



BEACON



SPOTLIGHT
AWARD

WINNER

BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of Santa Monica

Sustainability Best Practice Activities









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

City of Santa Monica

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			2016 (44%)
	Community GHG Reductions		2013 (14%)	
	Agency Energy Savings	2013 (6%)	2015 (13%)	
	Natural Gas Savings	2016 (9%)		
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities		2013	2015
	Beacon Award	2016		

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. In 2012, Santa Monica replaced 576 streetlights with LED lights that are operated by photocells. The LED lights use only a third of the energy required to power the previous lamps. In 2015, approximately 1,500 streetlights are slated to be retrofitted.

Gold

2. In 2012, the city re-illuminated its historic pier with LED lights. The retrofit received cover recognition of LEDs Magazine September 2013 edition.
3. In 2013, the City of Santa Monica, in collaboration with the Energy Network, EcoMotion and SustainableWorks, conducted a block-to-block campaign to get small businesses enrolled in SCE's Direct Install Program.

Platinum

4. In 2013, the city's information systems department partnered with Southern California Edison to reduce energy consumption associated with physical servers by moving the servers into a virtual environment. Thirty one physical servers were virtualized – including the additional energy requirements for new technology – which resulted in a net reduction of server energy demand by 6 kW. It also reduced the cooling load, backup power and cost of physical space required for physical servers.
5. In 2014, the city received the Cool Planet Award from the Climate Registry and Southern California Edison for Environmental Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design.
6. In 2015, the city registered its famous solar-powered, LED-lit Ferris Wheel to participate in in Earth Hour.





Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

Silver

1. In 2010, Santa Monica began producing its own water from local groundwater supplies. Currently, Santa Monica provides almost 70% of its needs locally and seeks to reach 100% self-sufficiency by 2020.

Gold

2. In 2013, the city completed a Complete Green Street Project that included parkway/storm water biofilter swales and infiltration areas, and a drip irrigation system; in addition over 100 new trees were planted.
3. Santa Monica conducted a 10-year project to compare a traditional residential landscape with a drought tolerant one. The results proved that water use, yard waste and maintenance hours are far less for a sustainable landscape.

Platinum

4. Santa Monica's newest Pico Branch Library features a 12,000 gallon cistern that treats captured rainwater for flushing the toilets. The city prepared a case study to share best practices.
5. Santa Monica implemented a Landscape Rebate Program that has helped residents and businesses remove 283,989 square feet of thirsty turf since 2014.
6. The city provides free water-use consultations and low-cost drought-tolerant landscape consultation for residents and businesses.





Green Building Activities

Silver

1. In 2013, the city completed a parking structure that received LEED Gold Certification.

Gold

2. In 2014, the city completed the Pico Branch Library that received LEED Platinum Certification.
3. In 2014, the City of Santa Monica and Community Corporation of Santa Monica collaborated to attain the highest green building certification on a 32-unit affordable housing project. A video documents the process.

Platinum

4. Santa Monica's city council directed staff to pursue a feasibility study to construct a 60,000 sq. ft. building to meet the Living Building Challenge standard. If completed, the city services building would be the largest and the first municipal project in the country to achieve this recognition.
5. In 2015, city staff hosted a first-of-its-kind regional workshop to discuss onsite water reuse. Over 40 participants from across the west coast attended with high-level expertise spanning architecture, engineering, policy, regulation, finance, risk management, technology and academia. City staff and its non-profit partner, Global Green, are producing a summary pamphlet to present a roadmap for leading the way in intelligent water management strategies.
6. In 2015, the city worked with Community Corporation, Santa Monica's largest affordable housing provider, to retrofit 522 1.6 gpf toilets with 0.8 gpf toilets. Faucet aerators and showerheads were provided as well.





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

Silver

1. In 2010, Santa Monica piloted a food scraps collection program to 600 single-family homes. The program is now fully active for all single-family residences. In the fiscal year of 2013-14, organics collection had increased by 8.8%.

