



BEACON
SPOTLIGHT
AWARD
WINNER
BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of Paramount

Sustainability Best Practice Activities

City of Paramount

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

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	2018	2019	
	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. When doing city facility upgrades, the city replaces all lighting with energy-efficient LED bulbs.

Gold

2. In 2019, the city joined SoCalREN to better understand its energy usage at city facilities and identify energy saving projects and measures.
3. The city participated in the CivicSpark Fellowship Program to create a 2017 community greenhouse gas inventory.

Platinum

4. The city continually installs motion sensors and multi-level switches at facilities when feasible.





Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

Silver

1. Paramount uses weather-based irrigation control systems to regulate and improve efficiency of irrigation of city facilities.

Gold

2. The city promotes water conservation and modified water use practices at city facilities and has installed water-saving devices and waterless urinals at many facilities.
3. Paramount has a long-standing program of installing catch basin screens and inserts throughout the city to prevent trash and other debris from entering rivers and ocean.

Platinum

4. The city conducts an annual water loss audit of water infrastructure and reviews system best practices to minimize water loss.
5. The city encourages the implementation and installation of drought-tolerant landscaping in previously turfed medians.
6. The city continues to promote water conservation by handing out water conservation kits to residents that include aerators, water efficient shower heads, and water hose nozzles.





Green Building Activities

Silver

1. The city requires developers of new and significantly rebuilt facilities to install stormwater management infrastructure to address and treat runoff.

Gold

2. Paramount adopted a “green street” ordinance that requires street resurfacing and reconstruction projects to incorporate ways to slow, filter, and cleanse storm water runoff from impervious surfaces. Includes vegetation, soil, and engineered systems like permeable pavements. Green streets are designed to capture rainwater at its source where rain falls, rather than direct storm water runoff from impervious surfaces into storm sewer systems (gutters, drains, pipes) that discharge directly into rivers and streams.
3. The city offers a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program, which allows residents and businesses to obtain financing for energy and water efficiency products that can be repaid through annual property tax payments.

Platinum

4. Paramount adopted water efficient landscape provisions to replace previous mounded sod landscape requirements.
5. The city adheres to the 2017 County of Los Angeles Green Code. Which is based on 2016 CA Green Building Standards.
6. The city supports the implementation of energy efficient upgrades like cool roofs, energy efficient windows, and air conditioning units as part of the city’s Home Improvement Program.
7. Through a grant from the Port of Long Beach, Paramount’s Spane Park Learning Complex, which falls within the port’s “priority zone”, had all of the air conditioning filters replaced with new HEPA filters. The grant includes new replacement HEPA filters for the next five years.





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

Silver

1. The city requires all contractors to recycle concrete and asphalt when doing resurfacing or concrete replacement work within Paramount.

Gold

2. The city partnered with contract tree trimmer, West Coast Arborists, for the Urban Wood Pathways Program to recycle wood chips from city trees and to replant trees that are removed.
3. Via curbside recycling programs, the city reduces the number of pounds of waste produced per resident.

Platinum

4. The city promotes ongoing internal reviews of office practices to reduce impacts on the environment and reduce waste has led to employees replacing Styrofoam cups with reusable coffee cups and all departments working toward eliminating paper memos by using only emails.
5. Paramount makes capital improvement bid documents and project plans available online, instead of printing hard copies.
6. The city repurposes discontinued city letterhead into notepads for use by city departments and employees.
7. The city recycles used ink toner cartridges.
8. Paramount collects used batteries and fluorescent lights for disposal or recycling.
9. Paramount hosts yearly e-waste and hazardous materials collection events for the community, in addition to events sponsored by LA County through their Household Hazardous Waste Roundup.





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

Silver

1. Paramount uses rubberized asphalt in street resurfacing work and has found that approximately 4,000 old tires are recycled per mile of each lane paved and subsequently kept out of landfills. For example, 10,000 tires were recycled in 2017 on Alondra Blvd.

Gold

2. When possible, the city purchases low- or zero-emission, hybrid, or alternative fuel vehicles for the city fleet; currently at 30% of total fleet with a goal of 50%.
3. Paramount has a new public transit contract with neighboring City of Long Beach's Long Beach Transit (LBT). The expansion replaced the city's aging diesel-run fleet with LBT's zero emission fleet.

