

GOLD LEVEL AWARD WINNER

BEACON
SPOTLIGHT
AWARD
WINNER
BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of Palm Springs

Sustainability Best Practices Activities



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

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 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.



SPOTLIGHT AWARD

Areas of Accomplishment

| | SILVER LEVEL | GOLD LEVEL | PLATINUM LEVEL |
|---|--------------|------------|----------------|
| Agency GHG Reductions | | | |
| Community GHG Reductions | | | |
| Agency Energy Savings | 9% | | |
| Natural Gas Savings | | | |
| Sustainability Best Practice Activities | 2013 | 2016 | |





Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

| Level | Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity | Reported |
|-----------------|---|-------------|
| Silver | 1. PACE Program Kick-off: The city hosted two workshops, one for contractors and one for small hotels, which resulted in TBD two applicants to the PACE program. Currently awaiting participants' energy audits to begin their retrofits this year, see www.yoursustainablecity.com for more information. | 2015 |
| Level | Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities | Reported |
| Gold | 1. Partnered with GRID Alternatives to promote their SASH program. 2. Changed all holiday lighting in downtown to LED lighting. | 2015 |
| Level | Energy Efficiency & Conservation Activities | Reported |
| Platinum | 1. Performed over \$18 million in renovations at the New Cogeneration Plant, including new chillers, new engines, update irrigation, motion sensors and new lighting for city buildings. 2. Promoted appliance rebates for all energy star appliances to encourage Energy Savings and Water Conservation. 3. Supported Energy Vampire Month in October to illustrate energy loss to city employees and the community. | 2016 |





Water & Wastewater Systems Activity

| Level | Water & Wastewater Systems Activity | Reported |
|--------|--|----------|
| Silver | 1. The city offers a Low Flow Low Income toilet rebate to purchase and install low flow toilets. | 2015 |

| Level | Water & Wastewater Systems Activities | Reported |
|-------|--|----------|
| Gold | 1. The City of Palm Springs Office of Sustainability has developed a Lawn Buy Back Program to encourage property owners to replace turf with low or no water use desert-friendly and native landscaping. The exterior improvements will contribute to overall revitalization using sustainable materials/practices. The first year of the pilot program (fiscal year 2011-2012) provides for grants up to \$2,500 to finance all or a portion of a property owner's landscape improvements. A 50% cash match is required of all applicants regardless of the requested grant amount. | 2015 |
| | 2. The city facilities department "desert-scaped" several locations of agency landscape including the fleet area and city hall parking lot. | 2016 |

| Level | Water & Wastewater Systems Activities | Reported |
|----------|--|----------|
| Platinum | 1. The city added four new dual flush toilets to the fleet and facilities maintenance areas. | 2016 |





Green Building Activity

| Level | Green Building Activity | Reported |
|---------------|---|-------------|
| Silver | 1. Provided Green Building 101 training to staff to explore the various problems with Energy, Water, Siting, Materials and Air Quality. Staff learned dozens of practical, tangible solutions for how to reduce the impact of your buildings, saving energy, water and money at the same time. Learning objectives included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the environmental impact of our buildings? • What can be done to reduce and mitigate this impact? • What are the benefits of a green building? • What is the lifecycle and how does that effect the design of buildings? • What is the LEED Green Building Rating System? • How can we save energy, water, resources and money in our buildings? | 2015 |

| Level | Green Building Activities | Reported |
|-------------|--|-------------|
| Gold | 1. Mandated green building (Green for Life CV) protocol for two city-lead projects including the Serena project and another downtown. 2. The city expanded its household hazardous waste service area without adding to building footprint. | 2016 |





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activity

| Level | Waste Reduction Activity | Reported |
|----------|---|----------|
| Silver | 1. The city hosts 4 E-Waste and Shredding events a year | 2015 |
| Level | Waste Reduction Activities | Reported |
| Gold | 1. The city has a 24-hour e-waste drop off. 2. The city has a compost pilot program in place for the largest food waste producers in Palm Springs- hotels and casinos. | 2015 |
| Level | Waste Reduction Activities | Reported |
| Platinum | 1. The city banned single use plastic bags. 2. The city provides free sharps and medical waste containers provided at City Hall for residents. | 2016 |





