

PLATINUM LEVEL AWARD WINNER

BEACON  
SPOTLIGHT  
AWARD  
WINNER  
BEST PRACTICE  
ACTIVITIES



# City of Rancho Cucamonga

## Sustainability Best Practices Activities



**ILG** INSTITUTE FOR  
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*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

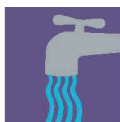
The Beacon Program is funded by California utility ratepayers and administered by Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Diego Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas Company under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.



## SPOTLIGHT AWARD

Areas of Accomplishment

		SILVER LEVEL	GOLD LEVEL	PLATINUM LEVEL
	Agency GHG Reductions			
	Community GHG Reductions			
	Agency Energy Savings			
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities	2012	2013	2016



# City of Rancho Cucamonga

## Best Practice Activities

[www.ca-ilg.org/BeaconAward/](http://www.ca-ilg.org/BeaconAward/)



# Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity	Reported
Silver	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The 2011, Rancho Cucamonga Home Energy Makeover Contest was launched to encourage energy efficiency within the community, help residents cut energy bills and raise awareness of the Energy Upgrade California rebate program. With prizes donated by local Energy Upgrade California contractors, five finalists received two free home energy audits (\$500 value each) and one grand prize winner received \$5,000 worth of energy efficiency home improvements including insulation, window caulking, pipe insulation, low flow showerheads and aerators and energy efficient lighting. These upgrades reduced energy use by 30%, saving 4 tons of greenhouse gas emissions and \$1,000 annually in energy costs.</li></ol>	2012
Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Benchmarked municipal building energy use with the EPA's Energy Star Portfolio Manager in order to set energy efficiency goals.</li><li>2. The Rancho Cucamonga Municipal Utility (RCMU) Energy Efficient Rebate Program offers incentives to customers in the following categories: lighting, refrigeration, HVAC and others. RCMU also provides no-cost energy audits for customers and will assist with the installation of energy efficient lighting. Information on the Energy Efficient Rebate Program is available on the RCMU <a href="#">website</a>.</li></ol>	2012





# Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency & Conservation Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="342 489 1266 583">1. Replaced incandescent traffic, street name lights and red traffic signal lights with higher efficiency LEDs. The Department continues to replace lights with more efficient bulbs whenever possible.</li><li data-bbox="342 611 1266 768">2. The Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program provided a financial incentive of up to \$500 for residents to purchase and install energy efficient appliances including: air conditioners, solar photovoltaic systems, dishwashers, water heaters and others to increase the energy efficiency of their homes while lowering energy costs.</li><li data-bbox="342 795 1266 978">3. The Home Improvement Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Program provides low income homeowners with \$10,000 worth of zero interest loans to finance energy efficient home improvements. RC homeowners who qualify for the program must have an income 80% below the area median income. To date, 11 RC homeowners have participated in the program.</li></ol>	<b>2012</b>





# Water & Wastewater Systems Activity

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city uses <a href="#">recycled water</a> whenever possible and it is currently used to irrigate landscaped areas for the Adult Sports Complex, Victoria Arbors Park and twenty parkway and meridian areas totaling 1.5 million square feet of space. Red Hill Community Park is scheduled to begin using recycled water by the end of summer 2012. The city is working with the Cucamonga Valley Water District on mapping future opportunities.	2015

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. City tree trimmings and construction industry wood debris are mulched and applied to the city's landscaped areas to reduce evaporation. Mulched green waste from the West Valley Material Recovery Facility is also available for residents free of charge at events throughout the year.</li> <li>2. Developed a plan using a baseline inventory of city water usage and costs which includes goals and a timeline to maximize water efficiency and the use of cost effective alternate sources of water.</li> </ol>	2015

Level	Water and Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To increase water efficiency, the city installed a computerized irrigation control system to manage irrigation on over 400 individual parks and landscaped parkways.</li> <li>2. The city development code was amended to facilitate the installation of artificial turf for homeowners and for its use at city facilities where feasible.</li> <li>3. The council <a href="#">appropriated</a> \$246,000 from its landscape management districts for turf replacement projects. In 2015, the city removed 58,769 square feet of turf, resulting in \$176,307 in rebates. Those areas included Rochester Avenue, Base Line Road and Haven Avenue.</li> <li>4. The public works department started by switching to recycled water in parks and landscapes. As a result, the city's reliance on potable water was reduced by 20 percent.</li> </ol>	2012





