



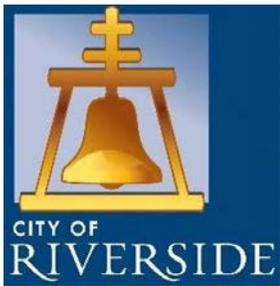
BEACON



SPOTLIGHT
AWARD

WINNER

BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of Riverside

Sustainability Best Practice Activities



INSTITUTE FOR
LOCAL GOVERNMENTSM

Promoting Good Government at the Local Level

City of Riverside

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

SPOTLIGHT AWARD		SILVER LEVEL	GOLD LEVEL	PLATINUM LEVEL
Areas of Accomplishment				
	Agency GHG Reductions			
	Community GHG Reductions			
	Agency Energy Savings			
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities		2013	
	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. One of the City of Riverside’s most innovative green programs, the Whole House Rebate Program, was established in 2010 and recognized by Department of Energy Secretary, Steven Chu. The program uses a point system to determine the level of rebate to be distributed; a customer who scores over ten points in a single upgrade process, will have their total rebates multiplied by 200%. More than 500 Whole House rebates have been issued in total, putting \$1.6 million back into the community and saving over 530,000 kilowatt hours of energy. Through offering programs such as Whole House, Riverside has been able to draw skilled labor, add new local businesses, and increase staffing to existing local companies.

Gold

2. Riverside offers several low-interest financing programs to help customers avoid the high up-front costs sometimes associated with sustainability projects. As a member of the Western Riverside Council of Governments, the city is part of the largest AB-811 program in the nation, providing loans to residential, commercial or industrial property owners for energy and water conservation projects.
3. A new leveraged partnership with SoCalGas provides free energy upgrades to low-income individuals with the Energy Savings Assistance Program (ESAP). Low-income residents are eligible to receive free attic insulation, weather stripping, low-flow showerheads, water heater blankets, high-efficiency washing machines, furnace repair or replacement, AC tune-up, torchiere replacements, and CFL’s, as well as energy education.

Platinum

4. Riverside’s award-winning Environmental and Economic Effectiveness Effort (E4) Plan fosters Riverside’s economic development by stabilizing utility rates, offering discounted economic development and business retention electric rates to large customers, encouraging expanded use of renewable energy technologies, and offering aggressive business incentives and energy efficiency programs.





Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

Silver

1. Riverside's award-winning Water Conservation Program, "FreeSprinklerNozzles.com", encourages customers to participate in a brief online water reduction lesson in order to receive up to 25 free residential or 100 free commercial sprinkler nozzles. The precision-series nozzles can reduce water consumption by 20% for each replaced sprinkler head without adjusting run times or sprinkler controllers. This public-private partnership has resulted in the distribution of 150,000 high-efficiency sprinklers and saved 850 million gallons of water.

Gold

2. Riverside can proudly be called "water independent", effectively reducing the cost of water for city residents, as well as the energy and GHG emissions associated with transporting water from out of the area. Riverside's Water Supply Plan looks to increase local water supplies.
3. The city adopted the Water Use Efficiency Master Plan.

Platinum

4. The city adopted a Water Conservation Ordinance, which outlines unreasonable uses of water and four stages of activities to be implemented based upon current water conditions.
5. The city adopted a Water Recycling Master Plan. Phase one of the plan is anticipated to connect ten local schools and parks to connect into the recycled water system, saving 8,600 acre feet of water per year, enough to supply 17,000 homes.
6. The city adopted a Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance, exceeding state requirements.





Green Building Activities

Silver

1. One of the city's major sports parks reduced its water needs through the installation of artificial turf, while several waterwise median landscape demonstration projects have been deployed across the city.

Gold

2. In 2007, Riverside began its Green Builder Program (RGB), the first, and now the largest, in California. This voluntary program provides builders with an incentive to tap into the green building market, while offering potential homeowners a chance to purchase eco-friendly living space. RGB allows builders to differentiate themselves through certification as a Green Builder, which may be obtained by meeting several criteria.
3. Green Builders must satisfy strict energy and water efficiency requirements, recycle at least 50% of construction waste and 100% of the wood used in the home must be certified sustainable forest products. 4,600 Green Building certified homes are currently planned or in some stage of development across the city and are each equipped to provide 650 kWh per year in energy savings as well as 20,000 gallons in reduced water usage.

Platinum

4. Riverside is revitalizing foreclosed homes with energy efficiency measures and solar systems. The program takes distressed properties and makes them energy efficient based on a home energy rating system, providing significant rebate funding for each house that will serve as down payment assistance. Homeowners will have the option to install a PV system and finance the cost into their home loan through the bank financing.





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

Silver

1. In 2007, Riverside exceeded the state's target waste diversion rate, and the city is well on its way to achieving its own goal of reducing waste by 75% before 2020. Riverside's waste reduction and recycling programs have allowed the city to divert 69% of its waste from landfills as of 2010.

Gold

2. The city's Cleaning Up Riverside's Environment (CURE) Program, which provides bulky item pickup, as well as hazardous and electronic waste removal, has collected over 13,000 tons of hard-to-dispose-of waste since 2003. CURE's educational programs have also led to an increase in recycling and backyard composting.
3. The city has helped curb plastic and paper grocery bag waste through the distribution of over 120,000 reusable green bags since 2007.

