

PLATINUM LEVEL AWARD WINNER



BEACON
SPOTLIGHT
AWARD
WINNER
BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of Santa Clarita

Sustainability Best Practices Activities



ILG INSTITUTE FOR
LOCAL GOVERNMENTSM
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			27%
	Natural Gas Savings		11%	
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities		2013	2016



Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Member of the Community Energy Partnership , a collaboration between seven cities in Southern California, Southern California Edison, Southern California Gas Company and the Energy Coalition. Its mission is to deliver effective energy efficiency programs that forge positive relationships, motivate communities to reduce environmental impacts and promote sustainable cities. The Community Energy Partnership brings energy efficiency benefits to many different individuals and communities including homeowners, renters, business owners, senior citizens and cities.	2011

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Over the past several years, the General Services Division has implemented several programs to upgrade energy efficiency strategies in the existing city hall facility. To date, 66 incandescent bulbs have been replaced with more energy efficient lighting in the city council chamber and in various conference rooms. This results in approximately \$7,500 in energy savings per year. City hall has installed over 30 light-sensors in offices and conference rooms throughout the facility. The city is currently considering the purchase and installation of 106 additional sensors 	2011

Level	Energy Efficiency & Conservation Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. The city worked with the Community Energy Partnership to benchmark three facilities (city hall, city corporate yard, and the Newhall Community Center) in Energy Star Portfolio Manager. The city anticipates benchmarking the George A. Carvalho Activities Center and transit maintenance facility in the future.	2011



Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency & Conservation Activities	Reported
Platinum	<p>2. In 2010 the City of Santa Clarita undertook a significant program to reduce the energy consumption of municipal operations in the field. Included in this program was the replacement of high pressure sodium and metal halide lights for energy efficient induction lighting at selected locations throughout the city. The replacement program was entirely funded by the Department of Energy American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant program. The program replaced 756 lights total including: 110 lights over 11 city bridges, 158 lights in city parking lots and 488 lights in 17 different city parks. The total estimated annual savings from these improvements is nearly 284,000 kilowatt hours translating into an annual savings of approximately \$32,100. Maintenance costs will also be reduced as the life expectancy of the new bulbs is four-times that of the bulbs they have replaced.</p> <p>3. In 2010, the City of Santa Clarita received funding via the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant. The city allocated \$175,000 of these funds towards a grant program to provide assistance to businesses interested in making energy efficiency related improvements. Called the Green Energy Partnership, the city-administered program provided individual businesses with as much as \$25,000 for solar-related projects and up to \$10,000 for all other types of energy efficiency projects. Participants in the program were encouraged to use local companies to perform the work; a maximum of 75% of the project cost was eligible for funding through the program if a local business was contracted to perform the work, while a 50% maximum was eligible if a local company was not contracted to perform the work. Over 20 businesses applied and 17 were funded. Of those projects that were funded, two involved the installation of solar panels, 14 involved energy efficiency upgrades and one involved a home-based business retrofitting the applicant's existing sport utility vehicle to compressed natural gas (CNG) and installing a CNG station at their home. Although funding for the program has been exhausted, the city is actively searching for additional funds to continue the program in the future.</p>	2015





Water & Wastewater Systems Activity

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activity	Reported
Silver	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Landscape Maintenance District (LMD) Programs: Starting in 2007, the City of Santa Clarita began to transition its irrigation controls in Landscape Maintenance District areas from timed control to an internet based central irrigation management and control system. As of 2010, approximately 35% of all irrigation controls in the city's LMD areas (over 170 units) have been replaced with new, internet-based "smart" controllers. According to HydroPoint Data Systems, Inc., the City of Santa Clarita represents the single largest deployment of these types of controllers in the United States. Data collected between 2007 and 2010 indicate an overall water savings of 20% from baseline conditions. This equates to an annual savings of nearly 14 million gallons. More controllers will be installed in the future. 	2011

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In 2008 the city installed smart irrigation technology network throughout the parks system. The system utilizes the Oasis Software package that provides real time network communications between on-site weather stations and the irrigation controllers. This provides the optimal irrigation of green space within the parks and results in a dramatic reduction in annual water usage. According to the city's Parks Maintenance Division, with the smart irrigation controllers and Oasis network, the City of Santa Clarita conserved approximately 15 million gallons of water in 2010 over 2009. 2. Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance: On January 1, 2010 the City of Santa Clarita formally adopted a Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance in compliance with Assembly Bill 1881. The new ordinance establishes a maximum landscape irrigation water budget that cannot be exceeded, requires the installation of smart irrigation systems to ensure efficient water application of landscaped areas and adopts a comprehensive verification and auditing system for irrigation performance post-construction. 	2011





