County of Sonoma

Best Practice Activities & Accomplishments to Date

PROUD PARTICIPANT

BEACON AWARD

Local Leadership Toward Solving Climate Change

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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 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.
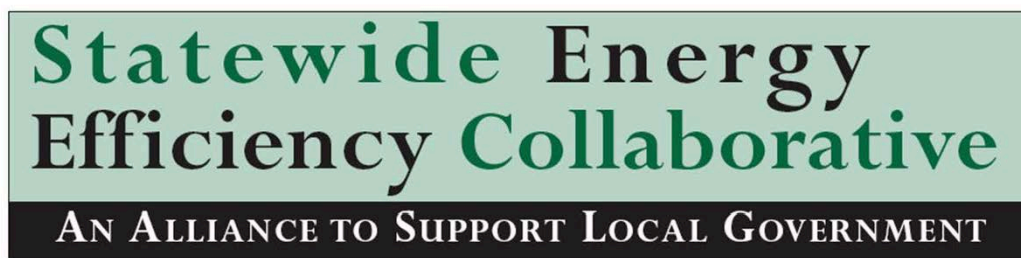
This program is funded by California utility ratepayers and administered by Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Diego Gas and Electric, Company, Southern California Edison, and Southern California Gas Company under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.

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1. Energy Efficiency & Conservation

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
Silver	1. Comprehensive Energy Project: Cash neutral from day one, this project will reduce utility bills by 33%, $1.6 million per year, with a savings of $38 million over the 25-year life of the project. 38 energy efficiency measures were completed in 24 county owned buildings including lighting retrofits in 20. HVAC upgrades in 4; a major upgrade of the central mechanical plant.	11-2011
Gold	1. Since 2009, Sonoma County Energy Watch (SCEW), a local government partnership with Pacific Gas and Electric Company has helped customers save 5,365,000 kWh/yr and 1504 tons of CO2, enough to power 330 homes for a year. This has created an annual savings of approximately $750,000 each year.	11-2011
	2. The County is currently retrofitting 75 parking lot lighting fixtures to LEDs through PG&E's On-Bill Financing (OBF) program, 64 of which will be "bi-level" motion sensors incentivized through the ETAP program. The project which will save the County approximately $18,000 per year.	11-2011
Platinum	1. *TBD* 2. *TBD* 3. *TBD*	

2. Water & Wastewater Systems

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
Silver	1. As part of the Comprehensive Energy Project (CEP), water retrofits at the Main Adult Detention Center (MADF) and Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) save over one million gallons of water per month.	11-2011
Gold	1. *TBD* 2. *TBD*	
Platinum	1. *TBD* 2. *TBD* 3. *TBD*	

3. Green Building

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
Silver	1. On August 23, 2010 Sonoma County's Valley of the Moon Children's Home Phase 3 Addition was awarded Silver Certification in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) by the United States Green Building Council. This award reflects the first county building in Sonoma County to achieve such status and demonstrates the County's ongoing leadership in sustainability. To attain LEED certification, the project successfully managed construction waste, recycled over 95% of waste materials, incorporated elements that encourage the use of alternate transportation, decreased night time light pollution, increased the use of natural light, decreased storm water runoff and overall water use, and assimilated systems and designs that will optimize energy use year after year.	11-2011
Gold	1. The County's Permit and Resource Management Department has adopted CALGreen Tier 1 standards and is preparing for the coming of the International Green Construction Code (IGCC). 2. *TBD*	11-2011
Platinum	1. *TBD* 2. *TBD* 3. *TBD*	

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4. Waste Reduction & Recycling

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
Silver	1. A pilot composting program at Sonoma County detention facilities is the first "vermiculture" composting (worm farm) program in a detention facility in the state. Approximately 1,200 pounds of food waste per month is being diverted from the waste stream at the Main Adult Detention Center (MADF) and the North County Detention Facility (NCDF) kitchens. This program is located at NCDF and is managed as part of the jail industries program with a potential benefit of reducing inmate recidivism as they learn how to be "green".	11-2011
Gold	1. The Sonoma County Waste Management Agency expanded a residential fluorescent lamp take-back program with PG&E by adding several drop-off sites throughout the County. 2. *TBD*	02-2012
Platinum	1. *TBD* 2. *TBD* 3. *TBD*	

