

PROUD
PARTICIPANT



Local Leadership Toward
Solving Climate Change

City of Union City

Best Practice Activities & Accomplishments to Date

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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 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.



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.



1. Energy Efficiency & Conservation

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
Silver	1. Performed energy audits of all city facilities.	08-2012
Gold	1. Installed the following improvements at City facilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Central plant retrofit at City Hall/PD Station; b. Rooftop air handler units and cool roofs at City Hall and Holly Center; c. Energy management system at City Hall, Library, and Holly Center; d. Heat pump unit replacement at Kennedy Center; and e. Interior / exterior lighting retrofit. 	08-2012
	2. Completed street light retrofit of 4,200 high pressure sodium street lights with energy-efficient induction lights.	08-2012
Platinum	1. Launched the Union City Energy Smart Campaign in September 2011, is a partnership between the City, PG&E, and the Chamber of Commerce to offer Union City businesses valuable no-cost energy assessments, no-cost programs, and financial incentives and rebates.	08-2012
	2. Provided funds to Rising Sun to establish a California Youth Energy Service (CYES) program, which promotes energy conservation and sustainable living via an employment program for youth ages 15-22. The program trains and employs youth during the summer to perform Green House Calls.	08-2012
	3. Worked with Pacific Gas and Electric to host an energy efficiency forum for high energy users within	08-2012

City of Union City
Best Practice Activities
www.ca-ilg.org/BeaconAward/UnionCity



	the City.	
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2. Water & Wastewater Systems

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
Silver	1. Updated landscape regulations to include additional water reduction measures that addressed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. State Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance requirements b. Bay-Friendly landscaping requirements (which includes water-efficient components) c. Requirement for use of compost and mulch in City and private development projects 	08-2012
Gold	1. Installed six Bay-Friendly landscapes at City facilities. 2. Installed a Bay-Friendly demonstration garden at a local park, which includes a self-guided tour that explains bay friendly practices to the public. Garden was designated the highest rated Bay-Friendly landscape in the Bay Area.	08-2012 08-2012
Platinum	1. Upgrading existing public landscape watering systems to be more water efficient (i.e. evapotranspiration based). 2. TBD 3. TBD	08-2012



3. Green Building

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
Silver	1. Expanded existing Municipal Green Building Ordinance to apply to private development projects in 2010. New residential construction is required to be GreenPoint Rated and commercial projects must comply with the Stopwaste.Org Small Commercial Green Building Checklist.	08-2012
Gold	1. Require all new City facilities to meet at least LEED Silver certification standards.	08-2012
	2. Constructed a new Fire Station that obtained LEED Gold certification.	08-2012
Platinum	1. To incentivize solar energy, the City established a fixed fee (previously based on valuation) for residential and commercial solar permits.	08-2012
	2. Trained appropriate agency staff (including planners, inspectors, and plan checkers) in green building standards and technologies to facilitate approval and inspection processes.	08-2012
	3. TBD	



4. Waste Reduction & Recycling

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
Silver	1. Worked closely with Stopwaste.org to draft county-wide mandatory commercial recycling ordinance, which requires businesses and multi-family dwellings of five or more units, that generate four cubic yards or more of solid waste collection per week, to recycle.	08-2012
Gold	1. Implemented a Food Scrap Recycling program for commercial uses. To date, have successfully recruited nearly 40 restaurants and other food waste generators. 2. Conducted solid waste/recycling audits on behalf of the Alameda County Green Business Program.	08-2012 08-2012
Platinum	1. Set printers at City facilities to print double-sided as default. 2. Switched to electronic City Council meeting packets in place of printed packets. 3. Performed recycling outreach at several community events including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Annual Union City / Hayward business expo where staff distributed materials promoting City's commercial recycling program; b. Science in the Park event which attracted several thousand visitors. Hosted popular recycling booth, and shared recycling information with general public and business leaders; and c. National Night Out event where staff distributed information about recycling program. 	08-2012 08-2012 08-2012



5. Climate-Friendly Purchasing

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
Silver	1. Implemented an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) policy for City facilities that addressed a variety of sustainable priorities including: recycled content products, energy and water saving products, products that reduce pollution, and products that promote forest conservation.	08-2012
Gold	1. Established an Interdepartmental Green Action Team (GAT) that meets regularly to discuss a variety of sustainable topics including implementation of the City's EPP program. The GAT was instrumental in establishing the EPP and their continued support and feedback ensures that the program is being successfully implemented.	08-2012
	2. EPP policy requires the city purchase remanufactured products such as toner cartridges, tires, furniture, equipment and automotive parts whenever practicable, but without reducing safety, quality or effectiveness.	08-2012
Platinum	1. EPP policy requests vendors to eliminate packaging or use the minimum amount necessary for product protection, to the greatest extent practicable.	08-2012
	2. EPP policy requires all products for which the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has established minimum recycled content standard guidelines in the Agency's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines, such as those for printing paper, office paper, janitorial paper, construction, landscaping, parks and recreation, transportation, vehicles, miscellaneous,	08-2012



