

BEACON

SPOTLIGHT
AWARD

WINNER

BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of Sacramento

Sustainability Best Practice Activities



INSTITUTE FOR
LOCAL GOVERNMENTSM

Promoting Good Government at the Local Level

City of Sacramento

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			2015 (25%)
	Community GHG Reductions	2014 (5%)	2020 (19%)	
	Agency Energy Savings	2014 (6%)	2015 (15%)	2017 (43%)
	Natural Gas Savings		2017 (15%)	
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities		2013	2014
	Beacon Vanguard Award	2017	2020	

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 Green Facilities Program provides energy audits, design, implementation and measurement verification for city facility energy efficiency retrofits. Facility retrofits completed as part of this program to date utilized \$1.9 million in Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funding and obtain about \$500,000 in rebate; they include the Sam Pannell Community Center, the Central Downtown Library and eight city parking garage LED lighting retrofits. Total energy savings range from 36%-50% per project. Each city department will pay back their loan through estimated energy savings from the projects plus a 3% interest rate to cover administrative costs.

Gold

2. The city completed a Data Center Energy Efficiency Project in 2009, in partnership with SMUD, that will achieve energy savings of over 100,000 kWh per year. Additional items underway as part of the city's "Green IT" strategy include: EnergyStar purchasing standards for all replacement computers, displays, printers and copiers, server virtualization and consolidation, and a centralized remote power management system.
3. The city developed a pilot program in 2010, in partnership with SMUD, to test feasibility and performance of LED technology in various locations in the city. Additional testing and citywide deployment are pending the final outcomes of the pilot program, which is expected to be completed in 2012. Preliminary estimates of citywide LED conversion include energy savings of over 5.4 million kWh per year by 2020.

Platinum

4. As of 2009, 85% of the city's traffic signals had been converted to LEDs. Annual traffic signal energy usage between 2001 and 2008 decreased by approximately 3.3 million kWh, a cumulative reduction of about 54%. Additional conversions between 2009 and 2015 will result 100% system conversion to LEDs, and additional energy savings of about 575,000 kWh.
5. The city initiated the formation of a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing program in 2011, in partnership with Ygrene to help fund energy efficiency retrofits and renewable energy installation on existing buildings.
6. The city and SMUD formed a partnership to create a Complete Energy Solutions for Small Business pilot program. The program offers small businesses rebates that cover up to 80% of the cost of energy efficiency retrofits.





Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

Silver

1. Building on the success of past demand side management, system optimization and efficiency improvements in the late 1990s and early 2000s, the city's Department of Utilities has replaced pumps with variable frequency drives (VFDs) at a number of locations since 2005. VFD replacements since 2005 have resulted in over 289,00 kWh in energy savings per year.

Gold

2. Since 2005, over 500 acres in 55 city parks have been retrofitted with new, water-conserving irrigations systems with weather station or sensor-based irrigation control technology. Two of the city's golf courses were retrofitted with centralized weather-based control systems in 2011.
3. The city's water conservation staff implemented 1,000 AMI field leak investigations in 2010 and 2011, followed up with water-wise house calls to promote water use efficiency and encourage the repair of leaky or substandard fixtures. Estimated water savings from the program are about 236 million gallons per year.

Platinum

4. The city's Water Conservation Office offers free indoor and outdoor water audits/surveys to existing residential and commercial customers with high water use, and provides customized reports to the homeowners or property owners. Water retrofit kits are also provided at no cost to residential customers (including low-flow fixtures, hose shut-off nozzles, etc.). In 2011, the city provided 718 free residential assistance audits.
5. The city provides residential and commercial rebates for efficient toilets and clothes washers, as well as irrigation controllers or systems, which result in improved outdoor efficiency. In 2011, the city provided 588 toilet rebates and 394 washer rebates to residential customers.
6. The city's new water-wise garden was completed in May 2011 at the city's Water Conservation Office and includes native and drought tolerant plants, low-volume irrigation, mulch, and other water-saving features. Educational signage provides additional tips on ways that residents can implement water efficient practices while still maintaining a beautiful landscape. The garden is 44% more water efficient than the previous landscaping at the site, and is open to the public year-round for viewing.





