



BEACON  
SPOTLIGHT  
AWARD  
WINNER  
BEST PRACTICE  
ACTIVITIES



# City of West Sacramento

Sustainability Best Practice Activities





# City of West Sacramento

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			
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities		2013	
	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. Installed daylight sensing auto-dimming lights and motion sensing lighting controls installed in all city buildings constructed after 2002. Energy efficient T05 and T08 lighting is installed throughout city buildings.

## Gold

2. To reduce energy consumption, installed light switches for dual tubes at city hall and raised thermostat temperatures two degrees in the summer and lower two degrees in the winter.
3. Energy Management system controls HVAC units at city hall, police department, water treatment plant, Bridgeway Lakes, Fire Stations 41 and 45, the Community Center, the Corporation Yard and the Recreation Center. System allows staff to lock out thermostats and remotely raise or lower temperatures during peak use program times. The city routinely lowers demand by 10% when asked to by PG & E. The city also modulates the outside air intake based on the amount of CO2 in the building, which saves heating and conditioning costs.

## Platinum

4. Energy efficient HVAC units installed at the police department have a seasonal energy efficiency ratio (SEER) rating of 15 as opposed to the old units SEER rating of 10.
5. Installed tinted window film on the south side of city hall to reduce solar heat gain and eliminate the need for an additional HVAC unit to cool the Galleria area.
6. The Port of West Sacramento has installed several sub-meters throughout the Port to help audit energy consumption and analyze that data to make smart choices for lighting and conveyor operations. Staff, partners, and tenants are consistently working to save energy to reduce greenhouse gas emission and lower annual energy costs.
7. Undertaken many energy efficiency initiatives at the Bryte Bend Water Treatment Plant.
8. The city has replaced approximately 2,500 streetlights with LED fixtures.
9. The city signed a three-year agreement with PG&E to implement PG&E's HVAC Quality Maintenance Program at 20 city facilities.





# Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

## Silver

1. Retrofitted existing city buildings with water efficient fixtures.

## Gold

2. Bridge District development plumbed with purple pipe for future recycled water irrigation.
3. The Parks Department has undertaken a Mulch Program in planter areas reducing the need to water, helping curb runoff water pollution and nearly eliminating the need for mechanical weed control, therefore reducing equipment operation hours.

## Platinum

4. Installed a centrally controlled irrigation system within city parks reducing costs by 20-30%. Central control systems also show annual water savings of 25 – 30% on average.
5. Installed Water-Wise Demonstration Garden at Bridgeway Lake that offers a practical example of different techniques to reduce water use in landscape features.





# Green Building Activities

## Silver

1. Early adopter of CalGreen Building Code with Tier I energy and water efficiency measures mandatory at adoption. Adopted the CalGreen Code in November 2010 and adopted certain voluntary measures related to energy and water efficiency measures.

## Gold

2. Community Center certified LEED Gold.
3. Installed “cool” roofs” utilizing white reflective roofing material on city hall, the Recreation Center, the Community Center, and Fire Station 45.

## Platinum





# Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

## Silver

1. Adopted a Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling Ordinance in 2006, requiring all covered projects to divert 50% of the waste generated at the project.

## Gold

2. All city offices have a mixed recycling program and the city has adopted a Waste Reduction and Recycling Administrative Policy to be followed by all city employees (policy available to all employees on city intranet). An Employee Recycling Committee, comprised of representatives from different city departments, helps spread the message to all departments.
3. The city, through our contracted waste service provider, offers multifamily and commercial recycling service at no additional charge as well as an incentive program called "Recycle Rewards".

## Platinum

4. City website provides residents and businesses with program information, as well as information about local recycling opportunities and how to properly manage special waste such as hazardous waste.





# Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

## Silver

1. The city adopted an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) Policy as part of the city's Administrative Policy manual that is available on the city's intranet.

## Gold

2. City council adopted a resolution in support of Extended Producer Responsibility and the California Product Stewardship Council (Resolution 09-72). The city's EPP Policy also includes EPR as a consideration in making purchasing decisions.
3. Citywide janitorial contract requires climate-friendly products, such as unbleached, recycle paper products and Green Seal certified cleaning products.

## Platinum





# Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

## Silver

1. The Port of West Sacramento installed solar panels on several sheds in February 24, 2010. These panels will provide close to 1MW solar energy for the Port of West Sacramento and provide an immediate 10% savings on our electric bill.

## Gold

2. Solar array installed at the Community Center.
3. City fleet includes vehicles that use alternative fuel, including ethanol, compressed natural gas, and hybrid systems. In addition, new Police Department vehicles have flexible fueling systems that allow for use of either gasoline or ethanol fuel.

## Platinum

4. Bike racks and showers are provided at city hall and the Community Center to encourage employees and visitors to bicycle, walk or run to city offices.