Platinum

4. On an annual basis, the city sends to auction for sale or re-use any surplus of salvageable furniture and equipment.
5. The city encourages waste prevention by city staff by asking them to consider durability of products prior to acquisition, conduct routine maintenance to extend the useful life of a product, and use duplex features on printers and copiers.





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

Silver

1. The city installed solar panels on roof of the city yard warehouse.

Gold

2. The city received an AQMD grant for the installation of two ADA compliant electric vehicle (EV) chargers at two of the city's public facilities.
3. Partnership with GRID Alternatives to promote the installation of free solar panels for residents that meet all the income eligibility requirements.

Platinum

4. The city purchased electric John Deere gators for use by Community Recreation Services and Public Works staff at city parks and park facilities.





Efficient Transportation Activities

Silver

1. The city applied for and received a grant to extend a dedicated bike path to further greenhouse gas reductions and promote active transportation.

Gold

2. The city completed a joint Active Transportation Plan (ATP) with the City of Bellflower, through an ATP cycle 2 grant.
3. City staff in both the Public Safety Department and Community Development Department use bicycles to conduct patrols and inspect project sites, specifically in the summer months.

Platinum

4. The renovation to the city's downtown area on Paramount Boulevard implemented design features, such as sidewalk bulb-outs to slow automobile traffic, new street and pedestrian lighting, the expansion of two existing crossings at the north and south end of the project area, and the installation of two new signalized pedestrian crossings. Two new larger bus shelters were installed, which provide shelter and seating for transit riders. Walkability in the downtown sector was also enhanced with the creation of a pedestrian "paseo", which is intended to facilitate better pedestrian movement. The project also expanded the city's urban forest by planting several large trees that will grow and provide shade canopies, as well as the installation of drought-tolerant landscaping throughout the entire project area.





Land Use and Community Design Activities

Silver

1. The city developed a comprehensive Bike Master Plan that encourages greenhouse gas reductions.

Gold

2. The city adopted the Clearwater East Specific Plan to complement the Eco Rapid Transit Station that will be built on the corner of Paramount Boulevard and Rosecrans Avenue in 2028. The plan seeks “to increase access to active transportation options to promote healthy living, provide mobility alternative, and decrease dependency on automobiles.”
3. Paramount has revised and amended the city’s zoning code to restrict the expansion or addition of a variety of light and heavy industrial businesses in the city.

Platinum

4. The city has increased collaboration between the Community Development Department and Public Works in an effort to create sustainability activities, plans, policies and procedures.





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

Silver

1. Paramount is participating in the Gateway Cities/COG Climate Action Plan, which will result in a regional climate action planning framework.

Gold

2. The city is implementing focused tree planting program for neighborhoods and parks.
3. Paramount joined Community Choice Aggregation Program (Clean Power Alliance) to provide 50% cleaner, renewable, energy to residents and businesses reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Platinum

4. Paramount has been designated a Tree City USA community by the Arbor Day Foundation.
5. The city created the exercise and walking path in Salud Park, an underutilized Southern California Edison easement adjacent to an underserved residential neighborhood.
6. The city participates in the Lower Los Angeles Revitalization Plan working group. This group is working towards the creation of a plan to revitalize the lower section of the LA river that runs adjacent to the City of Paramount.
7. In promoting tree planting in the community, the city conducted a fruit tree giveaway and free tree planting workshop for Paramount residents.
8. Paramount hosts a weekly farmer's market at Progress Park, which brings healthy, locally grown produce to the Paramount community.





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

Silver

1. The city started the annual “Clutter-Free Paramount” event for residents to responsibly dispose of e-waste, large-items, green waste, and documents.

Gold

2. The city created an environmental website for Paramount residents where environmental updates are provided, as well as information on the various rebates and sustainable activities going on throughout the community.
3. The city created an annual “Eco-Friendly Fair”, which hosts environmentally focused agencies and groups that provide residents and the public with tips and resources for creating an environmentally sustainable future.

Platinum

4. The city created a Residential Air Purifier and HVAC Filter Rebate Program, which aids residents in purchasing true HEPA indoor air purifiers or HVAC filters with a minimum efficiency reporting value (MERV) of 13. The rebates reimburse up to \$100 of the cost of the purifiers or up to \$50 for the filters.





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