at their Joint Water Pollution Control Plant in Carson, CA. The project converts food waste into renewable biogas each day, which is used to generate electricity.
6. The city has helped to develop a coalition between Los Angeles area cities, environmental non-profits, and Los Angeles County to explore feasibility of community choice aggregation.





Efficient Transportation Activities

Silver

1. The city offers financial incentives to employees to take alternative forms of transportation to work. Carpooling, walking, biking, and public transportation all qualify as alternate transportation modes that reduce vehicle trips.

Gold

2. The city council approved the installation of bike sharrows on Manhattan Avenue and Rosecrans Avenue to move forward with the South Bay Bicycle Master Plan, which was adopted in 2011.
3. The city offers a low cost dial-a-ride service to seniors and disabled residents for transportation anywhere within the city, as well as to medical facilities and shopping destinations. In addition, the Ocean Express Trolley is a free service connecting the hotels on Century Boulevard near the Los Angeles International Airport with Downtown Manhattan Beach and the Manhattan Village Shopping Center.

Platinum

4. The city received four EV charging stations as part of a California Energy Commission Program to replace existing infrastructure with new EV charging stations for public use.
5. The city has secured funding to develop the Safe Routes to School Program in the community to facilitate biking and walking to school. This program also facilitates the Walking School Bus Initiative that has come forward from the Vitality City effort. The program scope includes school area signs and crosswalks, count-down traffic signal pedestrian heads, and curb ramps to improve safety conditions for school children walking or biking to school.
6. The city and local schools have anti-idling policies to reduce the emissions from idling vehicles, improve air quality, and protect the health of children and community members that may be exposed to vehicle emissions.





Land Use and Community Design Activities

Silver

1. The city underwent an extensive bicycle master planning process to create a Regional Bicycle Master Plan with seven other cities in the South Bay. The city hosted community meetings and workshops with the South Bay Bicycle Coalition to educate the public on the recommendations in the plan. The plan provides details and recommendations to bring approximately 30 miles of bike ways to Manhattan Beach. The plan has been adopted and started implementation.

Gold

2. The city is part of the Blue Zones Vitality City Initiative. The initiative is expected to make sustainable changes in the beach cities to improve longevity and well-being that lead to lower health care cost trends, higher productivity, and increased economic vitality.
3. In November 2011, the city council adopted a Livability Plan designed to provide a general assessment of existing conditions in the beach cities, followed by specific recommendations for improving policy and the built form to be more supportive of livability. The recommendations in the plan promote efficient development and consider the health benefits of designing bikeable and walkable communities.

Platinum

4. The implementation of a \$23,000 grant award by the Department of Water Resources and West Basin Municipal Water District enabled the city to turn an existing planter on Manhattan Beach Strand into an Ocean-Friendly Garden. The new garden demonstrates best management practices that apply conservation, permeability, and retention principles to revive watersheds and oceans.
5. The city's General Plan supports pedestrian orientated improvements to increase accessibility in and around downtown.
6. In January 2015, the City of Manhattan Beach partnered with the Urban Land Institute (ULI) to conduct a week-long visioning exercise to determine key issues and opportunities that can be explored through a Downtown Specific Plan process. The city conducted over 125 stakeholder interviews and several design charrettes with the general public.





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

Silver

1. The city is a member of the South Bay Climate Action Planning (CAP) group. The group is meeting to review plans for each city and share best practices to reduce GHGs in the region.

Gold

2. The city has a very successful weekly farmers market to promote the purchase of local and organic produce. The farmers market is also a strong community partner in the city's environmental programs and events, and allows a "green" tent space to promote the city's environmental education programs.
3. The city's Tree Ordinance preserves and protects trees, requires large replacement trees when trees are removed, and requires new trees for new construction projects where no tree currently exists. By preserving and enhancing the existing tree canopy throughout the city, these regulations provide shade, erosion control, counteract pollutants in the air, and strive to maintain the climatic and ecological balance.

Platinum

4. The city developed the Veterans Parkway Master Plan Guidelines through a community vetting process consisting of three public workshops and presentations to city council resulted in a very well-received product that lays out guidelines for any future development on the Veterans Parkway.
5. The City of Manhattan Beach maintains a complete list of trees located within the city and shares it with the community via the city's website.
6. The City of Manhattan Beach maintains 80 acres of park land (11 parks) and provides a wide array of leisure services that are aimed at enhancing the quality of life for its residents.





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

Silver

1. The city's first-term environmental task force's recommendations to city council included: the development of a Climate Action Plan, water conservation and storm water management issues, waste reduction and recycling, and sustainable design.

Gold

2. The second term of the task force focused on implementation of the environmental programs and outreach to the community. Their focus was: energy efficiency and renewable energy, water conservation and sustainable landscaping, and zero waste goals.
3. Following the success of the "Amazing Waving Human Tideline," which was the largest climate action event on the west coast for the International Day of Climate Action, the city put together a Sustainability Summit to discuss the solutions surrounding the climate change problem. The goal of the Sustainability Summit was to provide an opportunity for interested community members to stay engaged in the climate policy efforts the city is developing.

Platinum

4. In September 2011, the city once again rallied its partners to coordinate the "Moving Planet" event, which focused on making communities more walkable and livable as a means to reduce greenhouse gas emissions regionwide.
5. Each October, in recognition of National Energy Efficiency Month, the city hosts a workshop for its residents and distributes energy-savings tools to encourage individuals to actively become aware of energy efficiency.
6. The city offers three free composting classes each year at the Manhattan Beach Botanical Garden. The city's contracted instructor leads each class, and demonstrates composting practices and worm bins. The city also subsidizes the cost of the composting bins for residents.





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1400 K Street, Suite 205
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-658-8208
www.ca-ilg.org

