

BEACON



SPOTLIGHT  
AWARD

WINNER

BEST PRACTICE  
ACTIVITIES



# City of Signal Hill

## Sustainability Best Practice Activities




# City of Signal Hill

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			
	Community GHG Reductions			
	Agency Energy Savings	2018 (6%)		
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities		2018	
	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. The city encouraged the development of the green residential Aragon Townhomes, previously a brownfield, and approved the project because of its various green designs. The townhomes were built beyond CalGreen standards, featuring solar systems and energy efficient designs for all 81-units of 2 to 3- bedroom dwellings.

## Gold

2. The city implemented a policy to shut off computers, printers and shredders at the end of each day.
3. The city is participating in the Edison incentive application for up to \$10,000 in rebates for the LED retrofit of existing safety lights at 16 signalized intersections. In July 2017, the city council approved the purchase of 81 LED safety light fixtures from Leotek Electronics, which were received in September 2017 and installed by Long Beach Signals Division (who maintains the city's intersection lights) by the end of 2017. The city replaced previous lighting ranging from 200 to 400 watts with LED wattages ranging from 88 to 180 watts. The city is also working with SCE to retrofit all LS1 lighting fixtures (owned by SCE) in the future at 11 intersections.

## Platinum

4. The city has replaced older, less efficient pump motors with high efficiency motors through federal grant money. In 2017, upgrades included four motors at the Gundry Pump Station and one motor at the Hilltop Station.
5. Signal Hill accepted a grant from Southern California Edison for a program to install variable speed motor drives on city water pumps that match the service need and reduce energy use.





# Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

## Silver

1. The city provided and installed irrigation retrofits, including nozzle replacements, spray head replacements, new controllers, low flow toilets, water efficient faucets, and mulch rings around trees at 7 city parks/facilities at no cost through the water reduction program administered by the Central Coast Water Basin in 2016.

## Gold

2. In 2014, the city council authorized an agreement between Signal Hill and the Gateway Water Management Authority to accept a Water and Energy Efficiency Grant from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for a Regional Advanced Meter Infrastructure Program in the amount of \$41,758 to initiate a smart meter replacement project. Through the demonstration project, the city replaced 260 residential meters in 2017 in the North End neighborhood with smart meters. The meters have the capability to electronically collect and transmit water usage data in incremental time periods. This effort also served as a demonstration project for the community.
3. The city re-stenciled 23 storm drain inlets with a no dumping sign in fiscal year 2014-2015. A total of 43 storm drain inlets have been re-stenciled with a no dumping sign since 2013.

## Platinum

4. The city uses approximately 12,000 gallons of recycled water per day for irrigation at two city parks.
5. The city has an active program to protect water bodies from debris associated with stormwater runoff. The city installed trash nets on several outfalls. New catch basin inserts will be installed and cleaned annually to reduce the amount of trash and debris that enters the Los Angeles River and Los Cerritos Channel. In 2018, the city completed installation of 36 connector pipe screen inserts. Another 64 are scheduled for installation by July 1, 2018. Full installation is planned for 2018.
6. The city Water Department received an \$11 million Caltrans environmental grant to design and construct a stormwater retention facility in 2015. The Design Build Contract was approved in 2016. Construction will be completed in 2018.





# Green Building Activities

## Silver

1. The Pacificwalk Signal Hill Collection Phase 1 and 2 project is the city's first LEED certified multi-family housing development. The 55-unit development is all-electric, featuring solar panels, a pedestrian link, water efficient landscaping, and is pre-wired for electric vehicle chargers.

## Gold

2. Signal Hill transformed an old, unusable manufacturing structure into its new Conservation Corps of Long Beach Environmental Education Center. The center is now used to offer job training and education for area at-risk youth. The new energy efficient building designed by Studio One Eleven demonstrates an integrative practice of architecture and landscape and urban design. The green building is made of recycled/recyclable material, featuring a pre-engineered metal building customized with wood cladding and storefront windows, allowing for natural lighting.
3. In December of 2017, the city's selected developer, Meta Housing, completed development of 72 new affordable housing units. The project includes a community garden, is located near a transportation line, and is located within ¼ mile of schools, parks, cultural, civic, and retail opportunities. The project is striving to attain LEED Gold certification for the 3-story buildings and LEED Silver for the 4-story buildings.