Water & Wastewater Systems Activity

Level	Water and Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
<p>Platinum</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city partners with the local water retailer and water purveyors for all verification and auditing services. All development submitted on or after January 1, 2010 is potentially subject to the ordinance. Similar to the verification and auditing process for new development, the city partners with the local retailer and water purveyors to monitor, verify and audit these affected landscaped areas. 2. National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit: The City of Santa Clarita is in compliance with the NPDES Permit and takes great pride in being a responsible steward of the Santa Clara River and setting a good example for the community. The city strives to maintain habitat and keep wildlife corridors open along the Santa Clara River in addition to complying with the requirements of the NPDES Permit. The city strives to make the best use of limited financial resources to effectively implement the numerous elements of the permit. 3. The city is also part of a Santa Clara River Watershed collaborative, a stakeholder process with local water purveyors, local sanitation districts, the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and Los Angeles County. The goals are to integrate planning and implementation efforts and facilitate regional cooperation with the goals of reducing water demands, improving operational efficiency, increasing water supply reliability, improving water quality and protecting the river as a natural resource. 4. Water Conservation Outreach: The City of Santa Clarita is not a utility. As a result all power, gas and water services are provided by other parties. In this case, the Castaic Lake Water Agency (CLWA) is the water retailer and The Valencia Water Company, The Santa Clarita Water Company and the Newhall County Water District are water purveyors for the community. The city partners with these organizations to provide information on water saving programs and strategies to residential, commercial and industrial customers. 	<p>2011</p>





Green Building Activity

Level	Green Building Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Leadership in Energy Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Requirement: In 2005 the City Council of the City of Santa Clarita adopted the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy (EPPP) (Resolution 05-103). A portion of the EPPP requires that all municipal construction projects for new buildings achieve a LEED Silver certification or equivalent.	2015

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transit Maintenance Facility: In 2006, the City of Santa Clarita completed the state-of-the-art Transit Maintenance Facility. As the headquarters for Santa Clarita's Transit Division, recent improvements to the complex, including additional onsite solar generation, have resulted in providing 97% of the building's power needs. 2. Design features that were incorporated in the Transit Maintenance Facility include: straw bale insulated exterior walls, under-floor heating and cooling systems, recycled building materials, water efficient landscaping, day lighting features, facility shading devices, high-efficiency lighting fixtures with motion sensors and daylight dimming controls, and compressed natural gas fuel technology. The energy- efficient building also includes a 22,000 sq. ft. administration building, 25,000 sq. ft bus maintenance building, automated bus wash, diesel and compressed natural gas (CNG) stations, and an on-street CNG fueling station for use by the general public. The facility is also designed to accommodate more than 150 buses and nearly 160 staff with room for future expansion. 	2015

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consistent with its effort to operate in an environmentally conscious manner, the City of Santa Clarita received its first "Gold" rating from the LEED Green Building Rating System in 2006. LEED is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. 2. The Old Town Newhall Library received a LEED Gold certification. 3. The city adopted an energy building management system in the city year. 	2015





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activity

Level	Waste Reduction Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city adopted a mandatory residential and commercial recycling program. A complete list of waste reduction and recycling programs and strategies available to the community can be viewed in the Santa Clarita Green Guide .	2011

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city offers programs for household hazardous waste collection, e-waste collection, tire recycling, sharps disposal, clothing reuse, bulky item pickup, composting workshops and manure recycling. 2. Construction and Demolition Ordinance: In 2005, the city council adopted the Construction and Demolition Ordinance. The ordinance requires all projects valued at over \$100,000 for demolition and \$500,000 for new construction to recycle a minimum of 50% of their construction and demolition waste. To date, approximately 600 projects have been processed with a diversion rate of 91% totaling 46,000 tons. 	2011

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. Materials Recovery Facility: As part of the Commercial Solid Waste Franchise Agreement, Burrtec Waste Industries, Inc. is contractually obligated to construct and operate a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). A MRF is a solid waste facility where solid wastes or recyclable materials are sorted or separated for the purposes of recycling, processing or composting. The City of Santa Clarita retains the ability to direct the solid waste stream collected under the franchise agreement to the MRF for processing and/or transfer.	2015





