



Sustainability News

Climate Change - Land Use & Environment - Healthy Neighborhoods

About ILG

The [Institute for Local Government](#) promotes good government at the local level with practical, impartial, and easy-to-use resources for California communities.



ILG is the nonprofit research and education affiliate of the League of California Cities & the California State Association of Counties.

In This Issue

Featured Best Practice Area

[Beacon Award Update](#)

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About This Newsletter

Our goal is to highlight and share information about the innovative and exciting sustainability activities of California cities and counties. We invite you to share feedback about Sustainability News. Comments and suggestions can be directed to sustainability@ca-ilg.org.

Upcoming Events

June 21, 2012

[Webinar: Low Cost Ways to Reduce Energy](#)

Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative- LGC

July 19, 2012

8:30 a.m. -4:30 p.m.

Los Angeles, CA

Water & Wastewater Systems Featured Climate Action & Sustainability Best Practice Area

Why It's Important

Since energy is used to deliver water and wastewater services, using these systems more efficiently reduces energy use. Climate change is anticipated to increase instances of drought and extreme weather events, such as heavy rain and storms, floods and reduced snow pack, all of which effect water availability. Thus, efforts to conserve and use water more efficiently will help cities and counties adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Where to Learn More

- [Water & Wastewater Systems Best Practices](#)
- [ILG's Water Conservation Leadership Guide](#)
- [Financing Sustainability Resource Center](#)

Featured Case Story

[Smart Irrigation Technology: Three Communities, Three Experiences](#) Three California communities, Simi Valley, Santa Clarita and Woodland, use smart irrigation technology and shared their experiences and lessons learned.

What Other Beacon Award Communities Are Doing

- The [City of West Sacramento's](#) Parks Department has undertaken a mulch program in planter areas, thereby reducing the need to water, helping curb urban runoff water pollution and reducing the need for mechanical weed control, saving labor and administrative costs.
- The [City of Riverside](#) adopted a [Water Recycling Master Plan](#). Phase One is anticipated to connect ten local schools and parks to connect into the recycled water system, saving 8,600 acre feet of water per year, enough to supply 17,000 homes.
- The [City of La Mesa](#) implemented a [Fats, Oils, and Grease \(FOG\) Control Program](#) to help reduce blockages within the wastewater system which can lead to overflows and impact surface water quality.

[Statewide Energy Efficiency Best Practices Forum](#)

August 23, 2012

[Webinar: Communicating Energy Projects: Getting the Buy In of the Community and Your Elected Officials](#)

Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative- LGC

Ongoing

Multiple Locations Statewide
[More SEEC Events & Trainings Coming Soon](#)

Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative- ICLEI

Sustainable Communities Learning Network

[Learn more](#) about ILG's latest effort to provide local officials with opportunities to learn, share, connect and demonstrate local leadership.

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- As part of its Comprehensive Energy Project, [Sonoma County](#) implemented water efficiency retrofits at the Main Adult Detention Center and Juvenile Justice Center saving over one million gallons of water per month.

Beacon Award Program Update

41 Participating Agencies

Since our last update, six more agencies have moved through the application process into full-fledged participation, including:

- [City of Santa Monica](#)
- [City of Sacramento](#)
- [City of Beaumont](#)
- [City of Union City](#)
- City of West Covina (profile in process)
- City of Redlands (profile in process)



Spotlighting Accomplishments

As participating agencies work to complete the criteria necessary to achieve a Silver, Gold or Platinum Beacon Award, we provide the opportunity to spotlight interim accomplishments. Participant accomplishments were recently spotlighted as a part of the 2012 Green California Summit. [Click here](#) to read about participant accomplishments to date and completed best practice activities.



Slide spotlighting Beacon Award participants for interim accomplishments at 2012 Green California Summit

Join the Beacon Award Program!

Applications to participate are being accepted on an ongoing basis. [Click here](#) for more information.

Water & Wastewater: Promoting Community & Individual Action

Local agencies are undertaking a variety of activities to promote community and individual action related to water and wastewater.

[Manhattan Beach](#) and [Glendale](#) encourage residents to conserve water by providing free classes about water-smart irrigation and water-efficient plants. Manhattan Beach also provides free landscape audits for residents that help identify opportunities to convert traditional gardens to California-friendly, drought-tolerant landscaping.

[The City of Sacramento's](#) Water Wise Garden includes native and drought-tolerant plants, low-volume irrigation, mulch and other water-saving features. Educational signage provides tips on ways residents can implement water-efficient practices while still maintaining a beautiful landscape. The [Water Wise Garden](#) is 44 percent more water efficient than the previous landscaping at the site and is open to the public year-round for viewing.

[Click here](#) to read about best practices for Promoting Community and Individual action. For information on the principles of public engagement visit [ILG's Public Engagement Program](#).

Additional Sustainability Resources

Webinar Recordings

- [How to Participate in the Beacon Award Recognition Program - Understanding the Basics, March 6, 2012](#) (Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative- ILG)
- [Developing Sustainable Energy Programs, April 19, 2012](#) (Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative- LGC)
- [The Beacon Award: From Participant to Award Winner, Moving Your Agency Forward, April 3, 2012](#) (Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative- ILG)
- [Climate Adaptation Planning Tools for California Local Governments, May 15, 2012](#) (ILG's Sustainable Communities Learning Network)

New Tools

- [SEEC Climate and Energy Management Suite](#) (Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative- ICLEI)
- [Measuring and Reporting Progress in Reducing GHG Emissions Guide](#) (Statewide Energy Efficiency)

Collaborative- ICLEI)

- [City Planners' Energy Action Resource Guide](#) (Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative- ICLEI)
- [Draft Adaptation Policy Guide](#) (Natural Resources Agency, Emergency Management Agency & Cal Poly SLO)
- [Retrofit Financial Analysis Tool](#) (DOE Municipal Solid-State Street Lighting Consortium)
- [Water-Ready Map: Impacts of Climate Change on Water Resources](#) (Natural Resources Defense Fund)

New Reports & Fact Sheets

- [West Covina Energy Action Plan](#) (Statewide Energy Efficiency Best Practices Coordinator)
- [Annual Planning Survey Results](#) (Governor's Office of Planning & Research)
- [CEQA Streamlining for Infill Projects](#) (Governor's Office of Planning & Research)
- [Climate Action for Health: Integrating Public Health into Climate Action Planning](#) (CA Department of Public Health)
- [State and Local Energy Efficiency Action Network](#) (US Department of Energy)
- [Using the Allowance Value from California's Carbon Trading System: Legal Risk Factors, Impacts to Ratepayers and the Economy](#) (Next 10)
- [2012 Green Innovation Index](#) (Next 10)
- [California Solar Initiative Program Handbook](#) (CA Public Utilities Commission)
- [Solar Leasing and Solar as a Revenue Generator for Local Governments](#) (Solar Foundation)