# Green Building Activity

Level	Green Building Activity	Reported
Silver	1. A Green Building Ordinance was developed as part of this year's Development Code update. The ordinance follows CalGreen's voluntary two tiered system that includes a list of additional green building features to be incorporated into development projects. The Green Building Ordinance will be incentive based. For example, if Tier 1 standards are met, applicants may receive expedited processing and if Tier 2 standards are met applicants can additionally receive relief in existing development standards, for example, density, parking or landscaping.	2015

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Gold	<p>1. The city has partnered with the U.S. Green Building Council Inland Empire Chapter and non-profit Uncommon Good on the <a href="#">Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Initiative</a> grant program which provides basic energy upgrades to homes in the Inland Empire while providing on-the-job experience for individuals in a green job training program. Phase 1 of the program provides basic, yet essential, energy improvements for five homes in southwest Cucamonga with plans to expand by including more homes in future phases. These energy improvements mirror Energy Upgrade California's basic upgrades and include: incandescent lamp replacement, programmable thermostats, low-flow faucets and shower heads, weather stripping, window caulking, attic-hatch insulation, high-hat trim replacement, pipe insulation, duct sealing, HVAC equipment tune-ups and other basic repairs. Southwest Cucamonga has some of the city's oldest housing stock.</p> <p>2. Updated the Development Code to incorporate many environmental policies related to energy, sustainable transportation and sustainable development. The Code also addresses renewable energy, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, mixed-use and higher density development, multi-modal transit and resource conservation.</p>	2015





# Green Building Activity

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Constructed a new Public Works building featuring solar panels, natural lighting, and a drought tolerant landscape among other green building features. It will also includes educational signage for visitors to learn about green building practices.</li> <li>2. Adopted a policy requiring new or remodeled municipal buildings over 7,500 square feet to meet CalGreen Tier 1 standards.</li> <li>3. Established specific dust control measures to reduce air pollution from building and development projects. These measures require dust control during construction hours and beyond that if there are high winds. All builders must be in full compliance with the city's dust control measures, outlined in the Municipal Code, at all times. Additionally, builders must install a dust control sign which lists contact information for the public to notify if there is dust coming from the project. Builders are reminded to follow AQMD's requirements and guidelines.</li> </ol>	<b>2012</b>







# Waste Reduction and Recycling Activity

Level	Waste Reduction Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The CTRL (Control) Tree Paper waste reduction campaign is aimed at reducing paper waste and encourages the reuse and recycling of paper within city operations through education, initiatives, and technology. CTRL Tree success stories include: City Council members using iPads to view agenda packets; field inspectors using iPads for fieldwork; digitally available engineering Capital Improvement Biddings; a redesigned city letterhead with decreased margins; a City Council meeting printed agenda packet opt-out program; double-sided default printing; employees signing a paper reduction pledge; and mixing paper shredding with rabbit bedding at the Animal Care & Services Center.	2012

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Partnered with waste hauler on a Food Waste Pilot Program to collect compostable material from seven Rancho Cucamonga restaurants with plans to expand and include additional businesses.</li> <li>2. Partner with the Rancho Cucamonga Quakes baseball management group to offer "Recycle Tuesdays" during the baseball season. Individuals who bring in ten California Refund Value (CRV) beverage containers receive free admission.</li> </ol>	2012

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The <a href="#">Construction and Demolition Diversion Program</a> reimburses large construction or demolition project permit applicants with their required deposit if 50% of their construction and/or demolition waste is diverted from the landfill.</li> <li>2. Adopted a policy prohibiting the use of expanded polystyrene products at all city facilities and city sponsored events and programs. In addition, disposable beverage cups are no longer available in city employee break rooms.</li> <li>3. Recycling information is available for residents and businesses in the community on the city's website through Environmental Programs and Healthy RC. The Healthy RC Green Living Guide has everything a resident needs to know on how to be green in Rancho Cucamonga. The Guide is available for <a href="#">download</a> on the Healthy RC and Environmental Programs websites</li> </ol>	2012