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activity

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported						
<p>Platinum</p>	<p>2. Capital Improvement Projects: Santa Clarita uses recycled or reused materials in its capital improvement projects whenever and wherever practical. In addition to using these materials in new buildings, the city also uses these materials in other areas as well.</p> <p>Currently five of the city's parks have used recycled tire rubber as playground surface material. These materials were installed over the past ten years of parks construction. The tires used are designated California Waste Tires. In total, the five city parks have diverted 5,332 tires from the waste stream. The following details the number of tires diverted from each park:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Almendra: 625</td> <td>Oak Spring Canyon: 625</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Santa Clarita: 1,007</td> <td>Newhall: 1,925</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Newhall Community: 1,150</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>3. Six roadway resurfacing projects have been completed on city-owned right-of-way over the past 5 years. The city estimates approximately 8 tires are diverted from landfills per ton of resurfacing material. The six resurfacing projects used between 10,000 and 30,000 tons of material per job, resulting in an estimated diversion of 960,000 tires.</p> <p>4. ePlans Paperless Plan Submittal Process: In early 2011 the City of Santa Clarita's Planning Division began a paperless plan submittal process called ePlans. The program calls for all paper plan submittals to be provided electronically. Previously, the city's submittal requirements called for as many as 15 full sets of paper plan copies. Often several more sets were required throughout the development review process as reprints reflecting staff's changes were generated. The ePlans program removes the need for the applicant to print any plans. This promotes source reduction of materials, diverts additional materials from landfills, results in a faster plan review process and saves the applicant money through reduced printing costs. Because ePlans is such a new program, no data exists regarding the quantity of paper that has been saved. However, 150 discretionary permits were issued in 2010, each requiring a minimum of 15 full submittal sets. Assuming each submittal set averages five full-sized pages and assuming as many applications are processed in 2011 (if not more) as in 2010, this could result in a savings of over 11,250 full-sized plan pages in addition to thousands more pages of forms and miscellaneous paperwork from the planning entitlement process alone.</p>	Almendra: 625	Oak Spring Canyon: 625	Santa Clarita: 1,007	Newhall: 1,925	Newhall Community: 1,150		<p>2015</p>
Almendra: 625	Oak Spring Canyon: 625							
Santa Clarita: 1,007	Newhall: 1,925							
Newhall Community: 1,150								





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activity

Level	Climate-Friendly Activity	Reported
Silver	<p>1. Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy (EPPP): The City of Santa Clarita's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy was adopted by the City Council.</p> <p>The goal of the EPPP is to conserve natural resources, minimize environmental impacts, eliminate toxics, support strong recycling markets, reduce reliance on landfills, identify environmentally friendly products and distribution systems, reward vendors who reduce environmental impacts, and create a successful model for environmental purchasing.</p> <p>Guidelines and requirements generally specify that the policy should be adhered to provided that the quality of products is good, that it presents no safety concerns, and that it is cost-effective to do so.</p>	2011

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Gold	<p>1. The EPPP recommends the purchase of products that minimize environmental impacts, toxics, pollution, and hazardous to worker and community safety.</p> <p>2. The EPPP institutes practices that reduce waste and minimize environmental impacts whenever practicable and cost-effective by increasing product efficiency and effectiveness, but without reducing safety or workplace quality while promoting fair treatment of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to this policy</p>	2011

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Platinum	<p>1. The EPPP recommends the purchase products that include recycled content, are durable and long-lasting, conserve energy and water, use agricultural fibers and residues, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, use unbleached or chlorine free manufacturing processes, area lead-free and mercury-free, and use wood from sustainably harvested forests</p> <p>2. The EPPP encourages vendors, contractors and grantees to implement this program for all products and services provided to the City of Santa Clarita.</p> <p>3. The City of Santa Clarita has purchased natural gas and electric vehicles.</p>	2011





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activity

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Silver	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Santa Clarita Transit & Solid Waste Collection Vehicles: The City of Santa Clarita maintains a fleet of 91 buses that provide mass transit opportunities to residents within the city and surrounding unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. Ridership has increased by 600% since 1991. In 2010, approximately 3.7 million riders utilized services offered by Santa Clarita Transit including local service, commuter services to locations outside the Santa Clarita Valley and dial-a-ride services. This has resulted in reducing the number of vehicle miles travelled within the city by an estimated 1.6 million miles with an estimated fuel savings throughout the community of 34,000 gallons. Of the 91 vehicles, 37 of them are powered by clean burning compressed natural gas (CNG). The balance of the fleet is conventionally powered and either meets or exceeds local air quality requirements. In fact, the newest conventionally powered buses meet air quality standards outlined for 2012. The 37 buses powered by compressed natural gas are able to refuel at the city's Transit Maintenance Facility. 	2011