## Platinum

4. The city approved plans for a 25-unit detached single-family dwelling project. This development will have a trail system connection to the Town Center West retail center. The project has a green streets design with modular wetland filtration systems to treat stormwater and permeable pavers to provide additional source control for stormwater runoff and pollutant loads.
5. The city has a residential green building primer information PDF available on the city website. Elements of the primer include definitions; benefits; examples; objectives and methods for construction and design materials; construction recycling practices; landscaping; and appliances and furnishings.
6. The city adopted the Municipal Green Building Policy to encourage energy and resource efficiency developments, minimize environmental impacts, and meet minimum LEED Silver standard for construction of all new municipal buildings.





# Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

## Silver

1. The city's waste collection provider has a household hazardous waste program that provides a hazardous waste drop off site for the community to increase opportunities for e-waste and hazardous materials collection and recycling.

## Gold

2. In 2016, the city diverted approximately 162 tons of wood chips from tree trimmings, which were diverted from landfills and recycled as mulch.
3. The city has distributed over 500 reusable shopping bags at community events and at city hall to reduce the use of plastic bags.

## Platinum

4. The city's waste collector diverted a total of 18,187 tons of waste citywide in 2016.
5. The city's landscape contractors use mulching mowers to eliminate green waste and tree trimming contractors shred trimmings into mulch.
6. The city's waste collector provides a program for free curbside collection and disposal of used motor oil for Signal Hill residents.







# Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

## Silver

1. The city approved the Sustainable Purchasing Policy in 2010 to raise awareness of environmental issues affecting procurement, emphasize environmental considerations in purchasing decisions, conserve natural resources, reward environmentally conscious manufacturers, and encourage suppliers and contractors to offer environmentally preferable products and services at competitive prices. City departments are to consider various environmental factors alongside fiscal factors to practice sustainable purchasing.

## Gold

2. The Sustainable Purchasing Policy includes environmentally friendly purchasing of the following products: printer/toner cartridges; paper, notepads, envelopes, post-its; binders; trash bags, wipes, tissues; writing utensils; desk trays, phone stands.
3. The city maintains a Vehicle Replacement Program that tracks the lifecycle and condition of the entire fleet of city vehicles and equipment. Public Works also evaluates the cost of repairs and whether the repairs will restore the vehicle to reliable and safe operation. The program allows staff to evaluate current vehicles and replace them with fuel efficient and/or alternative fuel fleet vehicles that reduce environmental impacts.

## Platinum

4. The city is reviewing current purchasing practices to identify possible green procurement opportunities, such as a Green Fleet Purchasing Policy.
5. The city purchases park playground equipment and surfacing made with recycled plastic and repaves its roads with recycled rubber shavings.
6. Through the Community Services Department, the Community Recreation Center's after school youth programs utilize earth-friendly utensils.





# Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

## Silver

1. The city's new police station, opened in 2013, features a solar carport structure that generates 55KwH power, offsetting approximately 33% of electrical usage. The photovoltaic system generates approximately 30% of total energy use in daytime and approximately 15% of total energy usage overall. The structure makes use of natural daylight and is LEED certified.

## Gold

2. The city completed installation of Bloom Energy fuel cells at Gateway Center and at Town Center East Home Depots in 2016. The fuel cell system converts fuel directly into energy without combustions and is up to 60% more efficient at generating electricity.
3. Las Brisas Affordable Housing Development installed 3 solar power systems on its Community Center and Phase 2 building. The 3 systems generate a combined 4 KwH of electricity for common areas, such as hallways, exterior lights, and laundry room. Installations will offset up to 89% of the Community Center's power and up to 13% and 46% for Las Brisas II North and South, respectively.

## Platinum

4. The city's Ordinance No. 2015-08-1476, "SMALL RESIDENTIAL ROOFTOP SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM PERMITS" sets provisions to streamline the small residential rooftop solar energy system permits and inspection process. In 2016, the city issued 25 residential solar permits.
5. EDCO's Materials Recovery Facility collects from residents and businesses and sends 10% of waste from each cycle to the Southeast Resource Recovery Facility for waste to energy conversion. The city then gets credit for waste diversion.





# Efficient Transportation Activities

## Silver

1. The city installed electric vehicle charging stations at the Glenn E. Thomas FIAT dealership and a commercial office building for private use.

## Gold

2. The city increased its usage of email and electronic communications and provides information on its website, which helps to reduce trips to city hall.
3. The city collaborates with other cities and MPOs to coordinate planning goals and processes as a member of the I-710 Corridor Project Committee.