5. Climate-Friendly Purchasing

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
Silver	1. Sonoma County's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing policy gives the County the ability to award bids to green vendors or for green products if they are within 5% of the lowest bid. To be certified green, the vendor must meet independent third party certification.	11-2011
Gold	1. The County also allows local vendors within 5% of the lowest bid a chance to match the bid, recognizing that using local vendors often means a reduction in the carbon footprint associated with long distance travel and that local vendors help support our local economy.	11-2011
	2. The Purchasing Department's Surplus program has helped the County to reuse approximately 435 surplus items since July 2010, and has saved approximately $70,000 since July 2010 by using and re-using surplus office supplies and furniture. Surplus has also donated roughly 255 items to non-profit organizations since July 2010.	11-2011
Platinum	1. *TBD* 2. *TBD* 3. *TBD*	

6. Renewable Energy & Low-Carbon Fuels

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
Silver	1. The County installed a 750 kW solar array at the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) Photovoltaic Solar Array, which provides approximately 55% of the electric power. The 3,190 roof and ground mounted American-made panels are designed to generate more than 1.1 M kWh per year and save the County about $137,000 per year.	11-2011
Gold	1. The County has selected a firm to develop an additional 750kW system at the JJC. The system will be done through a Power Purchase Agreement.	11-2011
	2. As part of the Comprehensive Energy Project, the County installed a 1.4 MW fuel cell cogeneration power plant. The fuel cell has been designated "Ultra Clean" by the California Air Resources Board (CARB), meets approximately 90% of the County Center's electricity needs, generates over 10,000 kWh/year, produces 45 billion BTU's per year, and reduces GHG emissions by 69% as compared to power from the grid.	11-2011
Platinum	1. Sonoma County Energy Independence Program (SCEIP) is the leading Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program in the nation. It provides financing paid back through the property tax system and enables property owners to make responsible and affordable energy improvements, stimulates the local economy, continues to create green jobs, and improves home values. Over $48 million has been disbursed for the more than 1,500 completed projects since 2009, leading to over 530 job-years created/retained, 55 of which are in installation of the upgrades, over 5.5 MW of solar	11-2011

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	PV financed, and over 3,200 tons reduction in greenhouse gas emissions annually.	
	2. The County completed a Community Choice Aggregation feasibility study in the fall of 2011. Per the Board of Supervisors, the County is currently developing more detailed information about governance structures, Investigating the incorporation of significant new energy efficiency in order to reduce rates, evaluating varying "power mixes" to optimize the greenhouse gas emissions reductions and keep rates low, and exploring the idea of working with the Marin Energy Authority as a way to minimize program start-up costs. Read more.	11-2011
	3. The County of Sonoma has entered into a one-year direct access agreement with 3 Phases Renewables to deliver 100% renewable power to County facilities. A mix of electricity generated by 85% wind and 15% biomass will power seven County facilities in Santa Rosa and Petaluma throughout 2012. This power purchase agreement helps to further the County's ambitious climate protection goals by eliminating an estimated 1,383,190 pounds of CO2 annually – the equivalent of avoiding 70,337 gallons of gasoline.	02-2012

7. Efficient Transportation

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
Silver	1. The County is converting its vehicle fleet to electrical and hybrid vehicles. We have 9 plug-in vehicles and over 200 hybrids. The County of Sonoma was recognized in June 2011 as the most electric vehicle ready community in the Bay Area. Fleet Manager, Dave Head, was awarded "Sustainability All-star" by Green Fleet Magazine, an online and print publication dedicated to sustainable fleet operations nationwide.	11-2011
Gold	1. Installing a vehicle charging station infrastructure including 18 EV charging stations. The EV charging stations are located throughout Sonoma County at both County-owned and leased facilities. Some stations are for County use only; others are for both public and county use.	11-2011
	2. The County is currently developing a real-time ridesharing pilot program for County employees and the residents that will utilize smart phone technology to reduce VMTs.	11-2011
Platinum	1. *TBD* 2. *TBD* 3. *TBD*	