# Climate-friendly Purchasing Activity

Level	Climate-Friendly Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city's Recycled Product Procurement Policy encourages green purchasing when the cost is not prohibited for the purpose of leading by example and to stimulate the recycling market. This is backed by the city's municipal code which directs departments to purchase recycled content and reusable products when feasible, use recycled paper-friendly office equipment, label products that have recycled content, and instituted a 5% price preference for recycled content/reusable products. Other green efforts include: purchasing energy star electronics and multi-function machines, utilizing electronic bidding procedures to minimize waste, purchasing 30% recycled content paper, and using eco-friendly carpeting and office furniture.	2012
Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100% of office paper is required to contain a minimum of 30% recycled content. Office supplies with recycled content are used when possible. There is a 5% price preference given to recycled and/or reusable products. Copy machines purchased are Energy Star compliant capable of duplex printing.</li> <li>The Purchasing department compiles an annual Environmental Performance Report that lists all green purchases related to vehicles, office products, janitorial supplies, maintenance, repair and operation supplies, and office reconfiguration equipment.</li> </ol>	2012
Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires vendors that provide janitorial services to use environmentally friendly cleaning products.</li> <li>The <a href="#">Healthy RC Green Living Guide</a> offers tips and resources to help residents make choices to purchase greener, healthier products.</li> <li>The primary method by which the city disposes of unwanted assets is by hosting an online action service called Public Surplus. The auction venue is open to the general public, and allows others to purchase unwanted goods.</li> </ol>	2012





# Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activity

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Partnered with GRID Alternatives, a non-profit organization which facilitates the installation of low- to no-cost solar panels to qualified low-income homeowners, to publicize and encourage participation. To date, one homeowner has received 15 free solar panels for her home, and two more Rancho Cucamonga homeowners are scheduled for solar installation later this year.</li> </ol>	<b>2012</b>

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Performed a solar feasibility study which analyzed the site and cost potential for placing photovoltaic panels at municipal facilities.</li> <li>2. RCMU's <a href="#">Renewable Energy Program</a> provides financial incentives to customers who purchase and install solar photovoltaic panels.</li> </ol>	<b>2012</b>

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city is committed to being an electric vehicle (EV) friendly community. The Building &amp; Safety Department has streamlined the permitting process for installing home EV chargers.</li> <li>2. Seven level II public electric vehicle <a href="#">charging stations</a> were installed at the Archibald Library, Animal Center, Heritage and Red Hill Community Parks, Civic Center and the Metrolink Station. Level II charging systems recharge electric vehicles in just a few hours.</li> <li>3. The city continues to expand its “green” fleet with the addition of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) passenger vehicles, light-duty and heavy-duty trucks, street sweepers, hybrid passenger vehicles, an electric Nissan Leaf and even an electric Mitsubishi iMiev. Highly visible “Clean Fuel” graphics were designed and will be placed on all current and future alternative fuel vehicles.</li> </ol>	<b>2012</b>





# Efficient Transportation Activity

Level	Efficient Transportation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Installed ten bike lockers at the Rancho Cucamonga Metrolink station in order to encourage non-motorized transportation. The lockers protect bicycles from the elements and provide owners with added bike security.	2015

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The I-15/Base Line Interchange Project will relieve heavy traffic congestion at this busy freeway on and off ramp to reduce vehicle idling and is projected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 23,000 tons. Additionally, the project supports multi-modal transit by installing sidewalks, wheelchair ramps and bicycle lanes so that surrounding residents, including students, can walk or bike to their destinations.</li> <li>Foothill Boulevard is a part of the historic Route 66 and is a major transit corridor for the region. The city is working with <a href="#">Omnitrans</a> and surrounding cities to explore the development of a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system along the Foothill corridor.</li> </ol>	2015

