



B E A C O N
SPOTLIGHT
AWARD
W I N N E R
BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of Rancho Cucamonga

Sustainability Best Practice Activities

The grid consists of four rows and four columns of icons:

- Row 1: Handshake, Water faucet with flowing water, Grid map, Green buildings.
- Row 2: Lightbulb, Wind turbine, Recycling symbol.
- Row 3: Bus and bicycle, Institute for Local Government logo, Promoting Good Government at the Local Level text.
- Row 4: Checkmark, Recycle bin.

City of Rancho Cucamonga

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		2019 (10%)	
Community GHG Reductions			
Agency Energy Savings			2018 (23%)
Natural Gas Savings			
Sustainability Best Practice Activities		2013	2016
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 2011, Rancho Cucamonga's 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, aerators and energy efficient lighting. These upgrades reduced energy use by 30%, saving four tons of greenhouse gas emissions and \$1,000 annually in energy costs.

Gold

2. The city benchmarked municipal building energy use with the EPA's Energy Star Portfolio Manager in order to set energy efficiency goals.
3. 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 website.

Platinum

4. Public Works 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.
5. Rancho Cucamonga's Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program provides 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.
6. Rancho Cucamonga's 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.





Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

Silver

1. The city uses recycled water whenever possible and it is currently used to irrigate landscaped areas for the Adult Sports Complex, Victoria Arbors Park, Red Hill Community Park, and twenty parkway and meridian areas totaling 1.5 million square feet of space. The city is working with the Cucamonga Valley Water District on mapping future opportunities.

Gold

2. 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.
3. The city 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.

Platinum

4. To increase water efficiency, the city installed a computerized irrigation control system to manage irrigation on over 400 individual parks and landscaped parkways.
5. The city amended its development code to facilitate the installation of artificial turf for homeowners and for its use at city facilities where feasible.
6. The council appropriated \$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.
7. 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%.





Green Building Activities

Silver

1. The city developed a Green Building Ordinance 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.

Gold

2. The city partnered with the U.S. Green Building Council Inland Empire Chapter and the non-profit, Uncommon Good, on the Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Initiative 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. 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.
3. The city 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.

Platinum

4. The city constructed a new Public Works building featuring solar panels, natural lighting, and a drought tolerant landscape, with ways for visitors to learn about green building practices.
5. The city adopted a policy requiring new or remodeled municipal buildings over 7,500 square feet to meet CalGreen Tier 1 standards.
6. The city 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 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.





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

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.

Gold

2. The city partnered with its 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.
3. The city partnered 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.

Platinum

4. The Construction and Demolition Diversion Program 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.
5. The city 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.
6. 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 download on the Healthy RC and environmental programs websites.





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

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.

Gold

2. 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.
3. 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.

Platinum

4. The city requires vendors that provide janitorial services to use environmentally friendly cleaning products.
5. The Healthy RC Green Living Guide offers tips and resources to help residents make choices to purchase greener, healthier products.
6. The primary method by which the city disposes of unwanted assets is by hosting an online auction service called Public Surplus. The auction venue is open to the general public, and allows others to purchase unwanted goods.





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

Silver

1. The city 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.

Gold

2. The city performed a solar feasibility study which analyzed the site and cost potential for placing photovoltaic panels at municipal facilities.
3. RCMU's Renewable Energy Program provides financial incentives to customers who purchase and install solar photovoltaic panels.

Platinum

4. The city is committed to being an electric vehicle (EV) friendly community. The Building & Safety Department has streamlined the permitting process for installing home EV chargers.
5. Seven level II public electric vehicle charging stations 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.
6. 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.





Efficient Transportation Activities

Silver

1. The city 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.

Gold

2. 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.
3. Foothill Boulevard is a part of the historic Route 66 and is a major transit corridor for the region. The city is working with Omnitrans and surrounding cities to explore the development of a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system along the Foothill corridor.

Platinum

4. 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.
5. 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.
6. The Bicycling and Trail Guide 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.





Land Use and Community Design Activities

Silver

1. The city's General Plan 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:
 - LU-2.1. Plan for vibrant, pedestrian-friendly mixed use and high density residential areas at strategic infill locations along transit routes.
 - LU-2.2. Require new infill development to be designed for pedestrians and automobiles equally, and to provide connections to transit and bicycle facilities.
 - 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.
 - 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".
 - 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.S.-10.2. Integrate air quality planning with land use, economic development, and transportation planning.

Gold

2. Rancho Cucamonga has participated in the partnership 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 committed to implementing the outlined recommendations for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The city 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.
3. 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.





Land Use and Community Design Activities

Platinum

4. The city 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

Silver

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 urban forestry web page has helpful tree information available to residents.

Gold

2. 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.
3. 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.

Platinum

4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

Silver

1. The city established the Rancho Cucamonga Green Business Recognition Program, 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.

Gold

2. The city 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.
3. 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.

Platinum

4. The city is working with 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.
5. 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. An interactive learning tool about renewable energy is planned.
6. 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.





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Promoting Good Government at the Local Level

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