## Platinum

4. The city's Circulation Element Policy 1.b has a large trail system that utilizes earthquake fault "no-build" areas and encourages connectivity to other projects, such as the Crescent Square residential project. Other projects influenced by this policy are the Hilltop development and the Heritage Square Central Business District project, currently in the conceptual planning phase.
5. The city participates in regional and sub-regional discussions and efforts to increase bike connectivity with the Gateway Cities COG and the City of Long Beach.





# Land Use and Community Design Activities

## Silver

1. The city participates in regional efforts to reduce GHG emissions by participation in committees, events and meetings of SCAG, and particularly the Gateway Cities Council of Governments.

## Gold

2. The city's Circulation Element Policy 3.a promotes healthy, energy-efficient and sustainable living by promoting the expansion of city trails and walkway systems. This policy increases available open space to support different types of uses and the different recreational needs of the community.
3. The city's Circulation Element Policy 1.b requires new development to include circulation and utility system improvements, including dedication of land for widening of roadways for pedestrian and bicycle facilities, where appropriate. This policy increases opportunities for walking and bicycling by requiring direct pedestrian and bike paths through new developments.

## Platinum

4. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan required the entire Hilltop Specific Plan Area of 125 acres to include at least 9.34 acres of parks, trails, and open space. The final development included the 2.2-acre Hilltop Park with the rest of the required acreage in the trail system.
5. The city recently approved a large connectivity project starting with View Park that connects to the Hilltop trails that will then connect to the future Central Business District (currently in conceptual planning phase). The Central Business District will in turn connect to the Crescent Squares pedestrian path that connects to Town Center commercial developments. All developments connect to transit services on Cherry Ave.





# Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

## Silver

1. In 2017, the city received a \$2 million grant from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy to expand the city's View Park, to increase accessibility and opportunities for recreational open space. Final plans are currently investigating the most feasible recycled water connection and completion of landscape details.

## Gold

2. In 2017, construction bids were awarded for a dog park site at 3100 California Avenue, just south of the 405 freeway, and the related General Plan and Zoning amendments were approved. Construction on the dog park began in late 2017 and included a reduction of the slope of trail to improve handicap accessibility. The grand opening ceremony took place in March 2018.
3. The city's community garden opened in 2014 with 26 spaces, including two available for those with disabilities.

## Platinum

4. The city received a \$75,000 County Prop. "A" Grant to upgrade and modernize the Signal Hill Park irrigation system to facilitate ensuring the long-term health and viability of trees and other vegetation. In 2016, through a program administered by the Central Basin Water District, aimed at reduction of water use, Ecotech completed irrigation retrofits (nozzle/spray head replacements, new controllers, etc.) at multiple city facilities/parks. Low flow toilets, water efficient faucets and mulch rings around trees were also installed at Signal Hill Park.





# Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

## Silver

1. The city's Sustainability City Committee distributes sustainability awards for energy efficiency, water efficient landscaping, solar projects, businesses related to improving the environment and GHG emissions reductions. Yard signs are used to increase awareness of the program and promote sustainability.

## Gold

2. In 2018, the Sustainable City Committee is encouraging it's residents to participate in the Yellow Pages Opt Out Program to reduce ink and paper waste and increase sustainability.
3. The city conducted a workshop in 2015 to educate residents about drought conditions and to obtain feedback on preferences for alternative turf replacement materials and design applications. Participants identified preferred, non-invasive, California native plants, ratios of plants to hardscape area, types of preferred hardscape materials, and reiterated that turf is not a preferred landscape material. This led to the city adopting new regulations for all residential zoning districts to promote planting of alternative landscape materials, emphasize that turf is not a required or preferred material, and establish limitations on the use of hardscape.

## Platinum

4. The city continued outreach efforts to the community with water conservation information and tips and regulations via pamphlets, the city website and features in the city's quarterly newsletter "City Views" with links to the [bewaterwise.com](http://bewaterwise.com) website.
5. The city performs outreach at the Sustainable City Committee's summer concert booths with activities, handouts and educational materials on sustainable activities, recycling, water use, tree care during droughts, and household hazardous waste drop off days.
6. The city's Public Works Department purchased and distributed 500 water conservation kits to residents at public events—Concerts in the Park, Halloween Carnival, and Spring Fest—to educate and promote water conservation in the community.







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