Gold

2. In 2012, the city began providing home collection services for household hazardous waste.
3. In 2013, the city adopted its Strategic Zero Waste Operations Plan to achieve 95% landfill diversion by 2030.

Platinum

4. The city now collects unused or expired medicines with its anonymous medicine drop-off container located in front of the Public Safety Facility.
5. The city hosts annual Repair Cafes in which residents are encouraged to bring clothes in need of hemming, appliances in need of tinkering and bikes in need of fixing to reduce these items from going into the landfill.
6. The city established NeighborGoods – a community forum to promote reuse and the sharing economy.





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

Silver

1. In 2012, the Office of Sustainability and the Environment developed Easy Guides to provide accessible information for city purchasers to select products that are the most environmentally preferable.

Gold

2. In 2014, the city purchased almost 27 MW of Renewable Energy Credits from wind power for 2014, providing 100% of its electricity needs with green power. The city is consistently recognized as a Green Power Partner by the EPA.
3. In 2014, the city developed a Healthy and Sustainable Food Guidelines document to support sustainable food procurement within the city and local community institutions.

Platinum

4. In 2014, the city worked with the Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative to promote awareness about worker and client safety and exposure to hazardous chemicals.
5. The city has drafted a Sustainable Fleet Purchasing Policy to drive emissions reductions through vehicle purchases.
6. Santa Monica's Print Shop Purchasing Policy requires the city's print shop to exclusively purchase and use recycled paper and vegetable-based printing inks. Print shop staff estimates that 99% of all printing jobs are completed using recycled paper and vegetable-based inks.





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

Silver

1. In 2013, the city installed 30 electric vehicle chargers and an 80 kW solar system at its new Parking Structure.

Gold

2. In 2013, the city installed 10 kW of solar at its Pico Branch Library.
3. In 2015, Solar Santa Monica, a free program providing technical assistance for residents and businesses to go solar, was recognized by the US Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Awards. To date, Santa Monica has installed over 4.5 MW of solar.

Platinum

4. In 2015, the Big Blue Bus renegotiated its contract to receive biogas from landfills significantly reducing the carbon intensity of its primary fuel.
5. In collaboration with other westside cities, Santa Monica led the procurement of eight solar-powered portable light towers that can be used at public events, police activity and emergency operations.
6. The city is participating with the Center for Sustainable Energy in its NEM-V Pilot Research Program. Multi-family units interested in going solar will be profiled to identify barriers and opportunities to accessing the NEM-V rate.





Efficient Transportation Activities

Silver

1. In 2011, Santa Monica adopted a Bike Action Plan to increase biking in the city. Since, adoption the bicycle network has increased from 37 miles to 82 miles and peak period cycling has increased by 79%.

Gold

2. The City of Santa Monica, the Santa Monica Bike Center and Santa Monica Spoke created a partnership known as "Team Bike Santa Monica." The team, consisting of more than 30,000 riders logged almost 19 million miles in the second year of the online competition.
3. In 2014, Santa Monica received recognition as a Silver-Level Bike-Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists.

Platinum

4. In 2014, Santa Monica oversaw the completion of Phase I of the Metro Expo Light Rail Line, which will connect Santa Monica all the way to Downtown Los Angeles.
5. In 2015, Santa Monica adopted its new Zoning Ordinance, which increases number of large employers subject to trip reduction requirements by 99.4%.
6. In 2015, the city has hosted several 'Kidical Mass' rides as a part of its Safe Routes to Schools Program. The weekend rides introduce families to safe biking and fun activities.





Land Use and Community Design Activities

Silver

1. Santa Monica's General Plan Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE) conserves the city's neighborhoods and historic resources, expands open space, and creates new opportunities for housing where few or none currently exist. It reduces the amount of regional commercial growth and encourages smaller-scale local-serving uses and housing. It encourages new development connected directly to transit, creating a multimodal transportation system that incentivizes walking, biking and transit. It also encourages local-serving retail within walking distance of existing and new neighborhoods, serving to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The LUCE was honored with awards for Sustained Leadership by SCAG and for Best Comprehensive Plan (Small Jurisdiction) by the Los Angeles and California chapters of the American Planning Association.

