

BEACON



SPOTLIGHT
AWARD

WINNER

BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of Ventura

Sustainability Best Practice Activities



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

City of Ventura

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	2018 (5%)		
	Community GHG Reductions	2020 (8%)		
	Agency Energy Savings		2013 (11%)	
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities			2016
	Beacon Vanguard 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 participates in the in Southern California Edison's Energy Leader Partnership and has attained the Silver Level Tier. The partnership assists with identifying and addressing energy efficiency opportunities in municipal facilities and pays increased incentives for city energy efficiency projects.

Gold

2. The city has installed energy efficient fluorescent ceiling lights at city hall, city hall north, police and fire headquarters, west park gymnasium, Abinger Library, fire station 1, avenue adult center outdoor lighting. The city has installed LED exit signs at all large facilities. The city replaces standard light bulbs with compact fluorescents, LEDs or other energy efficient lighting.
3. City Facilities Department has aggressively pursued energy efficiency projects to reduce building and outside lighting electricity use. In fact, building energy use decreased by at least 6% under the 2007 baseline. Energy efficiency projects include the following: HVAC improvements at city hall, wastewater administration and operator building, police and fire headquarters and replaced the maintenance yard heat pumps with a variable refrigerant HVAC system.

Platinum

4. The city completed an Integrated Demand Side Management audit at all eligible facilities greater than 200kW.
5. The city installed a new energy management software at police and fire headquarters.
6. Completed an Energy Action Plan for SCE Energy Leader Program.





Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

Silver

1. The city participates in the emPower Central Coast Program. emPower Central Coast provides free faucet aerators and water-efficient shower heads to residents during Energy Coach site visits as well as community events. The faucet aerators and low-flow shower heads are provided by Southern California Gas Company.

Gold

2. Ventura Water has aggressively pursued more efficient practices, including using pumps controlled by efficient variable frequency drives, pumping water during offpeak hours, and using gravity for distribution from storage tanks. These efforts have cut water treatment and distribution electricity use by 25% since 2007.
3. The city has lowered watering times for every irrigation station. The city requires all new developments and capital improvement projects overseen by the parks to install smart meter irrigation systems. The city also utilizes Maxicom irrigation systems at agency parks. The systems automatically shuts off during precipitation to avoid over-watering.

Platinum

4. The city converts all non-essential turf to drought tolerant plants. The city also retrofitted city fire stations with water efficient landscaping.
5. The city's Parks Division uses a significant amount of water to maintain acres of turf and landscape; however, water use has decreased since 2007 as water efficiency measure have been implemented such as turf upgrades, replacements, and ball field improvements. The city also mulches grass back into the turf to recycle nutrients and eliminate disposal of grass clippings.
6. The city replaces inefficient water heating systems and installs low flow toilets (1.6 gpf) and water efficient devices in city kitchens, bathrooms, and locker rooms.





Green Building Activities

Silver

1. The city has participated in the emPower Central Coast Program since 2014. The program includes an Energy Coach service where coaches spend up to two hours with a homeowner at their residence providing them with information on green building techniques and recommendations to improve their home's energy efficiency.

Gold

2. The emPower Central Coast Program has teamed up with the statewide Energy Upgrade California Program to provide homeowners with increased utility rebates for implementing energy efficient upgrades.
3. The city is a participating member of the Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance (VCREA). VCREA offers utility sponsored quarterly green building standards trainings to staff from member agencies. These trainings include but are not limited to updates to Title 24, benchmarking and HVAC trainings.

Platinum

4. In 2007, the city council approved a Green Building Resolution that encourages and incentivizes green building for private developments and requires all new city facilities to incorporate green building components. The city incentivizes green building by implementing "front of the line permitting" for green building projects.
5. In September of 2010, the solar permitting fee was dropped from \$254 to \$1 per kilowatt installed. As a result, permit applications went up 50%.
6. The city uses compost and mulch in agency landscaping as a water conservation measure. The city also mulches all green waste and donates the mulch for public use.





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

Silver

1. The city has adopted waste diversion programs to reduce municipal solid waste, including office recycling, outdoor recycling in public areas, street sweepings composting, and using city tree waste as mulch.