8. Land Use & Community Design

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
Silver	1. In December 2011, the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District approved a $215,000 grant to LandPaths for site development of the City of Santa Rosa's Bayer Neighborhood Park and Garden under the Matching Grant Program. The Project seeks to improve the health of Sonoma County residents by connecting people and resources to grow their own food in service of creating a vibrant, resilient, and sustainable food system.	02-2012
Gold	1. Energy & Sustainability staff is assisting the Permit and Resource Management Department (PRMD) to update the Development Code for energy efficiency and renewable energy. Within the development code update, staff and a consultant have completed a GHG in lieu fee study to assist developers and the County with AB 32 requirements that projects not exceed a GHG emissions threshold of 1100 tons. 2. *TBD*	03-2012
Platinum	1. *TBD* 2. *TBD* 3. *TBD*	

9. Open Space & Offsetting Carbon Emissions

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
Silver	1. On May 10, 2011, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors launched an innovative partnership with a host of local non-profits to create and operate the first ever community food garden located on Larson Park, part of Sonoma County Regional Parks system. The action caps a long term effort to harness public and private resources to create easier access to healthy locally grown foods.	02-2012
Gold	1. Hosted the first ever Sonoma County Food Forum to provide an opportunity for diverse stakeholders to come together and propose policy recommendations that will support local agriculture for consideration by the Board of Supervisors.	02-2012
	2. In April 2011, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors funded the final phase of improvements for the Riverkeeper Stewardship Park in Guerneville. The $128,500 in redevelopment monies funded construction of 3,500 square feet of trails, educational facilities, and an interpretive center; provide native plant re-vegetation and landscaping; and complete construction planning for adjacent properties in need of improvement.	02-2012
Platinum	1. The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors directed the County's Regional Parks Department to begin negotiations for the temporary management of Annadel State Park. If approved, the County could assume management of Annadel on July 1, 2012. Annadel and four other state parks in the County are scheduled to close July 1st due to state budget	02-2012

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www.ca-ilg.org/BeaconAward/SonomaCounty

	cuts targeting 70 California parks. 2. TBD 3. TBD	

10. Promoting Community & Individual Action

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
Silver	1. In July 2011, the County launched the Healthy Business Recognition Program, a voluntary certification program that recognizes employers for developing and implementing exceptional employee wellness programs, and is aimed at helping establish a culture of wellness in the workplace throughout Sonoma County.	02-2012
Gold	1. Sonoma County Regional Parks and iGROW Sonoma are offering a series of low and no-cost gardening workshops this spring and summer to help residents learn about soil care, planting techniques, irrigation and other fundamentals.	02-2012
	2. In collaboration with PG&E, Energy Upgrade CA, Solar Sonoma County, and the cities of Santa Rosa and Petaluma, we launched the Energy Smart Business Program - a pilot direct mail and saturation campaign to help business owners decrease energy, water and waste costs.	02-2012
Platinum	1. *TBD* 2. *TBD* 3. *TBD*	

Accomplishments to Date

(As of 5/2012)

CRITERIA	AWARD LEVELS		
	SILVER	**GOLD**	**PLATINUM**
Agency Facilities			
GHG Reductions	5%	10%	20%* *Calculated reductions in the energy and transportation sectors from 2000 levels.
Electricity Savings	-	-	-
Natural Gas Savings	-	-	-
Community			
GHG Reductions	-	-	-
Activity Promoting Energy Efficiency	-	-	-
Best Practice Areas			
Completed Activities in Each Area	1	-	-