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Transit Maintenance Facility contains a public compressed natural gas fueling station. Not only is the public welcome to use the station, but all of the solid waste collection vehicles that serve the City of Santa Clarita refuel at the station as well. In 2010, approximately 356,000 therms were dispensed from the city's fueling station; the equivalent of roughly 285,000 gallons of gasoline. 2. The city franchises solid waste collection to Waste Management and Burrtec Waste Industries, Inc. The franchise agreement requires collection vehicles be powered by alternative fuels and currently 47 of the 53 collection vehicles owned by the two franchisees operate on either compressed natural gas or liquefied natural gas. The CNG solid waste vehicles utilize the public CNG fueling station. 	2011





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activity

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
<p>Platinum</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Alternative Fuel Fleet Vehicles: The City of Santa Clarita currently operates and maintains 93 small cars and light trucks in its on-road vehicle fleet. Of the small vehicle fleet, 14% are powered by alternative fuel including 12 compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles and one traditional hybrid. The CNG vehicles are fueled by a pumping station located at City Hall and the city's Corporate Yard facility. The pumping stations dispense nearly 9,400 therms annually; the equivalent of approximately 7,800 gallons of gasoline.</p> <p>Small Wind-Energy Ordinance: In order to provide additional opportunities for residents and businesses to take advantage of alternative energy generation, the city is in the process of revising its current Small Wind-Energy Ordinance. The current ordinance mirrors the State of California's ordinance contained in Government Code. The ordinance allows small wind-energy systems to be installed by right on lots one acre in size and larger subject to specific design requirements. The proposed amendment to the city's ordinance would allow small wind-energy systems on lots smaller than one acre.</p> <p>Staff is currently researching draft ordinance language for presentation to the Planning Commission and city council and will potentially be brought forward with the next overall revision of the Unified Development Code in the summer of 2012.</p> <p><u>Los Angeles County PACE Loan Program:</u> The City of Santa Clarita is participating in the County of Los Angeles' Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program. Authorized by Assembly Bill 811 the program began in June of 2011 and provides a financing structure for property owners to complete energy efficiency improvements to their buildings for a very small initial investment. Eligible projects include: lighting improvements (indoor and outdoor), HVAC, control devices, sensors and meters, energy management systems / building automation systems, high efficiency plumbing fixtures, onsite power generation, building envelope and elevator modernization</p> <p>The city will be participating in the program by providing advertising and outreach within the community. The city is in the process of determining how best to accomplish this goal. Currently, the PACE program is only available to commercial property owners. It is anticipated that the programs will be offered to residential property owners as well in the future.</p> 	<p>2015</p>





Efficient Transportation Activity

Level	Efficient Transportation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Non-Motorized Master Plan : In 2008, the City Council approved the Non-Motorized Master Plan (NMMP). The purpose of the NMMP is to guide the future development of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, paseos and trails within the city. The plan focuses on the city's bicycle and pedestrian network, planning and policies related to bicycling and walking, non-motorized connections to transit, and safe routes to schools. The NMMP intends to make bicycling and walking integral modes of transportation in Santa Clarita. The plan identifies a variety of strategies and makes recommendations to improve the quality and encourage the use of bicycle and pedestrian facilities city-wide. The document also makes recommendations regarding public transportation and land use as they related the improvement of these types of facilities.	2011

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transit Oriented Development / Mixed Use Development: Even before the advent of Senate Bill 375, the City of Santa Clarita has been dedicated to a land use pattern that offers a diverse housing mix, provides access to a variety of alternative transportation modes and seeks to reduce vehicle miles traveled via mixed used and a reduced dependence on the automobile. 2. A recent example of this is the City of Santa Clarita's Downtown Newhall Specific Plan. Adopted by the City Council in December, 2005, the plan is developed around an existing Metrolink station, and seeks a variety of housing options mixed with shopping and entertainment amenities. The City's new General Plan, adopted in June of 2011, furthers that commitment by providing more opportunities for Transit Oriented Development (TOD). 	2011