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The city is working to establish “Complete Streets”, which allow individuals to get around safely on foot, bicycle or public transit. This promotes public health and multi-modal street design. Staff is exploring the development of a Complete Streets Ordinance and incorporating its design into future engineering and planning projects.</li> <li>The city launched its Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS) to promote walking and bicycling to school, reduce the number of vehicle miles traveled and promote exercise for youth and families. The Rancho Cucamonga SRTS Program works with eight schools hosting Walk to School Day events, bicycle safety workshops and helping students integrate the program with their Student Councils. Other efforts include taking advantage of the newly completed Pacific Electric Trail, installing sidewalk and trail connectivity infrastructure and expansion into additional schools.</li> <li>The <a href="#">Bicycling and Trail Guide</a> was updated in 2011 to provide updated walking, bicycling and equestrian opportunities on the City’s trails and routes. The guide also provides trail etiquette information, safety tips for walking and bicycling and a description of the different classes of bike paths.</li> </ol>	2015





# Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activity	Reported
Silver	<p>1. The city's <a href="#">General Plan</a> was updated in 2010 to include numerous goals and policies for land use and community design that address multi-modal transit, mass transit, infill development, density and mixed-use and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Examples include:</p> <p>LU-2.1. Plan for vibrant, pedestrian-friendly mixed use and high density residential areas at strategic infill locations along transit routes.</p> <p>LU-2.2. Require new infill development to be designed for pedestrians and automobiles equally, and to provide connections to transit and bicycle facilities.</p> <p>LU-3.4. Promote development that is sustainable in its use of land and that limits impacts to natural resources, energy, and air and water quality.</p> <p>C.M.-6.3. Maintain consistency with the South Coast Air Quality Management District air quality mandates, SANBAG's Congestion Management and Nexus Programs, and SCAG's Regional Mobility Plan requirements".</p> <p>R.C.-4.4. Reduce operational energy requirements through sustainable and complementary land use and circulation planning. Support implementation of State mandates regarding energy consumption and greenhouse gas reduction, including AB32 and SB375.</p> <p>P.S.-10.2. Integrate air quality planning with land use, economic development, and transportation planning.</p>	2015

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Gold	<p>1. Rancho Cucamonga has participated in the partnered with San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) and 19 other San Bernardino County communities on the San Bernardino County Regional Community Greenhouse Gas Inventories Report along with 19 other member agencies. The Report which identifies emission sources and scenarios based on growth and business as usual practices in addition to recommendations for reducing emissions within each community. The city is committed to implementing the outlined recommendations for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The city is plans to formally adopt the regional report along with a Sustainability Action Plan by the end of calendar year 2016. This will guide the City's efforts in implementing various recommendations for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.</p>	2015





# Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Gold	2. Rancho Cucamonga received funding through the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Compass Blueprint Project to develop a mixed-use corridor model along on West Foothill Boulevard. This will help guide smart growth development for this important transportation corridor.	2015

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Developed the Northtown Character Area Specific Plan. This plan will create environmentally sustainable development guidelines for Northtown which is one of the city's oldest neighborhoods occupied by low- to moderate-income Latino residents. Retrofitting historic homes and buildings promotes reuse and conserves resources while other components of the plan support multi-modal transit, infill, mixed-use development and water efficient landscape among others.</li> <li>2. In 2011 the last Rancho Cucamonga portion of the Pacific Electric Trail (P.E. Trail) was completed to support non-vehicular regional travel. The P.E. Trail follows the route of the legendary Pacific Electric Railway and has become an intercity urban trail system stretching from Claremont to the west and Rialto in the east.</li> <li>3. In 2015, the city approved a Circulation Master Plan for Bicyclists and Pedestrians that will help shape multi- modal transportation in Rancho Cucamonga by identifying ways to connect missing links and gaps in trails and bike paths. It also aims to improve the infrastructure, outlines priorities for future projects and identifies funding mechanisms. <a href="https://www.cityofrc.us/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?blobid=20475">https://www.cityofrc.us/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?blobid=20475</a>.</li> </ol>	2015





# Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. The city has been a member of Tree City USA for 23 consecutive years and is committed to maintaining and expanding its urban forest. The city plants many trees each year, for example, in 2011 the city planted over 350 trees. The city's <a href="#">urban forestry</a> web page has helpful tree information available to residents.	<b>2015</b>

