



City of Santa Rosa

Sustainability Best Practices Activities



City of
Santa Rosa
California

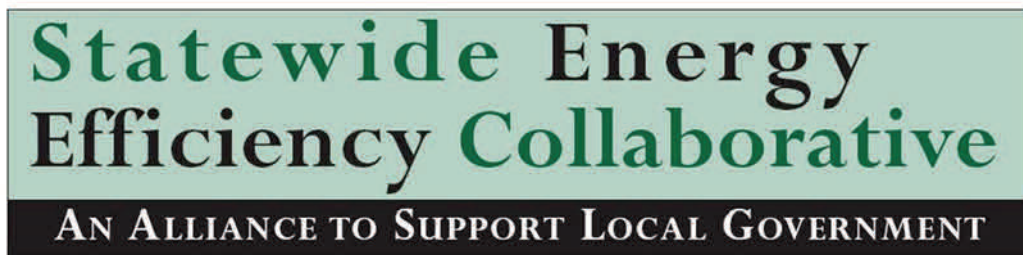
Gold Level Award Winner



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 Award: Local Leadership toward Solving Climate Change. The Beacon Award 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 Award 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.



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 Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Completed an Integrated Energy Audit for the City of Santa Rosa Laguna Wastewater Treatment Plant (LTP) in March 2012. This multi-month long study was exhaustive and comprehensive. While the LTP was found to be among most efficiently run, several valuable improvements to increase energy efficiency were identified. These improvements have been implemented.	5-2014

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities	Reported
Gold	1. Conducted a number of formal energy efficiency audits for the myriad of city operations and buildings including participation in the PG&E financed Sonoma County Energy Watch Program (SCEW). This program has helped us to retrofit our lighting in city office buildings and in businesses in and around Santa Rosa with the result being reduced energy costs, fewer emissions and a very short payback period; usually less than a year. 2. In 2013 the Sonoma County Energy Watch Program (SCEW) helped the city complete the lighting retrofit at Brown Farm.	5-2014

Level	Energy Efficiency & Conservation Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. The combined heat and power project was completed at the Laguna Treatment Plant. Both of these projects reduced energy cost for the City of Santa Rosa. 2. LED street light conversion (need more detail) co-gent Finley Center.	5-2014





Water & Wastewater Systems Activity

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The Santa Rosa Water Use Efficiency program has been in effect since 1992. Each year it improves to help more and more users become more efficient in their domestic and business water use. This program not only reduces water use and saves money for our customers, it also reduces the need to deliver, collect, treat and reclaim over 1.4 billion gallons of water annually. This significantly reduces our energy use, costs and GHG emissions related to that energy use.	5-2014

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Received official Environmental Management System certification by the National Biosolids Partnership. This certification denotes an on-going commitment to state-of-the-art management of municipal sewage biosolids and required third-party verification for the initial designation and regular internal and external audits for maintenance. 2. Currently exploring the best methods to produce energy and beneficially reuse biosolids with a consultant including ways to improve and extract more energy from our digestion system. The collection and introduction of Fats, Oils and Greases (FOG) to the digesters will improve waste water collection by reducing time, money and energy required to maintain this infrastructure. It will also allow the city to introduce this waste stream directly into the digesters and enhance methane production. 	5-2014

Level	Water and Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. Manages a sub-regional wastewater treatment and beneficial reuse system. The city reclaims all of the wastewater we receive. Over 11 million gallons of the reclaimed water a day is pumped to the Geysers Steam Field located north of the city. Introduction of reclaimed water is responsible for an additional 185 megawatts of clean, green geothermal steam energy annually.	5-2014





Green Building Activity

Level	Green Building Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Launched the voluntary Santa Rosa Build It Green (SR BIG) Program. SR BIG followed the US Green Building Councils' Build it Green guidelines for residential construction in 2002.	5-2014

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Gold	1. Adopted an ordinance making the SRB BIG guidelines mandatory for new residential construction in 2006. 2. Adopted CalGreen Tier One green building standards.	5-2014

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. Require any new city buildings to meet LEED Gold performance standards for new construction and remodels.	5-2014



Waste Reduction and Recycling Activity

Level	Waste Reduction Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Placed blue recycling bins located in every city office and conference rooms in an effort to promote office recycling.	5-2014



Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Gold	1. The city staff established a library of dishes and cutlery for city functions and events to eliminate the use of single-use plates and utensils. This library can serve groups of over 200 people and has gone viral. The city receives requests to use the library on a weekly basis. One city event in which over 200 people were served resulted in only six pounds of waste going to the landfill. This is a small but fun step in illustrating what is possible and helping people internalize the impact of what can be done to reduce waste. The library was established with donations from city staff.	5-2014



Climate-friendly Purchasing Activity

Level	Climate-Friendly Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Adopted Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Policy (EPP).	5-2014

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Gold	<p>1. The EPP is dynamic and is annually updated to accommodate the most current thinking, products and purchasing practices which promote repair, recycling, waste reduction, local products/services and worker safety. Updated in 2013 to strengthen the extended producer responsibilities, provide life-cycle cost analysis which includes environmental impact and inclusion of the Community Climate Action Plan as a fundamental tenet of the EPP.</p> <p>2. Established a “connection” service to re-use office equipment. The city of Santa Rosa has 20+ work sites; all of which purchase and use things like notebooks, furniture, file folders and many other items which are re-usable. Prior to this inter-office connection, 3-ring binders were used once and tossed out. Now they are put up for adoption; hopefully multiple times.</p>	5-2014

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. The Environmental Purchasing Policy was finalized and adopted by the city council (effective January 29,2013).	5-2014

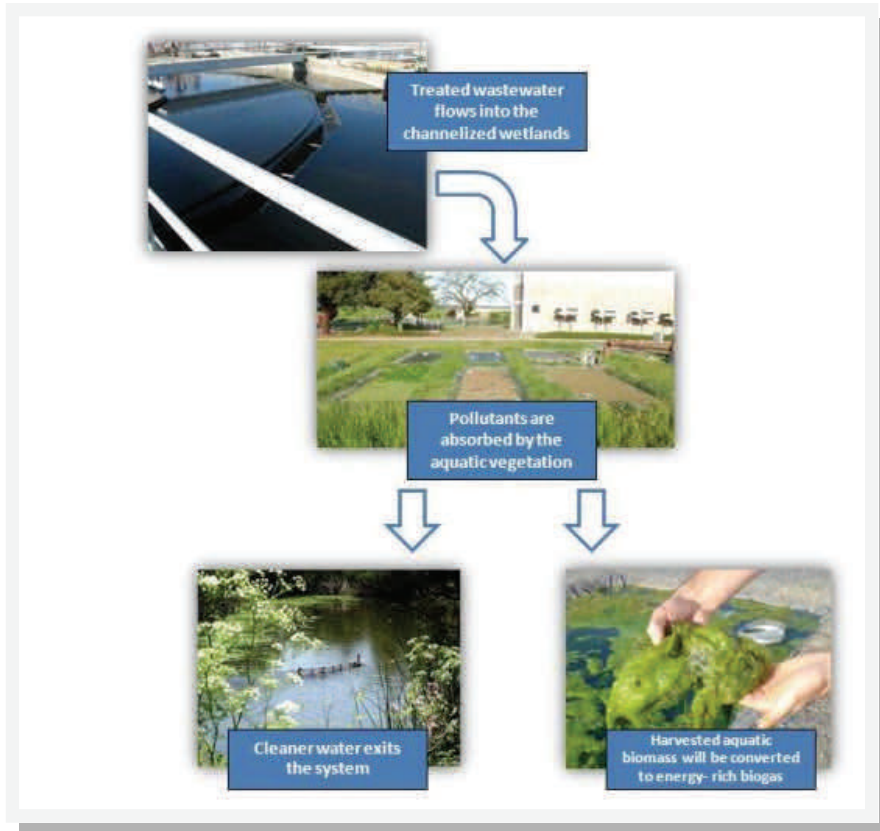




Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activity

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Installed new combined heat and power system at the Laguna Wastewater Treatment Plant. Santa Rosa can now use all of the methane produced in the bio solids digesters with room for expansion. This facility also allows the city to improve the digestion process to produce and use more methane from the existing feedstock of waste.	5-2014

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Gold	1. The city has a current portfolio of 11 Photovoltaic (PV) arrays which produce nearly 1 megawatt of solar-generated energy for city operations. 2. Established a unique and award-winning Fuel from Aquatic Biomass, (FAB) Project at the Laguna Treatment Plant.	5-2014





