

BEACON

SPOTLIGHT
AWARD

WINNER

BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of National City

Sustainability Best Practice Activities









ILG INSTITUTE FOR
LOCAL GOVERNMENTSM
Promoting Good Government at the Local Level

City of National City

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	2019 (5%)		
	Agency Energy Savings			
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities		2015	2016
	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 participated in the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Energy Roadmap Program, where energy audits of city buildings and facilities were completed in 2012.

Gold

2. The city participates in the South Bay Energy Action Collaborative (SoBEAC), a collaborative between the three other south bay cities in the region to help residents and businesses save energy, reduce utility bills and become more green (2012-present).
3. The city has adopted several Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs to help homeowners save energy and water.

Platinum

4. National City's city hall has been certified as an ENERGY STAR Building for its excellence in energy savings.
5. The city completed retrofits of municipal buildings for both lighting and HVAC were completed to make the buildings more energy efficient.
6. City offices are equipped with automatic shut-off devices for lights and HVACs that are programmed to turn off during non-working hours.





Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

Silver

1. The “A” Avenue Green Street and Pedestrian Pathway secured and approved Prop 84 funding for the project, which implements low impact development infiltration measures to improve water quality of urban runoff entering the storm drain system; creates a safe, environmentally friendly walking path connecting to key cornerstones of the city; and provides educational opportunities for the community.

Gold

2. The City of National City, in partnership with A Reason To Survive (ARTS), created interpretative signage, creek-themed art, and a 300 foot mural to depict storm water runoff; all of which act as an educational tool showing the impact humans have on watersheds and steps the community can take to better conserve this natural resource.
3. The City of National City supports the Sweetwater Authority’s Rebate Program and works with the Chamber of Commerce to promote water conservation via the Chambers Green Business Program.

Platinum

4. The City of National City works with Sweetwater Authority and County Water Authority to offer rebates for turf removal and rainwater barrels.
5. The Drainage Improvement Program is part of National City’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The CIP addresses the repair, replacement and expansion of the City’s physical infrastructure system, which includes, for example, streets, sewers, storm drains, lighting, buildings and parks.
6. National City has modernized its sprinkler systems at city facilities to save water through ongoing replacement of older sprinklers and equipment as needed with water efficient products.





Green Building Activities

Silver

1. The city provides the public with information on green building and sustainability at the city permitting counter.

Gold

2. Through South Bay Energy Action Collaborative, the City of National City has offered staff trainings on green building and new Title 24 standards.
3. The city, in collaboration with the City of Chula Vista and South Bay Energy Action Collaborative, offers a Free Resource & Energy Business Evaluation (FREBE) Program that requires businesses in the city to perform on-site energy and water audits in order for buildings to be as efficient as possible.

Platinum

4. All of the furniture in the city parks is made from recycled materials.
5. The city adopted a construction and demolition recycling ordinance in 2008--National City Municipal Code Chapter 15.80.
6. The city has replaced vegetation with mulch and other biodegradable materials to reduce water demand. Capital projects, like A Avenue Green Street, have installed infiltration basins to store rainwater to be recycled for irrigation.
7. In 2008, the city implemented rubberized asphalt concrete (RAC) overlay in pavement construction/ rehabilitation projects, like the resurfacing of Highland Avenue.





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

Silver

1. The city implemented rubberized asphalt concrete overlay in pavement construction/rehabilitation projects, like the resurfacing of Highland Avenue.

Gold

2. The city offers free e-waste events for city residents and businesses to create a cleaner environment for the community.
3. The city work areas are equipped with special recycling containers for waste paper, cans and bottles.

Platinum

4. The city emphasizes re-use between departments, such as any property declared “surplus” by one department is offered to others and any that is no longer needed, is sold or donated instead of being sent to a landfill.
5. The city makes scratch pads from waste paper that would otherwise be thrown away.
6. When the city forces trees to be trimmed around the city, the scrap is sold for use as firewood or mulch, preventing it from going to the landfill.





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

Silver

1. The city buys 100% post-consumer recycled-content paper for use in all copy machines, printers and fax machines.

Gold

2. The city's equipment maintenance division occasionally purchases re-tread tires for use on city vehicles.
3. All city letterheads, envelopes and business cards are made from 100% recycled content paper that also qualifies for the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification.

Platinum

4. The city purchases various recycled-content janitorial papers, and various chemicals that are "Green Seal" certified.
5. The city departments buy remanufactured toner cartridges (instead of new ones) for their printers, and return the used ones to the vendor rather than send them to the landfill. In 2007, the city's use of remanufactured cartridges saved 45 gallons of oil that would have been used to manufacture new cartridges.
6. The equipment maintenance division occasionally purchases re-tread tires for use on city vehicles, when it is determined safe to do so. When the tread wears out, a new tread can sometimes be adhered to prolong the life of the tire.