Efficient Transportation Activity

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
<p>Platinum</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approved by the City Council in June, 2011, the city's new General Plan builds upon this dedication in a manner that is consistent with both AB 32 and SB 375. Of the 840 goals, objectives and policies contained within the new General Plan, 16% (approximately 135 policy items) call for TOD in future development projects. This will be accomplished through more mixed use, greater access to mass transit opportunities and a concentration of infill development along existing transit corridors. 2. The City of Santa Clarita received a bronze certification for being a bicycle friendly community from the League of American Bicyclist. 3. The city celebrated its 11th annual "Dump the Pump Day " on June 16th 2016. On this day, city staff encourages residents to take a pledge and to explore public transportation by raffling off local prizes. 	<p>2011</p>





Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activity	Reported
Silver	<p>1. Community Character & Design Guidelines: The purpose of the Santa Clarita Community Character and Design Guidelines (CCDG) document is to guide the creation of new residential and non-residential developments and give clear direction for the renovation and redevelopment of built areas. Adopted by the City Council in March 2009, the intent of the guidelines is to retain and encourage architectural variety, promote quality development and address both existing and new development that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is compatible in size, scale and appearance with the character of Santa Clarita. • Is attractive and an asset to the community. • Preserves and enhances natural features on site. • Incorporates quality articulation, community character features, multiple building forms, desirable building details, and other elements that display excellence. • Provides pedestrian-oriented design to enrich the pedestrian experience. 	2011

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Gold	<p>1. The CCDG is an exhaustive text that covers a variety of design features for each community within the city as well as for residential, mixed use, commercial and industrial development types.</p> <p>2. The CCDG document expands its focus from green building to green site development. A number of green guidelines are identified for each type of development and address each community on a context-specific basis. For ease of reference, green items are identified within the document with an oak tree icon. It is important to note that the city has incorporated many of these design features in its development review process well before the current CalGreen code became effective in 2011. Additionally, the CCDG won a Best Practice Award from the American Planning Association California Chapter in 2010.</p>	2011





Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Platinum	<p>1. Parks Master Plan: The purpose of this Master Plan is to provide a realistic guide for the creative, orderly development and management of parks, recreation facilities and programs for the city, now and into the future. The Master Plan is an implementation tool of the General Plan, providing strategies for addressing the General Plan’s Vision Statement, as well as goals and policies based on current analysis and community input. Over the years, the City of Santa Clarita has actively undertaken a variety of planning efforts pertaining to individual Park Master Plans, Land Use studies, and Specific Plans. The Master Plan builds on many of these previous planning efforts and obtains new community input that has resulted in providing an up-to-date understanding of current and future recreation needs and opportunities specific to Santa Clarita.</p> <p>This plan is intended to be a flexible document, presenting findings and recommendations will be evaluated, validated, and/or modified periodically as the city responds to unforeseen opportunities and constraints as well as changes in residents’ needs and demands. Plan recommendations are considered on an annual basis in the context of other city priorities and, through incorporation into the city budget, so that recreation projects can begin the process of implementation.</p> <p>2. The Master Plan includes a section on open space that summarizes various recent open space studies the city has undertaken. There is a strong connection between open space and recreation in Santa Clarita and the plan reflects the multiple roles of natural open space, from recreation to preservation of natural, visual, and cultural resources. Natural open space is also strongly connected to community identity in many ways, including as reinforcement of the areas “western” or early days heritage.</p>	2011





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Silver	<p>1. Open Space Plan / Acquisition District: On July 17, 2007, the City Council adopted a resolution forming the City of Santa Clarita Open Space Preservation District. The City of Santa Clarita's Open Space Preservation District represents a significant step forward in the city's ongoing efforts to acquire, preserve and protect open space.</p> <p>The Open Space Preservation District will expand upon the city's existing Open Space, Park, and Parkland Program ("Program"). The city already has an extensive Program for the acquisition, preservation, improvement, servicing and maintenance of parks, parkland, and open space lands. The existing program is responsible for the implementation of various functions associated with parks maintenance, park planning, and development. It provides planning and administration for the acquisition and construction of parks, open space, trails, and grounds as well as the operations and maintenance supplies to maintain the parks, facilities, trails, and open space. In addition, this program engages the community on the master plans and designs of various park facilities and oversees the implementation of these designs by managing the construction process. It is the city's intent to use the additional funding from the District to expand the existing Program to accelerate vacant land acquisition in and around the city. The city has already been doing this to some extent in previous years, but this would allow more funds to be used for this purpose.</p> <p>The Open Space Preservation District will increase the funds by approximately \$1.5 million, and the City Council has committed these \$1.5 million funds from the Open Space Preservation District to acquire vacant lands in and around the city, as identified in this Annual Open Space Acquisition Implementation Work Program ("Work Program").</p> <p>Depending on the housing type, the assessment rate is between \$12.50 and \$25 per unit. Non-residential developed property, such as commercial, industrial and institutional land uses, pay \$75 per acre. Vacant parcels pay \$18.75 per acre up to 5 acres. The assessment will be in place for thirty (30) years through Fiscal Year 2036-37.</p>	2011