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city received funding through a Cal Fire grant to plant 150 trees along the Pacific Electric Trail. Trees will be planted by both city staff and community volunteers.</li> <li>2. In 2011, the City Council adopted the Community Gardens and Farmers' Market Ordinance to support the availability of healthy locally grown produce. The ordinance set clear definitions for community gardens and farmers' markets, for example, a farmers' market must be a California certified farmers' market and contain at least 75% produce.</li> </ol>	<b>2015</b>

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Areas of the city are now zoned to support future community gardens and farmers' markets as well as extending the use of Temporary Use permits for operating a farmers' market and a fee waiver for Conditional Use permits to operate a community garden. Currently, there are three farmers' markets operating in the city with the goal of opening one up in Southwest Cucamonga.</li> <li>2. The "Bringing Health Home" Program was launched which provides a financial incentive for low income residents in southwest Cucamonga to purchase fresh produce at any of the farmers' markets in the city. Residents who attend a workshop on healthy eating and nutrition are given RC Double Bucks coupons to use towards purchasing healthy locally-grown produce. Currently, 85 families from southwest Cucamonga participate in the Program and the goal is to reach 100 families. At the moment the Program is only in southwest Cucamonga but there are plans to expand into other areas of the city.</li> </ol>	<b>2015</b>





# Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Platinum	3. A new environmentally sustainable park was built in southwest Cucamonga funded through a Prop 84 grant. Environmental design components include the reuse of site materials such as rockwork, wood material, and existing trees, utilizing recycled rubber playground flooring, and incorporating water conservation efforts through soil moisture monitoring and water efficient landscape.	2012







# Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Silver	<p>1. Established the Rancho Cucamonga <a href="#">Green Business Recognition Program</a> which recognizes the sustainability efforts of businesses and encourages green business practices for Rancho Cucamonga businesses. Businesses must complete at least twenty practices in the following categories: waste reduction, pollution prevention, recycling, purchasing, energy efficiency, water conservation and water quality, stakeholder engagement, and transportation (if applicable). Additionally, businesses must schedule three no-cost resource assessments with their utility providers on energy, water and waste. The resource assessments provide recommendations on how to increase efficiency and to inform them on rebate programs.</p>	2012

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Gold	<p>1. The city has partnered with the Cucamonga Valley Water District (CVWD) to teach local elementary school students hands-on activities about the environment and healthy living. Activities are taught at CVWD's Environmental Learning Center where city staff lead activities on energy, recycling, and healthy eating. "Watt Does it Cost?" involves students calculating the energy use, cost, and related emissions for typical household appliances. "It's Nice to Use it Twice" engages students in thinking about where resources come from and the benefits of reuse and recycling through a trash sort and matching game. "Go and Grow" encourages students to learn about nutrition and exercise.</p> <p>2. The Library Department's environmental education efforts feature a Kill-a-Watt check out program and the Going Green children's series. Residents are able to check out a kilowatt meter which lets them measure the energy use and cost for their plugged-in appliances. The Going Green Series teaches children of all ages about the ecosystem and environmental practices. Last year's series featured an eco-magician and an environmentally-themed puppet show.</p>	2012





# Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
<p><b>Platinum</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="342 489 1260 674">1. The city is working with <a href="#">Green Team America</a> (California chapter), a group of regional high school students who complete environmental projects in Rancho Cucamonga and surrounding communities. The three main projects include a tree planting event, a reusable bag giveaway and a light bulb exchange. City representatives are on the chapter's advisory board to assist and provide resources for the students.</li> <li data-bbox="342 705 1260 856">2. Rancho Cucamonga Municipal Utility (RCMU) was awarded funding through the American Public Power Association to design and build a solar photovoltaic Play and Learn Island (PAL) for the Paul A. Biane Library. PAL's bring play and learning together for children. An interactive learning tool about renewable energy is planned.</li> <li data-bbox="342 888 1260 978">3. RCMU is also developed a solar demonstration project for the Paul A. Biane Library that will serve as a renewable energy education tool for residents and visitors.</li> </ol>	<p><b>2012</b></p>







# INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT<sup>SM</sup>

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