Green Building Activities

Silver

1. In 2004, the city council adopted a policy establishing goals for all new facilities to meet LEED standards, with Silver or better as a goal. Since the policy was adopted, six new city facilities were designed and constructed pursuant to this policy between 2005 and 2010, all of which have met LEED Silver or Gold and certified by the US Green Building Council. All six have also exceeded California Title 24 Building Energy Efficiency Standards by at least 20% or more. The city received the Green California Leadership Award in 2011 for these certifications.

Gold

2. In 2010, the city and county convened a joint task force of construction, design, real estate and clean energy industry experts and practitioners to examine green building policy options for existing and new buildings, and to make recommendations on both mandatory and voluntary options to increase green building in Sacramento. The final report was completed in late 2010, and presented to the city council for review in early 2011.
3. Sacramento's Entertainment and Sports Center (ESC) will be certified LEED-Gold. Its location and design will support smart growth principles and will encourage public transit use and pedestrian and bicycle transportation. Demolition started in the summer of 2014 and the project will be completed September 2016.

Platinum

4. In 2011, the city began participating in a regional planning process led by SACOG, SMUD, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD), and others to develop a regional Plug-in EV Readiness Plan, in coordination with the Statewide Plug-in Electric Vehicle Collaborative. Included in the process will be building permit streamlining, and identifying regionally-consistent minimum development standards to ensure that new development is electric vehicle ready.
5. The CAP Consistency Review Checklist is a planning tool for implementing Climate Action Plan (CAP) measures, which apply to development projects. The checklist addresses traffic calming and VMT reduction, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, on-site renewable energy systems, and water efficiency. All of these are above and beyond California Building Code requirements. The checklist applies to projects that are not exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
6. In March 2011, the city formed an official "Green Team" that includes both building and planning staff in the Community Development Department that tracks permitting and policy issues related to green building, solar, PACE financing, etc.





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

Silver

1. The city's solid waste services include diversion, recycling, and composting of green yard waste. In addition, over the past five years, the city has been actively promoting use of green yard waste bins to increase waste diversion, improve the fuel efficiency of the collection system, and reduce physical damage to streets. As of 2011, over 85% of solid waste customers were using the green waste bins.

Gold

2. In 2010, the Sacramento Regional Solid Waste Authority (SWA) adopted SWA Ordinance No. 20, Title IV, requiring that multi-family dwellings with five or more units and who subscribe to ten cubic yards a week or greater of garbage collection service must recycle designated recyclable materials from their garbage. This applies to multi-family dwellings located in the unincorporated areas of Sacramento County and in the City of Sacramento.
3. In 2009, the city adopted an ordinance requiring construction & demolition waste be diverted for recycling or reuse for all projects over \$250,000 in value requiring a building permit. In 2010, the ordinance was amended to be consistent with minimum CalGreen requirements that 50% of all waste be diverted for all new construction, regardless of value.

Platinum

4. In 2010, the city council amended its solid waste hauling franchise agreement to shift end-disposal of the city's municipal solid waste to the Kiefer Landfill in Sacramento County, rather than exporting it out of state to Lockwood, NV. The changes will result in a net reduction of over 1.2 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per year from heavy duty trucks, and over 1,800 metric tons of CO2 per year, resulting in a more efficient and climate-friendly waste collection and disposal system.
5. The city offers a number of free or low-cost educational programs, incentives, and information, including school and community group presentations to learn about the "3 Rs", free seminars and reduced-cost compost bins for backyard composting, information about vermicomposting and grasscycling, links to various external resources including CalRecycle, Kids Be Green, etc.
6. In April 2014, the city implemented a neighborhood pilot food scraps collection program. Food scraps collected from approximately 800 homes were delivered to the Sacramento Bio Digester and converted to fuel.





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

Silver

1. In 2010, the city manager adopted a comprehensive Sustainable Purchasing Policy. The objectives of the policy are to conserve natural resource, save water and energy, minimize environmental impacts, eliminate or reduce toxic materials, support recycling and products made of recyclable/reused materials, use vendors that reduce environmental impacts in their production and distribution system, etc.

Gold

2. Sustainable Purchasing Policy requires the city purchased 100% recycled paper, post-consumer recycled content cardboard in office supplies.
3. Sustainable Purchasing Policy restricts the purchase of bottled water.