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Since incorporation, the City of Santa Clarita has acquired 6,100 acres of open space. Approximately 1,850 of those acres utilized funds generated by the Acquisition District. 2. Parks Programs: The City of Santa Clarita's Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department currently operate 24 parks throughout the community. In all, the City's parks cover approximately 295 developed acres. 	2011
Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ridgeline/Hillside Preservation Ordinances: The purpose of the Ridgeline Preservation Ordinance (Municipal Code Section 17.16.055) and Hillside Development Ordinance (Municipal Code Section 17.80.010 through 17.80.050) is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve the ridgelines within the City limits for the public health, safety and welfare for the long-term benefit of the community, maintenance of the unique visual characteristics, resources and ridgeline integrity, and to achieve a higher quality of life for its residents; • Provide hillside development standards to maximize the positive impacts of site design, grading, and architecture; • Maintain the essential natural characteristics of the area such as major landforms, vegetation wildlife communities, hydrologic features, scenic qualities and open space that contribute to a sense of place; • Retain the integrity of predominant off-site and on-site views in the hillside areas in order to maintain the identity, image and environmental quality of the city. 	2011





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Platinum	<p>2. Tree City USA: The City of Santa Clarita has been designated a “Tree City USA” by the Arbor Day Foundation for 22 years. The City’s Urban Forestry Division estimates that over 50,000 trees exist within the city with approximately 1,000 additional trees planted each year. To celebrate these accomplishments and provide public information about the importance of planting trees, the City of Santa Clarita has hosted an Arbor Day event for 23 consecutive years. Urban forests are well documented sinks for greenhouse gas emissions and assist in both passive cooling for buildings and shade generation which reduces the urban heat island effect.</p> <p>3. Parks Master Plan: The purpose of this Master Plan is to provide a realistic guide for the creative, orderly development and management of parks, recreation facilities and programs for the city, now and into the future. The Master Plan is an implementation tool of the General Plan, providing strategies for addressing the General Plan’s Vision Statement, as well as goals and policies based on current analysis and community input. Over the years, the City of Santa Clarita has actively undertaken a variety of planning efforts pertaining to individual Park Master Plans, Land Use studies, and Specific Plans. The Master Plan builds on many of these previous planning efforts and obtains new community input that has resulted in providing an up-to-date understanding of current and future recreation needs and opportunities specific to Santa Clarita. This plan is intended to be a flexible document, presenting findings and recommendations will be evaluated, validated and/or modified periodically as the city responds to unforeseen opportunities and constraints as well as changes in residents’ needs and demands. Plan recommendations are considered on an annual basis in the context of other city priorities and, through incorporation into the city budget, so that recreation projects can begin the process of implementation. It should be noted that this Master Plan includes a section on open space that summarizes various recent open space studies the city has undertaken. There is a strong connection between open space and recreation in Santa Clarita and the plan reflects the multiple roles of natural open space, from recreation to preservation of natural, visual, and cultural resources. Natural open space is also strongly connected to community identity in many ways, including as reinforcement of the areas “western” or early days heritage.</p>	2011