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activity

| Level | Climate-Friendly Activity | Reported |
|--------|--|----------|
| Silver | 1. Adopted Local Preference Ordinance. | 2015 |

| Level | Climate-Friendly Activities | Reported |
|-------|---|----------|
| Gold | 1. Adopted Sustainable Events Policy. 2. The city only buys paper with post-consumer or 100% recycled content. | 2015 |

| Level | Climate-Friendly Activities | Reported |
|----------|--|----------|
| Platinum | 1. The city added green pest control requirement to its pest control policy, | 2016 |





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activity

| Level | Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity | Reported |
|--------|--|----------|
| Silver | 1. The city hosts the Annual Electric Vehicle (EV) Fair. | 2015 |

| Level | Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity | Reported |
|-------|--|----------|
| Gold | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We belong to the Department of Energy's Clean Cities Coachella Valley Program. A regional collaborative that works with vehicle fleets, fuel providers, community leaders and other stakeholders to reduce petroleum use in transportation. 2. The city secured funding from the Air Quality Management District to add solar to five city facilities including: Convention Center, downtown parking structure, Demuth Park, the Desert Highland Unity Center and the fire station at Indian Canyon and Amado. | 2016 |





Efficient Transportation Activity

| Level | Efficient Transportation Activity | Reported |
|--------|--|----------|
| Silver | 1. The city provides a bike rack map on its website to promote biking in the city. | 2014 |

| Level | Efficient Transportation Activities | Reported |
|-------|---|----------|
| Gold | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city removed bike corrals and parking spaces to install more than 70 new bike racks to support biking. 2. The city has installed 43 Electric Vehicle charging stations throughout the city. | 2016 |





Land Use and Community Design Activity

| Level | Land Use and Community Activity | Reported |
|--------|--|----------|
| Silver | 1. The city supports Electric Vehicle infrastructure and promotes Neighborhood Electric Vehicle (NEV) travel in the city by creating a map showing where the stations are located throughout the city. | 2015 |
| Level | Land Use and Community Activities | Reported |
| Gold | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In collaboration with the Boys and Girls Club, the city added an orchard at Sunrise Park which includes 16 new fruit trees. 2. The city created additional green space by adding an orchard at James O Jesse Community Center. | 2016 |





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

| Level | Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities | Reported |
|-----------------|---|-------------|
| Silver | 1. The city built a community garden. | 2015 |
| Level | Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities | Reported |
| Gold | 1. The city planted over 300 native or desert-friendly trees in Tahquitz Creek Wash and Ruth Hardy Park. 2. The city gave away more than 500 desert friendly trees to school children at our annual Arbor Day event. | 2016 |
| Level | Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities | Reported |
| Platinum | 1. The city provided the public with a free workshop on gardening in the desert. 2. The city planned a free community planting day with free giveaways to demonstrate desert friendly landscaping principles. | 2016 |





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

| Level | Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities | Reported |
|-----------------|--|-------------|
| Silver | 1. The city hosts the Sustainability Summit Annually. In 2010, it featured keynote speaker Bill McKibben and attracted 500 residents. | 2015 |
| Level | Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities | Reported |
| Gold | 1. Gathered input from residents through a survey regarding the city's Climate Action Plan. | 2015 |
| | 2. The city created a "Sustainable Saturday" film series where it shows one free sustainability themed film a month to the public | 2016 |
| Level | Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities | Reported |
| Platinum | 1. The city provided a garden grant of \$1200 to the Desert Aids Project so that the non-profit organization could add a garden for their patients. 2. The city named its 6th "Green Citizen of the Year" , Mary Beth Wehrli. | 2016 |





Notes:





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