Platinum

4. Sustainable Purchasing Policy requires sustainable cleaning and janitorial products and services.
5. Sustainable Purchasing Policy requires the purchase of 100% remanufactured printer cartridges.
6. Sustainable Purchasing Policy requires the purchase of EnergyStar electronics and appliances, energy efficient lighting, water-saving fixtures and appliances.





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

Silver

1. The city entered into a PPA with Solar City to fund the installation of 3.4 MW of solar on existing city facilities. At the end of 2011, just under two MW were installed on existing buildings or on new parking lot shade canopies. About 1.5 MW will be installed by the end of 2012 at the city's water treatment plants.

Gold

2. In 2011, the city adjusted building permit fees for residential and commercial solar PV systems to a graduated flat-fee based system, rather than valuation, resulting in over 60% savings in permitting costs for a typical residential solar installation.
3. Since 2005, the city has replaced a significant portion of its fleet with vehicles that can utilize low carbon fuels, such as liquefied natural gas (LNG), propane, and E-85 (85% ethanol, 15% unleaded gasoline). The city has also installed alternative fuel infrastructure at key city facilities.

Platinum

4. In 2011, the city replaced 53 diesel refuse trucks with cleaner LNG trucks. The LNG trucks are 50% cleaner than the diesel trucks.
5. In 2013, the city established a sourcing agreement for up to 2,500 gallons of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) per week with at least 30% renewable CNG at the Sacramento Bio Digester fueling station. This fuel will be used to power 14 CNG refuse trucks.
6. In partnership with SMUD and Conergy, a 1.5 megawatt photovoltaic system has been installed at Sutter's Landing Park, a former landfill site. There are three solar configurations at the site: a ground mount system, solar trees in the dog park and a solar canopy in the visitor parking area to provide much needed shading.





Efficient Transportation Activities

Silver

1. In 2007, the city council adopted a policy that sets fleet efficiency standards, sets fuel reduction targets, and calls for sustainable fleet operations programs for all vehicles in the city's fleet. Significant reductions in total city fleet fuel usage were achieved between 2005 and 2009, despite an increase in the size of the city's fleet during the period.

Gold

2. Through the use of GPS technology and integrated software management and reporting, the application of fleet telematics to management of the city's fleet has the greatest potential to reduce fleet GHG emissions in the short term. Implementation of fleet telematics began in 2009, and preliminary phases of deployment have shown reductions in fleet fuel usage of up to 25%. Long-term estimates of full implementation of the program by 2020 are expected to result in a net reduction of 10% fuel usage through this program alone.
3. As part of the city's Sustainable Fleet Policy (API# 57), the city continues to improve fleet vehicle efficiency as part of the city's ongoing replacement program. Vehicle purchases are based upon established vehicle standards that emphasize the greatest fuel economy and lowest emissions each vehicle's respective class. The vehicle classification is assigned based on the actual type of use and need of a particular position.

Platinum

4. Implementation of the city's Bikeway Master Plan, which was originally adopted in the 1990s but has been updated as recently as 2010, has resulted in the implementation of numerous on-street bike lanes and signage, off-street bikeways, and improved connectivity throughout the city. The Pedestrian Master Plan was adopted in 2006 and identifies numerous opportunities to improve pedestrian connectivity and safety.
5. Consistent with policies in the 2030 General Plan and the Bikeway and Pedestrian Master Plans, the city has implemented a number of recent "complete streets" projects that ensure safe access for all users, modes, ages, and abilities. Examples include new bike/pedestrian bridges, safe routes to school improvements, pilot "green streets," streetscaping projects in numerous business districts and corridors, etc.
6. In 2011, the city worked with Zipcar to start a 10-car program in the downtown Sacramento area. In late 2011, Zipcar expanded to add two cars to the Sacramento State University campus.





Land Use and Community Design Activities

Silver

1. The 2030 General Plan provides numerous smart growth oriented goals, policies and programs to increase compact, mixed use development through increased densities, transit-orientation, removal of regulatory barriers to infill (e.g. excessive parking requirements). The plan utilizes land use and urban districts that focus on harmonization of land use and urban design, rather than a sole focus on land use and density, to achieve the plan's major focus on smart growth and sustainable community development.