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Platinum	<p>4. Oak Tree Preservation Ordinance: The purpose of the Oak Tree Preservation Ordinance (Municipal Code Section 17.17.090) is to protect and preserve oak trees in the City and to provide regulatory measures designed to accomplish this purpose. The ordinance indicates that it will be the policy of the City of Santa Clarita to require the preservation of all healthy oak trees, unless compelling reasons justify the removal of such trees. The ordinance applies to the removal, encroachment upon and pruning of oak trees. The ordinance establishes the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removing, encroaching upon, and pruning oak trees is illegal without first securing a valid oak tree permit (with specific exceptions) for any oak tree that exceeds 6 inches in diameter or 12.5 inches in circumference on properties occupied by a single family home or 2 inches in diameter or 6 inches in circumference for those oaks on other types of properties; • Establishes the “heritage” designation for oak trees in excess of 108 inches in circumference for single trunk or 72 inches in circumference for multi-trunk trees measured at a height of 54 inches from the ground or based on its historical significance. Permission to remove an oak tree with a heritage designation requires the approval of the Planning Commission; • Establishes the “Oak Tree Preservation Guidelines” policy to administer the procedures for the preservation of oak trees; and; • Imposes conditions on permitted oak tree removals including replacement of trees by an established schedule, placement of additional trees, relocating trees on or off-site, requiring a maintenance program and payment of a fee or a donation. 	2011





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Silver	<p>1. GreenSantaClarita.com: In July of 2009, the City of Santa Clarita launched GreenSantaClarita.com, a website dedicated to providing information to the entire community about local, regional, state and federal sustainability issues. The site is designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make going green easy and cost effective for residents, businesses and builders; • Synthesize the vast amount of information about sustainable programs, policies, incentives, rebates, services and products across various organizations and government agencies into one convenient place; • Help residents, businesses and builders find federal and state funds and/or federal and state tax breaks and incentives; • Focus on local businesses and vendors of green products in order to stimulate the green economy in the Santa Clarita Valley; • Provide information on upcoming green-related trainings, workshops and events; and • Provide information on the variety of sustainable programs the City of Santa Clarita is currently implementing throughout the community. 	2015





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<p>Gold</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Greensantaclarita.com provides access to the Enhanced Watershed Management Plan (EWMP) and the Climate Action Plan (CAP) reports so that citizens can take part in improving water and air quality. 2. The website, which was created and is maintained entirely in-house at no cost, consists of the following basic elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Storefront: Located in the Green Store, residents, businesses and builders have access to a variety of green products and services provided in the Santa Clarita Valley. Interactive tools allow users to find green-friendly automobiles and then locate them at dealerships within Santa Clarita. Visitors to the site can also identify local vendors of Energy Star products and search for alternative fueling stations throughout California, Arizona and Nevada. In addition, residents can purchase bus passes on-line and find a list of local solar retailers and installers. • Community Calendar: On the Community Calendar, anyone can access information on upcoming events, including Earth Day, workshops, trainings, tours of local green facilities and even sign up for classes offered by the local community college, College of the Canyons, regarding sustainability and the environment. • Sustainable Development: In an effort to partner with the development community, builders can access the page and find information on both the City of Santa Clarita's green development requirements as well as locate resources on state and federal incentive programs that promote the incorporation of green design into their projects. There is also a page that highlights green buildings within the city, giving free exposure to the building owner, and the project's architect, engineer and design team. Finally, the site provides current information on pieces of legislation that impact the planning and building process. • Residents and Businesses: In partnership with local utility companies, these pages provide a wealth of information on how residents and businesses can take simple, inexpensive steps that will help the environment and improve their bottom line. These pages focus on city programs, energy and resource efficiency, climate change, and available local, state and federal funds and incentives. 	<p>2015</p>





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Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GreenSantaClarita.com is featured on the Institute for Local Government's page for Best Practices of Promoting Community and Individual Action and in 2010 the website won an American Planning Award of Merit from the Los Angeles Section, California Chapter for Innovative Green Community Planning. In the two years since launch, the site has received over 41,000 hits from users in 76 countries and met with significant community support. In its second year of operation the site saw a 16% increase in the total number of visitors and an increase of 7% in the number of new visitors over the first year of operation. New content is being added each month. 2. Community Events and Trainings: The City of Santa Clarita hosts a series of annual events designed to highlight and promote various environmental and sustainability issues. Many of these events are advertised on the Community Calendar page of GreenSantaClarita.com. The following events are hosted by the city: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River Rally; • Earth/Arbor Day; • Oak Tree Day; • Make a Difference Day; • Bike to Work Day; • Household Hazardous Waste Round Up; • E-Waste Round Up; • Santa Clarita Home and Garden Show; and Santa Clarita Business Expo. 3. In addition to community events, the city also partners with College of the Canyons, a local community college, by providing direct links from GreenSantaClarita.com to classes offered at the college that provide environmentally oriented curriculum. These resources are located on the site's Community Calendar and are updated regularly. 	2015





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