Efficient Transportation Activity

Level	Efficient Transportation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Bus fleet is a mix of natural gas and clean diesel fuel. As busses are retired, newer cleaner busses are added to the fleet.	5-2014

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. City vehicle fleet contains an ever-increasing percentage of hybrid and all-electric vehicles. The fleet currently features 100 vehicles which are hybrid or all-electric. 2. Rideshare programs to enhance carpooling and reduce car trips have been in place for a decade. Special premium parking spaces are awarded to participants. 	5-2014

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any city employee can ride on the city bus system busses for free by showing their employee ID badge. 2. Encourage the use of webinars and teleconferencing to reduce the use of vehicle trips. 3. Installed ten charging stations or plug-In electric vehicles for employee and public use. These stations are part of a regional Plug –In Vehicle Charging Network. This network is coordinated program with other Sonoma county partners to place these stations strategically to promote All-electric vehicle use and reduce ‘range anxiety’. 	5-2014





Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Adopted Community Action Plan, (CCAP) which contains goals and strategies which promote in-fill development and transit oriented development practices.	5-2014

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Gold	1. Adopted Station Area Specific Plan which incorporates housing, neighborhood-serving retail, recreational facilities and mass transit to reduce the need for vehicular travel. 2. Price the fee for on-street parking so that it is relative to congestion.	5-2014

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. Adopted Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan in 2010. 2. Adopted the downtown (2007) and North Station (2012) which are specific plans around two future Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit stops to provide opportunities for transit supportive development. 3. Adopted the Municipal Climate Change Action Plan in August, 2013. 4. Santa Rosa is participating in the Climate Action 2020 program which is developing climate action plans for all the cities and the county. 5. We have conducted three community workshops to outreach to the public regarding the Community Climate Action Plan.	5-2014





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Silver	1. The City of Santa Rosa partners with local farmers and helps them to stay in farming by offering low-cost irrigation water and the infra-structure to maintain the irrigation systems. This helps provide a green-belt of agriculture land around the City of Santa Rosa.	5-2014

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Gold	1. Promote local agriculture in many forms including residential fruit and vegetable gardens, community gardens, and revised city codes to allow raising of chickens and bees in the urban areas.	5-2014



Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Silver	1. Developed an educational Coloring Book describing the award-winning Fuel from Aquatic Biomass, (FAB) Project at the Laguna Treatment Plant to help children and others understand how it works.	5-2014



Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Since 2010, the city has organized an annual Earth Day celebration. This event provides a fun, entertainment, creek clean-ups and activities for all people to celebrate our natural environment. Last year over 2000 people attended. The event is solar-powered. 2. In November, 2012 the City of Santa Rosa hosted a conference entitled Sonoma County's Strategies for Sustainability which focused on reducing greenhouse gases in Sonoma County by inspiring innovation, economic vitality and collaborative action between community, business and government. For more information you can visit. srcity.org/departments/utilities/Projects/Pages/SonomaCountyStrategiesforSustainability.aspx 	5-2014

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In 2013 the city attended various community events including the Sonoma County Fair, the Water Smart Expo and the Home Show to outreach to the community regarding information on how to reduce greenhouse gas emission, promote water efficiency, water quality, the treatment of our waterwaste and its recycling uses. 2. Through the Take it from the Tap program the city reaches out to youth by providing interactive and fun informational presentations regarding the importance of consuming water and the health benefits of drinking water verses sugary beverages. Each child is provided with their own Take it from the reusable water bottle. 3. The City of Santa Rosa hosts an Annual Earth Day event. This event provides a family fun event with entertainment, creek and park clean ups, and information on environmental issues and tips on how to help "mother nature." This event is attended by over 2500 people and is solar powered. A hydration station is provided as the vendors who participate are required to not see bottled water at this event. 4. The City of Santa Rosa partnered with the Sonoma County Water Agency to host a community wide Drought Drive through which was attended by over 3,000 participants. This event provided an opportunity for citizens to drive up to six different areas in the community and receive water efficiency items for their home such as efficient fixtures, shower timers, toilet leak detection tales and other items. Knowledgeable staff was also available to answer any efficiency questions the community may have had. 	5-2014





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