



BEACON
SPOTLIGHT
AWARD
WINNER
BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of Ojai

Sustainability Best Practice Activities








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

City of Ojai

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 | 2016 (7%) | | |
|  | Community GHG Reductions | | | |
|  | Agency Energy Savings | 2016 (5%) | | |
|  | Natural Gas Savings | | | |
|  | Sustainability Best Practice Activities | 2016 | 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 participates in the in Southern California Edison's (SCE) Energy Leader Partnership and has attained the Valued Level Tier. The partnership assists with identifying and addressing energy efficiency opportunities in municipal facilities and pays increased incentives for city energy efficiency projects.

Gold

2. The city completed an Integrated Demand Side Management audit at facilities that use greater than 200kW and has enrolled over 50% of eligible facilities in Demand Response Programs.
3. Since 2014, the city has offered emPower Central Coast and CaliforniaFIRST as energy financing programs for residential property owners.

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Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

Silver

1. The city participates in the emPower Central Coast Program. emPower Central Coast provides free faucet aerators and water-efficient shower heads to residents during energy coach site visits, as well as community events.

Gold

2. The city installed a community demonstration garden next to city hall. The garden provides an educational experience via an interpretive self-tour that displays drought resistant plants, wildlife habitats, and natural growing methods, including composting and an organic vegetable garden. A primary focus of the garden is waste reduction and water conservation. The garden is open to the public every day from dawn to dusk and there is no cost to visitors and all workshops are free.
3. The city offers periodic workshops at the community demonstration garden on various topics, such as waste reducing, natural pruning methods, low flow irrigation, and tree maintenance. Upcoming workshop dates are posted on the garden bulletin board.

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Green Building Activities

Silver

1. The city has participated in the emPower Central Coast Program since 2014. The program includes an energy coach service where coaches spend up to two hours with a homeowner at their residence, providing them with information on green building techniques and recommendations to improve their home's energy efficiency. The program also works with contractors to provide them with training on green building techniques.

Gold

2. The emPower Central Coast Program has teamed up with the statewide Energy Upgrade California Program to provide homeowners with increased utility rebates for implementing energy efficient upgrades.
3. The city is a participating member of the Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance (VCREA). VCREA offers utility sponsored quarterly green building standards trainings to staff from member agencies. These trainings include, but are not limited to updates to Title 24, benchmarking, and HVAC trainings.

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Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

Silver

1. Ojai residents can bring their used needles and lancers (sharps) to Ojai Valley Community Hospital for proper and convenient disposal.

Gold

2. The city offers instructional information on their website for backyard composting and grasscycling. Composting and grasscycling improve soil structure, as well as release valuable nutrients back into the soil. Both techniques help reduce over-watering lawns and gardens.
3. In 2012, the city adopted a Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance. Retail establishments must stop distributing single-use carryout plastic bags, and grocery stores, including supermarkets, convenience stores, liquor stores, and gasoline stations, must begin charging ten-cents for recyclable paper carryout bags.

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4. The City of Ojai has a Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling Program on their website that provides detailed instructions on how to implement and certify a Waste Reduction and Recycling Summary.
5. The city partners with the County of Ventura to offer free ongoing electronics recovery programs and drop off sites for e-waste and household hazardous waste disposal. The city also provides information on their website for used oil and oil filter recycling.
6. A total of 11,803 passenger car tires were recycled as rubberized asphalt for the city's Road Rehabilitation Project, completed in December 2015. Various streets throughout the city benefited from this project. The program promotes and markets recycled-content surfacing products derived from waste tires generated in California and decreases the environmental impacts created by unlawful disposal and stockpiling of waste tires.





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

Silver

1. The city encourages the practice of not purchasing new materials, such as office supplies and furniture, through the reuse of existing items in surplus when appropriate and feasible.

Gold

2. The city considers efficient transportation methods when purchasing goods and services, such as using local vendors and or locally produced goods to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
3. The city has reviewed current purchasing practices to identify possible green procurement opportunities.