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

Silver

1. The city completed its Citywide Bus Shelter Project which installed solar powered bus shelters at bus stops.

Gold

2. The City of National City worked with the City of Chula Vista and the AmeriCorps Civic Spark Program to develop permitting guidance for the installation of EVcharging in National City.
3. The City of National City received Active Transportation Grant Program (ATGP) funding for its Bike Parking Enhancements Project to install bike racks throughout the city's bike network. The ARTS (A Reason to Survive) organization is partnering with Sweetwater Union High School's welding academy to design and construct the bike racks.

Platinum

4. The City of National City Participates in the San Diego Regional Alternative Fuel Coordinating Council (Refuel) that discusses the possibility for alternative fuels for the region.
5. All traffic safety devices are solar powered. This includes walk signals and speed trackers.
6. Through a recent ESCO contract, National City has completed 20 city owned building audits. These audits provide recommendations and financing options for electric and water conservation. Solar PV studies have been completed for the arts center and city hall. The audits and recommendations will be presented to the city council at the end of the summer.





Efficient Transportation Activities

Silver

1. The National City Bike Master Plan presents a new vision for bicycle transportation, recreation, sustainability and quality of life in National City.

Gold

2. The City of National City implemented a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program and a Citywide SRTS Pedestrian Enhancements Project that aims to improve pedestrian safety, the health of the community, and increase biking and walking as safe and viable means of transportation.
3. The city is completing the D Avenue Community Corridor and Roundabout Project, which will improve traffic flow, enhance pedestrian safety and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Platinum

4. The city was awarded funding from the *TransNet* Active Transportation Grant Program (ATGP) for their Sweetwater River Bikeway and 30th Street Bicycle Facility Improvements which will improve rider safety.
5. The city has implemented an ongoing bike parking program at city facilities, and SANDAG iCommute bike lockers are available at both of National City's trolley stations.
6. The city updated the circulation and land use sections of its General Plan to support a multi-modal circulation network, reduce the reliance on personal vehicles, and to benefit people and the environment by providing a wider range of mobility options.





Land Use and Community Design Activities

Silver

1. The city received cap-and-trade funding for its Westside Infill Transit-Oriented Development (WI-TOD) project, a transit-oriented affordable housing development.

Gold

2. In 2012, the city council of National City adopted the Comprehensive Land Use Update, which included a General Plan Update, a Climate Action Plan, a Downtown Specific Plan Amendment, and Five Conceptual Development Proposals; this update changed almost all commercial zones to mixed use zones to encourage and facilitate smart growth and other sustainable principles.
3. The City of National City participated in ICLEI's development of the San Diego Bay Sea Level Rise Adaptation Strategy, which provides recommendations for building the resilience of the bay's community assets.

Platinum

4. The city participated in the development of the Sustainable Communities Strategy for the San Diego Region in coordination with SANDAG.
5. The City of National City received funding through SANDAG's Smart Growth Incentive Program (SGIP) to update its Downtown Specific Plan, which incorporates new elements related to smart growth, specifically Transportation Demand Management.
6. National City has completed several Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) related to: enhancing bike and pedestrian safety, access and mobility, and reducing vehicle emissions, including: 4th Street community corridor to enhance bike and pedestrian safety, access and mobility, reducing vehicle speeds, providing enhanced signing and striping, 8th Street safety enhancements to enhance pedestrian safety, access and mobility, and reduce vehicle speeds, Coolidge Avenue community corridor to enhance pedestrian safety, access and mobility to encourage more children to walk to school, and Plaza Blvd. signal timing coordination to improve traffic flow, which results in less idling of cars leading to reduction in vehicle emissions.





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

Silver

1. The City of National City is home to the Olivewood Gardens and Learning Center, which provides science based environmental education lessons, hands-on gardening and hands-on cooking to students and families from underserved communities.

Gold

2. The city is performing a creek restoration project in Kimball Park to revert some area back to a native wetland.
3. The City of National City is constructing an Aquatic Center in the Port District that will provide residents with opportunities for recreational use and increased accessibility to the waterfront.

Platinum

4. The open space and conservation elements within National City's general plan include specific goals and policies designed to reduce carbon emissions. (Goals OS-4, OS-3, CS-1 and C-7 and supporting policies).
5. The Harbor District Specific Area Plan includes the protection and conservation of the Paradise Marsh wetlands.
6. The city plants native trees and drought tolerant vegetation throughout the community. The Kimball Park LID & Paradise Creek restoration project will be completed in 2016.





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

Silver

1. National City became the first city in the South Bay region to be designated as a Live Well San Diego City in 2013 as it improves health, safety and well-being for all residents.

Gold

2. The City of National City participated in Sage Program with San Diego State University to identify projects related to smart growth, quality of life and sustainability goals.
3. National City was recognized with the top score in San Diego County for walkability according to Walk San Diego, an organization that promotes pedestrian safety and less dependence on the conventional car.

Platinum

4. The city lists on its websites how residents can reduce energy usage at home.
5. The City of National City is a member of and participates in the San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative to further facilitate climate change planning.
6. Bi-lingual educational resources are provided on the city's website pertaining to water quality, preventing pollution, and watershed stewardship. The city began producing bi-lingual fact sheets in 2009. General information is provided on the city's website.





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