Gold

2. The City of Sacramento Infill House Plan Program was developed to streamline the process for development of high quality single family homes in the city's older neighborhoods and redevelopment areas. Under this program, users can purchase plans that are pre-approved through the city's design review and building plan check review process, saving time and money.
3. The 2030 General Plan establishes land use policies based on sustainable practices, such as infill and green development. A key implementation measure of the General Plan is to comprehensively update the zoning code. The "Green Development Code", which kicked off in 2011, will result in a user-friendly document that provides predictable, clear and consolidated direction for development, and promotes sustainable development.

Platinum

4. The Railyards is a collaborative planning effort between the city and Inland American Sacramento Holdings. The 244-acre brownfield site is recognized as the largest urban infill site in this region and presents Sacramento with a significant opportunity to accommodate future growth utilizing sustainable and smart growth principles. The city council approved the Railyards project by unanimous vote on December 11, 2007.
5. Adopted on March 15, 2011, the Northeast Line Implantation Plan is a collection of actions to promote redevelopment of the light rail corridor that includes the Globe, Arden/Del Paso and Royal Oaks stations. The primary goal is to facilitate a mix of housing and other community serving uses that include retail, office and other civic and community uses.
6. The Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan was designed to improve neighborhood livability. This comprehensive process provides neighbors with resources to reduce speeding, reduce traffic volumes, and address other traffic-related issues. The goal is to calm traffic on these local streets, allowing children and families to feel more secure in their own neighborhoods.





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

Silver

1. The Urban Forest Services Division provides tree care service for the city's public trees. Public trees include street trees, trees in city parks, and trees on city property. They also protect heritage trees on both public and private property. Staff have completed a tree inventory and are working on a management plan, including a "stratum analysis", to provide an assessment of costs and benefits associated with the city's urban forest.

Gold

2. Urban Forestry Services, working with city departments, will plant roughly 2,200 trees per year above replacement value, both on city streets as well as in parks and open spaces or on other city-owned property. UFS also partners with the Sacramento Tree Foundation on various initiatives to preserve and expand the urban forest on private property.
3. By focusing most of the planned growth through 2030 in target infill opportunity areas within the city limits, the 2030 General Plan helps in the preservation of open space, habitat and agriculture preservation.

Platinum

4. The city worked with stakeholders and regulatory agencies to create a Habitat Conservation Plan in 2003, and set up a conservation group known as the Natomas Basin Conservancy, to help manage habitat in the plan area.
5. The city purchases both carbon offsets and Greenergy for a number of its operations. Based on existing contracts paid since 2005 and ongoing efforts, the Phase 1 Climate Action Plan estimated that over 750,000 kWh worth of Greenergy is purchased from SMUD annually. Additionally, the Sacramento Zoo purchases offsets to cover 100% of its GHG emissions.
6. The city has 12 community gardens operating. Having residents grow their own food reduces the number of trips to shopping centers and creates a small sink for GHGs.





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

Silver

1. The city is participating in the CoolCalifornia Challenge, which challenges cities to engage residents and households to take action to reduce household energy and vehicle travel. Participants earn points for their communities and are eligible for raffle and other prizes during the course of the competition.

Gold

2. The city ran a paid eight page supplement in Sacramento News & Review that highlights ways that individuals can take action in their own lives to reduce their carbon footprint. The SN&R is read by 75,000 readers weekly in the Sacramento region. The city also obtain 5,000 overruns as part of the contract to use at outreach events.
3. In 2008, SMUD began hosting an interagency working group attended by Sacramento County, the Sac Metro Air Quality Management District and the six incorporated cities in the counties to initiate a regional GHG inventory. The inventory was completed in 2009 and was utilized in the city's CAP. The partnership continues to meet quarterly to share information, ideas, and CAP implementation opportunities.

Platinum

4. In 2010, Mayor Kevin Johnson convened community leaders, businesses and interested individuals throughout the region to participate in a regional planning effort to create a regional Sustainability Plan. The formation of the plan spawned Greenwise Joint Venture, a nonprofit organization, to help carry out the plans objectives and specific actions.
5. In April 2012, SACOG adopted the 2035 MTP and SCS, in compliance with SB 375. The MTP/SCS improves on past efforts with the Blueprint and the prior MTP to invest our funding wisely, reduce time spent in congestion, reduce GHG emissions, and increase the number of residents with access to transit. The city's 2030 General Plan, adopted in 2009, was already consistent with the Blueprint, and the city's new CAP sets forth performance targets that are aligned with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Community Strategy.
6. The city engaged in robust community outreach for the city's Climate Action Plan.





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