# Efficient Transportation Activities

## Silver

1. The city council approved a Transportation Management Plan (TMP) for city operations focused around city hall, but with applicability for all city-staffed facilities. The TMP has not yet been fully implemented, but includes many transportation demand management strategies designed to reduce vehicle miles traveled and related harmful air quality emissions. Upon complete implementation of the TMP, the city will provide mode, time and location choice options and incentives for employees.

## Gold

2. The city provides alternative mode use incentives to employees through its membership in the Yolo Transportation Management Association (TMA). The Yolo TMA is an employer-based member organization that provides direct financial incentives to member employees who try walking, cycling, carpooling or riding public transit to work. In addition, the Yolo TMA provides a guaranteed ride home program to ease concerns of alternative mode users who may need an emergency motor vehicle ride home because of health, childcare or unexpected work obligations.
3. Three parking stalls are reserved for low-emission vehicles or carpools at city hall.

## Platinum

4. City staff works with the Yolo TMA and the local MPO to promote "May is Bike Month". The city publicizes this effort through its website and newsletter. The city hosts an annual Smart Cycling Clinic that is open to employees and the general public. The city also staffs an "Energizer Station", which provides beverages and refreshments for cyclists who participate in "May is Bike Month". Every other year the city organizes a bicycle ride to increase awareness of bicycle facilities.
5. The Parks Department has gone from an individual staff person assignment to a crew based parks maintenance plan. Placing up to 4 parks staff in each vehicle achieves a "carpool effect", lowering the number of annual miles logged on department vehicles and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
6. City hall has a "Bike Barn" where employees may use a bicycle to attend local meetings instead of driving. Bike racks, lockers and shower are also provided for employees who ride to and from work.





# Land Use and Community Design Activities

## Silver

1. The West Capital Streetscape Project has begun the transformation of the street into a multiway boulevard accommodating pedestrians, bicyclists, transit and vehicles. The project also includes significant tree plantings in medians and in tree wells in the sidewalks. This concept was conceived not only to transform the look of the street but also its function. All of these factors are meant to decrease automobile dependence and increase pedestrian, bicycle, and transit ridership. Additionally, the project includes design guidelines that require new development to reinforce the street, strengthen commercial nodes at key intersections and provide for infill housing.

## Gold

2. The city updated the 1993 Triangle Specific Plan with the council approving the new Bridge District Specific Plan in 2009. Sustainability is a key component of the plan in that it furthers the original plan's mixed use development pattern. The city will also pursue a LEED Neighborhood Design designation for the entire district given the innovative storm drain design; compact walk able streets and transit operations. Individual commercial buildings must also attain LEED certification.
3. Redesigning the West Capitol Avenue streetscape to create a pedestrian friendly downtown corridor.

## Platinum

4. Updating the 1995 Bicycle and Pedestrian Path Master Plan. The new Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trail Master Plan will identify ways to enhance and expand the existing network of pedestrian and bike travel ways and recreational trails, connect gaps in the system and improve problem areas.





# Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

## Silver

1. The City of West Sacramento has a Tree Ordinance in place to protect our urban forest from practices that serve to permanently damage or remove trees without proper cause.

## Gold

2. The city offers free shade tree workshops which provide free trees and education to residents, businesses, schools, churches and non-profit organizations. We provide 10 species of shade trees which have been chosen based on their resistance to pests and diseases, structural integrity, and friendly root systems.
3. The city has been designated a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

## Platinum

4. The city has joined the Sacramento Tree Foundation's Greenprint Initiative, a regional roadmap for mobilizing and empowering community partners and volunteers to plant 5 million trees in the Sacramento region.
5. The city partnered with the West Sacramento Chamber of Commerce to launch one of the first Zero Waste Certified Farmers Markets in the region. The market brought local farm produce and the idea of zero waste practices to West Sacramento residents.





# Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

## Silver

1. Using utility bill inserts, newsletters and City iLights, the city sends outreach messages about water conservation, recycling and other “green” activities to West Sacramento residents throughout the year.

## Gold

2. The City of West Sacramento participates in the Climate Change Compact of Yolo County. The compact has served as a forum for discussion of efforts to increase energy efficiency and develop renewable energy resources. The sharing of information at these meetings has resulted in numerous partnerships between jurisdictions, transmission of best practices, and implementation of programs and policies to increase overall community sustainability.
3. The compact also took on an active role in promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy through the formation of the Yolo Energy Watch (YEW) that brings funding and expertise in these areas to governments, businesses, farmers, and residents. The compact/YEW works with chambers of commerce, libraries, the Farm Bureau, student groups, and others to identify opportunities for energy efficiency and assist with financing and/or implementing these programs.

## Platinum

4. The city is participating in the ICLEI Energy Benefits Program, which is being offered to each of the jurisdictions located within Yolo County, as well as the University of California, Davis and other large employers located in Yolo County. The program provides employees of each of the participants the opportunity to participate in a collaborative clean energy purchasing program, resulting in significant cost savings, successful community engagement, and substantial progress towards achieving the community’s sustainability goals.







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