Gold

2. In 2013, the city initiated a working group to reimagine its historic, yet underutilized, Civic Auditorium (which once hosted the Academy Awards) and parking lot into a mixed-use cultural arts district for community use.
3. The city completed the first phase of its Michigan Avenue Neighborhood Greenway (MANGO), which is intended to create an inviting streetscape along Michigan Avenue and adjoining streets. This could be achieved through elements including roadway calming, increased landscaping, sidewalk widening, bike facilities, and enhanced crosswalks.

Platinum

4. The city initiated a Memorial Park Neighborhood Specific Plan, aimed at creating strong connections to major destinations in the area, parkland and existing neighborhoods with particular focus on urban design and place-making. The plan will combine strategies to create multi-modal access to the light rail station, shared parking on key sites, and neighborhood integration of the future improved Memorial Park open space including greening of freeway connections.
5. The city is implementing changes to improve Santa Monica High Schools' major access point at the intersection of Michigan Avenue and 7th Street for all modes, and to improve walking and biking safety at this key destination.
6. In 2013, the city completed a Complete Green Street Project that included: wider sidewalks, new marked crosswalks with enhanced overhead flashing beacons, painted bike lanes, traffic striping, new artist-designed bike racks, street furniture, recycling cans, 75 pedestrian-scaled light poles and traffic signal improvements.





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

Silver

1. In 2011, Santa Monica opened a Bike Center that offers bike valet, lockers, showers and free commuter trial bikes for a 2-week period.

Gold

2. In 2012, the city installed hundreds of bike racks downtown on Main Street, other commercial corridors and at various locations where they were requested or where the existing racks were heavily used. More racks will be installed citywide, including the city's parks and other popular destinations.
3. In 2013, Santa Monica completed its award-winning Tongva Park, adding seven acres of botanical diversity, open space and recreation. It is one of six finalists in the Urban Land Institute Global Award of Excellence for Urban Space.

Platinum

4. In 2013, Santa Monica opened its first universally accessible playground.
5. In 2014, Santa Monica began participating in a pilot program to monitor the net carbon benefit from its urban forest and maintenance inputs.
6. In 2015, the Santa Monica City Council adopted a resolution to join a study to assess the feasibility of a regional Community Choice Aggregation entity.





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

Silver

1. In 2012, the city initiated a Safe Routes to School Program in response to growing community interest in bicycling and walking at schools, particularly in light of the impressive growth of the annual Bike It! Walk It! Days in October and May (begun in 2007 by the Samohi Solar Alliance). Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a comprehensive program designed to making walking and biking to school a customary part of everyday life.

Gold

2. Santa Monica is home to one of the largest volunteer events in the world, Coastal Clean-Up Day. In 2014, 700 children from 10 schools in underserved communities came to the beach to play marine conservation-themed games, clean the beach (filling our nine-foot "butt-o-meter" to the brim with cigarette butts) and to tour the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium.
3. In 2015, the city launched a water conservation campaign at the 24th Annual Santa Monica Festival. Residents were encouraged to become water-saving superheroes!

Platinum

4. The city, in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce and SustainableWorks, hosted the 20th Anniversary Sustainable Quality Awards (SQA) recognizing three Santa Monica businesses with SQA Grand Prize Awards and ten SQA Excellence Awards. Each year the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, the City of Santa Monica, and Sustainable Works come together to identify and recognize Santa Monica businesses that have successfully incorporated sustainable practices into their operations. Significance is placed in the areas of sustainable economic development, social responsibility, and stewardship of the natural environment. The SQA is the oldest and most rigorous sustainable business award in Southern California and has awarded 175 awards to 131 businesses since 1995.
5. The city, in collaboration with SustainableWorks, hosted its 7th Annual Student Sustainability Poster Contest, highlighting water conservation.
6. The city, in collaboration with RideAmigos, Urban Trans and Paradise Consulting, launch a Commuter Challenge Program and website to encourage carpooling.





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