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4. In 2017, VCREA established a countywide Green Business Program that includes the city. The program works with the business community to educate them about climate-friendly procurement opportunities through social media and traditional marketing.
5. The city considers life cycle pricing to ensure that the maintenance, operating, insurance, disposal, and replacement cost of products or services are considered when evaluating purchase options.
6. The city distributes the SCE energy solutions brochure to all city employees.





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

Silver

1. The city has installed four public charging stations.

Gold

2. The city has installed bicycle racks and other amenities at agency facilities to promote bicycle use by agency employees and visitors.
3. The city has trained agency fleet mechanics to service alternative and fuel efficient vehicles.

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4. The city coordinates with VCREA and the Community Environmental Council of Santa Barbara to provide free solar workshops to Ojai residents, businesses, and industrial property owners throughout the year.
5. The city adopted a Small Residential Rooftop Solar Systems Ordinance, which expedites small residential photovoltaic solar applications to encourage installation of photovoltaic systems on new or existing residential buildings.





Efficient Transportation Activities

Silver

1. The city has consolidated offices that community members often visit at the same time, such as building permitting and environmental health permitting to reduce vehicle miles traveled.

Gold

2. The city's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan describes policies, goals, and objectives for developing a safe, convenient, and effective citywide system that promotes bicycling and walking as safe and viable transportation and recreation opportunities.
3. The city participates in SCAG's Go Human Campaign to encourage drivers to slow down and look for people walking and biking. The campaign runs during May and June. The month of May coincides with National Bike Month, and is part of Go Human's broader public awareness efforts to promote traffic safety and encourage people to walk and bike more.

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4. The city established a Complete Streets Committee that sits under the Planning Commission. The purpose of the committee is to study the existing traffic conditions and patterns of city streets and to develop solutions that are designed to balance safety and convenience for all roadway users including pedestrians, bicyclists, and cars. The Public Works Director is the liaison to this committee.





Land Use and Community Design Activities

Silver

1. The city participated in SCAG's development of the Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). The addition of the SCS to the RTP means that the RTP now integrates not only transportation and land-use planning, but also housing and environmental planning with the goal of reducing regional GHG emissions. The city uses the RTP/SCS when conducting its own transportation, land use, and environmental planning to assist in efforts to reduce regional GHG emissions.

Gold

2. In 2014, the city first offered CaliforniaFIRST energy financing program for residential, commercial, industrial, and multifamily property owners to install energy efficient retrofits, solar photovoltaic, or hot water systems on new or existing buildings.
3. As part of the General Plan Housing Element Update, the city identified potential infill development sites, and maintains a community-wide database of vacant and underutilized infill sites to monitor the community's growth and change.

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4. The city has reviewed zoning codes and development policies to identify changes that could improve implementation of land use and transportation policies that reduce GHG emissions.





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

Silver

1. The city hosts a year-round, certified farmers market every Sunday morning from 9am to 1pm in downtown Ojai.

Gold

2. The city owns and maintains over five parks, which help to ensure the long-term health and viability of trees and other vegetation.
3. The city adopted a Tree Ordinance for preservation, cutting, and removal of oak, sycamore, heritage, and other designated mature trees. The ordinance recognizes oak, sycamore, heritage, and other mature trees as having significant historical, aesthetic, and ecological importance, and to create favorable conditions for the preservation and propagation of this unique, irreplaceable plant heritage for the benefit of current and future residents of the city. The city's General Plan Conservation and Land use Elements specifically call for the preservation of oaks and sycamores "within and adjacent to the community."

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Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

Silver

1. The city participates in the emPower Central Coast Program, which provides LED lightbulbs, reusable bags, and other give-away items at community events in Ojai to encourage environmental responsibility.

Gold

2. The city collaborates with other local government agencies to share information about climate change and best practices to reduce GHGs. For example, the city participates on an advisory working group for implementing a community choice aggregation program in Ventura County.
3. Since 2014, the city has participated in a regional climate action partnership with the County of Ventura, VCREA, and the cities of Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, and Ventura. This partnership resulted in the development of the Climate on the Move Report. The report includes GHG inventories for the region as a whole and all eleven participating jurisdictions, 2020 GHG emission forecast, and reduction target options.

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