	<p>and non-paper office products, shall contain the highest postconsumer content, but no less than the minimum recycled content standards established by the U.S. EPA Guidelines, when practicable.</p> <p>3. EPP requires that all products purchased by the city and for which the U. S. EPA Energy Star certification is available shall meet Energy Star certification, when practicable. When Energy Star labels are not available, the City of Union City shall choose energy-efficient products that are in the upper 25% of energy efficiency as designated by the Federal Energy Management Program.</p>	<p>08-2012</p>
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6. Renewable Energy & Low-Carbon Fuels

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
Silver	1. Installed the largest CNG fueling station in Southern Alameda County.	08-2012
Gold	1. Allow public use of City CNG fueling station. 2. In process of converting the majority of City-owned vehicles (including busses owned by the City's Transit Agency) to run on CNG.	08-2012 08-2012
Platinum	1. TBD 2. TBD 3. TBD	



7. Efficient Transportation

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
Silver	1. Updated Zoning Ordinance to provide incentives for new development to implement transportation demand management strategies.	08-2012
Gold	1. Working with the Southern Alameda County Air Resources Team to put together a White Paper on private shuttles in the hopes of organizing Union City businesses to work together to establish a shuttle system between the City's Industrial areas and BART. 2. Installed bicycle racks at City facilities to promote bicycle use by employees and visitors.	08-2012 08-2012
Platinum	1. Updated Zoning Ordinance to require multi-family and nonresidential development to provide bicycle parking and added bicycle parking requirements that reflect best practices. 2. TBD 3. TBD	08-2012



8. Land Use & Community Design

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
Silver	1. Put plans and policies in place to facilitate development of a transit-oriented new town center (Station District) around the City's existing Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) station that allows for densities up to 160 units per acre.	08-2012
Gold	1. Utilized approximately \$45 million of City Redevelopment monies to partially fund a 157-unit affordable housing development adjacent to the BART station. The project received a LEED Platinum certification from the USGBC. 2. Put plans and policies in place and completed the environmental review for the development of an Intermodal Station to provide much-needed linkages between heavy rail (ACE Train, Capital Corridor) and BART and provide opportunities for the development of additional rail systems (Dumbarton Rail and Super Ace).	08-2012 08-2012
Platinum	1. Developed a paid parking program (eliminated free parking) in Station District to encourage people to walk, bicycle and utilize transit. 2. Completed a substantial upgrade to the existing BART Station that included new solar facilities and improved pedestrian, bicycle and transit access. 3. Developed Union City's first Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan in 2006 and updated it in 2012.	08-2012 08-2012 08-2012



9. Open Space & Offsetting Carbon Emissions

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
Silver	1. Plant approximately 500 new trees per year at City-owned facilities, City parks, and within the City's rights-of-way (i.e. in sidewalk areas and medians).	08-2012
Gold	1. In 2011, restored a portion of Old Alameda Creek by planting 70 native trees.	08-2012
	2. In 2011, restored portions of Dry Creek by planting 30 native trees and mulching all bare areas with wood chips that were recycled from tree crew operations.	08-2012
Platinum	1. Planted an additional 75 native trees in riparian areas throughout the City	08-2012
	2. Worked with the community to establish a community garden and recently added an additional 20 new plots.	08-2012
	3. Gave away 200 saplings at annual Earth Day event.	08-2012



10. Promoting Community & Individual Action

Level	Completed Activities	Reported
Silver	1. Member of Bay Area Regional Advisory Working Group for SB 375 implementation. Responsible for reviewing and providing feedback on the draft Sustainable Communities Strategy.	08-2012
Gold	1. Member of the sub-committee working group for the Adapting to Rising Tides (ART) project. The ART project is working on understanding the impacts of climate-related sea level rise on Union City and a few additional cities to the north. Several public reports have been prepared or are in process. 2. Established the Climate Protection Task Force to review and provide feedback on the City's CAP and to help monitor and assess plan implementation.	08-2012 08-2012
Platinum	1. Provide yearly update reports to the City Council and public regarding CAP implementation. 2. TBD 3. TBD	08-2012



Beacon Award Accomplishments to Date
 (As of 1/3/2013)

PROGRAM CRITERIA	AWARD LEVELS		
	SILVER	GOLD	PLATINUM
Agency Facilities			
GHG Reductions	-	-	-
Electricity Savings	5%	10%	-
Natural Gas Savings	-	-	-
Community			
GHG Reductions	-	-	-
Activity Promoting Energy Efficiency	-	-	-
Best Practice Areas			
Completed Activities in Each Area	1	3	-