Platinum





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

Silver

1. In March 2009, the city adopted an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) Policy.

Gold

2. The city requires that products purchased meet criteria specified in the EPA's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing database.
3. The city gives preference to vendors who meet at least three of the following characteristics: Riverside produced products and services, alternative energy source, bio-based, biodegradable, compostable, high recycled content, low toxicity, low volatile organic compound (VOC), pollution reduction, recyclable, repairable, resource efficient, or reusable.

Platinum

4. The city's purchasing division works with suppliers and vendors to inform them about the EPP policy and help them meet its criteria.
5. The Purchasing Division orders in appropriate quantities whenever practice and cost effective to avoid obsolete products.
6. The Purchasing Division and city departments promote environmentally preferable products in its purchase of office products through "green" catalogs.





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

Silver

1. Riverside has created a Green Map, which displays where all solar projects within the city are located.

Gold

2. In 2005, Riverside began its award-winning Grease to Gas to Power Project through which the city began collecting grease wastewater from restaurants to feed into the anaerobic digestion process. The project generates about 1.6 megawatts per day, enough electrical power in one day to provide the electrical needs of 1,203 homes for one month in Riverside.
3. Riverside is working to raise photovoltaic incentives from \$3.00 to \$4.00 dollars a watt. In order to generate green jobs and facilitate the expansion of the photovoltaic market, we would like to further incentivize people to go solar.

Platinum

4. In 2011, the city entered into a public-private partnership, which led to the construction of the city's award-winning in-pipe hydropower system. In only seven months, the system generated over 23 MW of clean, renewable, low-cost energy from rotating turbines inside the city's water pipes, with no impact on water operations. Now in its third generation of development, the efficiency of the project has tripled, allowing it to be more easily and fruitfully replicated by other cities wishing to diversify their energy portfolio.
5. The Tequesquite Landfill Solar Project is in development and will also add between 5 MW and 10 MW of solar energy to Riverside's renewable energy portfolio while creatively utilizing former landfill space.
6. Under California's Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS), utilities and electric service providers are now required to increase total procurement from eligible renewable energy resources to 33% by 2020. As of 2010, 20% of the Riverside's power was being generated from renewable sources and 36% of power sources were non-greenhouse gas emitting, putting Riverside well on its way to exceeding the RPS objectives.





Efficient Transportation Activities

Silver

1. Riverside opened the first hydrogen fueling station in the Inland Empire in 2006.

Gold

2. The city installed seven electric vehicle charging stations for city and public use.
3. The city's fleet includes five hydrogen-powered, zero-emission Priuses. 87% of Riverside's non-emergency fleet is powered by alternative energy.

Platinum





Land Use and Community Design Activities

Silver

1. Riverside has completed three new overpasses and one new underpass in an effort to improve air quality by reducing GHG emissions vehicle idling. Each structure was built with sustainability in mind, complete with both bike lanes and sidewalks for pedestrian.

Gold

2. A total of 115 miles of bike lanes have been completed citywide, with a Bicycle Master Plan now being implemented to increase cycling as a means of transportation and recreation.
3. Public transportation has also become a more viable option through the city's "Go Transit" Program, which offers up to a 30% discount for residents, subsidies for senior citizens, and free passes to city employees and students who take the bus. Over one million students took the bus in the first two years alone.

Platinum





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

Silver

1. In 2001, the city launched its Tree Power Program and Campaign, aiming to increase Riverside's urban forest and energy efficiency by offering free shade trees to residents. This program is still ongoing today, with the city offering one free shade tree per year to residents as well as \$25 rebates for the purchase of up to five more. To qualify, customers must plant the trees within 10-35 feet of their home or business.

Gold

2. Riverside maintains a park system consisting of 51 parks totaling 2,500 acres, with the 1,800 acre Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Park providing substantial open space for hiking and biking.
3. Riverside is planning to increase open space by another 200 acres before 2015, moving the city toward its goal of providing 90% of residents with access to park, recreation or open space within a half mile of their residence. The city is also aiming to increase passive recreation and multi-use trails by 75% before 2015, coordinating trail connections with the county when possible.

Platinum





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

Silver

1. Riverside developed its first Green Action Plan (GAP) in 2007, which compelled both the city and its residents to improve air quality, reduce traffic congestion, increase access to and use of parks and open space, and allow Riverside to flourish as an urban and diverse community of art, culture and innovation. The 38 objectives of this plan were quickly accomplished. In 2009, the GAP was revised, setting new and ambitious goals and objectives.

Gold

2. Riverside works to engage community members from all of its diverse community groups in order to ensure that the needs of residents and organizations are met with city policies and programs. In order to effectively implement the Green Action Plan and monitor its progress throughout the city, the Green Accountability Performance (GAP) Committee was formed in 2007. This group of 40 dedicated volunteers consists of individuals from the public, business, and education sectors who work to ensure that sustainable practices are being adopted throughout the city and the Green Action Plan is being implemented.
3. In order to educate and engage the community, Riverside launched the weekly "Green Power Report" radio show and GreenRiverside.com website in 2007.

Platinum

4. In order to get Riverside's younger generation involved in conservation efforts, the city is implementing an award-winning classroom education program that integrates lessons about electricity, water and going green into classroom curriculum.
5. Riverside has also created a Sustainability Workbook for the city, available online and in hard copy. This manual provides dozens of easy steps which residents and businesses can take go green. The workbook organizes sustainability steps under waste, water, energy and transportation.
6. Riverside's Green Leadership Summit event, held on February 1st, 2012, gathered over 100 representatives of the community. The summit provided a venue for the sharing of experiences, expertise, strategies and ideas, and encouraged collaboration for the development of a healthier city.





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