

Recognizing Leadership (July 2011)

Cities and counties throughout California are participating in the Institute for Local Government's sustainability and climate change recognition program, the Beacon Award: Local Leadership Toward Solving Climate Change. Launched in August 2010 as the first of its kind in California, the Beacon Award recognizes and celebrates cities and counties that:



- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- Save energy;
- Adopt policies and programs to address climate change; and
- Promote sustainability.

Currently, 19 cities and counties are Beacon Award program participants*, working toward achieving one of three award levels. ILG invites all cities and counties to participate as a way to highlight their local leadership and accomplishments with their residents and share best practices with other communities. There is no deadline or fee to participate in the Beacon Award program; the program is ongoing.

Ventura Mayor Carl Morehouse says, "The Beacon Award program is a great initiative, and we encourage other cities throughout the state to get involved."

Noting her city's 15-year history of reducing greenhouse gas emissions while supporting local green economic development, Chula Vista Mayor Cheryl Cox says, "The Beacon Award will provide an opportunity for Chula Vista to exchange ideas and lessons learned with other local governments, community partners and energy utilities."

Citrus Heights Mayor Jeannie Bruins sums up her city's participation: "The city decided to participate in the Beacon Award program because we realize what an important issue sustainability is. And as we take a leadership role, we are setting an example for our community as well as for other communities."

Participating cities and counties can highlight their agencies' accomplishments on their own individual participant pages on the ILG website and showcase key projects through the ILG resource pages for best practices in climate action and sustainability.

Besides striving for the silver, gold and platinum Beacon Award levels, participating cities and counties are eligible to receive statewide recognition for interim accomplishments. For example, reducing energy use by 5, 10 or 20 percent in agency facilities through energy efficiency retrofit projects makes a city or county eligible to receive interim recognition. Highlighting interim accomplishments helps participating cities and counties demonstrate their leadership locally and statewide while working on reaching the silver, gold or platinum award levels.

Beacon Award participants agree that sharing information with colleagues and local residents is an important element of the program. "It's not just about getting the award as much as it is giving cities an opportunity to learn from each other about the types of things they are doing that protect the environment and help out the local economy," says Ken Pulskamp, city manager of Santa Clarita, a Beacon Award program participant.

Yolo County Supervisor Matt Rexroad concurs. "When we started looking at this through our General Plan process, we discovered tremendous things that our staff were doing on their own," he says. "It was good financially, it was good for the environment, and it was just the right thing to do."

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

*For an updated list of participants, go to www.ca-ilg.org/BeaconAward/Participants

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Local Leadership Toward
Solving Climate Change

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Matt Rexroad, Supervisor, Yolo County

"I encourage people to take a look at what you are doing and through the Beacon Award, tell your story. We're participating in the Beacon Award program because we are seeking affirmation for the things we've done here in Yolo County."



Bob Brown, Community Development Director, San Rafael

"Sustainability is a much bigger issue than just reducing greenhouse gas emissions. San Rafael is now in the process of creating a sustainability element of our General Plan."



Betsy McGovern, Redevelopment Project Manager, Tulare

"We're excited to be the first city in the San Joaquin Valley to participate in the program. We're hoping to move forward as a collaborative effort with other communities, large or small, to implement sustainable programs and policies throughout the Valley."



**Steve Pougnet,
Mayor, Palm Springs**

"Sustainability is integrated into the City of Palm Springs; we make resource conservation a top priority in our community. Participating in the Beacon Award Program provides Palm Springs an opportunity to showcase our great programs and projects while providing a benchmark for success."



Cheryl Cox, Mayor, Chula Vista

"Chula Vista is proud to be the first city in San Diego County to participate in the Beacon Award. It is a natural fit for the city because it creates a framework to build upon past work and to measure future progress."



Learn more at:
www.ca-ilg.org/BeaconAward

CURRENT BEACON AWARD PARTICIPANTS (as of June 17)

Apple Valley	Palm Springs	Santa Clarita	Tulare
Citrus Heights	Pleasanton	Santa Cruz	Ventura
Chula Vista	San Rafael	Simi Valley	Woodland
Hayward	San Ramon	Sonoma County	Yolo County
Livermore	Santa Barbara	South Gate	



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(Applications accepted continuously)



Mark Wheatley, Council Member, Arcata

"Arcata is proud to be part of the Beacon Award program. We welcome the opportunity to participate in this program. There are a lot of transferable lessons that can come from our experience to share with other communities."



Michael Sweeney, Mayor, Hayward

"We all have a lot to learn from one another. The Beacon Award program is a tremendous step forward in making sure good practices and success stories are shared. There is nothing like an award program to encourage people to go the next step."



Carl Morehouse, Council Member, Ventura

"We were pleased to step forward and go for the Beacon Award. It's reflective of our community culture and our own goals to save energy. We encourage other cities throughout the state to jump in with us and get involved."



Ginger Coleman, Council Member, Apple Valley

"We are the first city in San Bernardino County to adopt a climate action plan. There are a lot of things city staff are working very hard on to bring sustainability to the community. It's nice to have this type of recognition program so cities can showcase what they are doing."



Greg Cox, Supervisor, San Diego County

"San Diego County is excited about participating in the Beacon Award program. I encourage all counties and cities to join the program and strive for the platinum award level. We've done a lot in San Diego County and I know we will learn from the other participants."



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Arcata	Hayward	San Rafael	Sonoma County
Apple Valley	Livermore	San Ramon	South Gate
Benicia	Manhattan Beach	Santa Barbara	Taft
Citrus Heights	Palo Alto	Santa Clarita	Tulare
Chula Vista	Palm Springs	San Diego County	Ventura
Davis	Pleasanton	Santa Cruz	Woodland
El Cerrito	San Carlos	Simi Valley	Yolo County



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Efren Carrillo, Supervisor, Sonoma County

"In Sonoma County, our sustainability efforts help drive economic development, especially in the construction sector. We're excited to participate in the Beacon Award program and share our successes."



Matt Sullivan, Council Member, Pleasanton

"The biggest reason to participate in the Beacon Award program is awareness and getting the word out about what can be done in the area of sustainability. It is really our city staff that has made this happen and recognizing them is a good thing."



Marsha McLean, Council Member, Santa Clarita

"Santa Clarita is proud to be recognized for our Beacon Award interim accomplishments in creating a sustainable community. From our LEED certified city facilities, to our solar panel projects, and including a climate action plan in our updated general plan, our city continues to embrace sustainable technologies, building practices and policies."



Glen Becerra, Council Member, Simi Valley

"Simi Valley is pleased to participate in the Beacon Award program because it offers us a chance to show our statewide leadership in sustainability. We have taken sustainability to heart and are doing all sorts of wonderful programs throughout the city — from recycling to green building all the way to energy conservation."



Ron Loveridge, Mayor, Riverside

"Riverside is proud to participate in the Beacon Award program. We have been a pioneer in sustainability, including being the first Emerald City, and are eager to share our experiences and learn from other communities."



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Arcata	Hayward	San Rafael	Sonoma County
Apple Valley	Livermore	San Ramon	South Gate
Benicia	Manhattan Beach	Santa Barbara	Taft
Citrus Heights	Palo Alto	Santa Clarita	Tulare
Chula Vista	Palm Springs	San Diego County	Ventura
Davis	Pleasanton	Santa Cruz	Woodland
El Cerrito	Riverside	Simi Valley	Yolo County
Glendale	San Carlos		



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