Gold

2. The city provides recycling containers at all employee work stations.
3. In 2009 and 2011, the city conducted solid waste assessments at city hall, the maintenance yard, and police and fire headquarters. The city piloted a project in the maintenance yard replacing all desk-side garbage cans with small, "side-car" garbage cans to encourage recycling over landfilling.

Platinum

4. The city requires all new construction projects to develop a solid waste management plan. City staff work with contractors to increase diversion rate to at least 60% of construction and demolition waste from the landfill.
5. The city diverts street sweeping debris to composting, which is estimated to divert an additional 2-3 thousand tons per year.
6. The city conducted an inventory of copiers and printers to give printing preference to those that have two-sided printing capability. All new city printers and copiers must have two-sided printing capabilities. The city has also implemented a best management practice that requires staff to print double-sided.





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

Silver

- 1.. The city utilizes occupancy sensors throughout city facilities.

Gold

2. In 2009, city council approved an updated Procurement Manual that included a green product/service preference section. This section outlines recommended actions for reducing the environmental footprint associated with the products purchased by the city. The city has implemented a Green Purchasing Policy that includes purchasing only 100% recycled office paper; purchasing Energy Star® certified office equipment and appliances; and replacing toxic cleaning products with environmentally friendly alternatives. The city uses Green Seal cleaning products used within facilities.
3. The city has established “re-use” areas for staff to share unused office products.

Platinum

4. The city considers the following environmental attributes when selecting products: pollution reduction, waste generation, carbon emissions, recycled content, energy conservation, and resource conservation.
5. The city encourages employees to use reusable dishware, bottles and cups.
6. The city’s Green Team raises awareness and develops programs emphasizing the importance of energy efficiency and responsible use of city resources. The city also provides energy saving tips to all employees. The Green Team educates, trains, and empowers the agency’s housekeeping contractor to properly manage the disposition of trash and recyclables.





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

Silver

1. The city has installed 10 Electric Vehicle charging stations throughout the city with grant funding.

Gold

2. The city has installed bicycle racks, and other amenities at agency facilities to promote bicycle use by agency employees and visitors.
3. Ventura, in partnership with the Community Environmental Council (CEC), kicked off the Solarize Ventura, making it simple and affordable for Ventura homeowners to go solar. The city coordinates with the CEC to provide free solar workshops to Ventura residents, businesses, and industrial property owners throughout the year.

Platinum

4. In 1994, the city installed a co-generation unit that uses waste gas to generate electricity. The co-generation system, which provides about 45 percent of the electricity used at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), and other energy efficiency efforts have reduced the WWTP's electricity use by 5.3 million kWh, saving over \$450,000 annually.
5. In 2005, the city's facilities department installed a 110 kilowatt solar electric system at the Sanjon Maintenance Yard. The system produces about 180,000 kilowatt hours of electricity each year -- about 45 percent of the facilities electricity needs and the amount used by 30 homes. The city utilizes solar for its water mixing system and has also installed solar panels at the Bailey Reservoir.
6. The city continuously looks for opportunities to install solar electric and solar hot water systems on city facilities. The city also works to identify alternative renewable opportunities such as wind, co-generation, etc.





Efficient Transportation Activities

Silver

1. The city works with other agencies, such as the Ventura County Transportation Commission to make regional bus and train service available to meet citizens' needs, as well as share transportation-related information, coordinate planning goals, and take advantages of opportunities to combine and leverage resources.

Gold

2. The city developed an employee education campaign to promote a comprehensive fuel conservation policy, fleet efficiency efforts, and responsible use of city resources. In 2009, the city began installing "no idle devices" in all black and white police vehicles. The city also implements a No-Idle policy that states that vehicles should not idle for more than five minutes.
3. The city purchases hybrid and fuel efficient vehicles, when feasible, as well as select replacements vehicles with highest environmental scorecard rating. Thus far, the city has replaced fleet sedans with over 24 hybrid gas/electric vehicles saving over 2,800 gallons of fuel per year.

Platinum

4. The city's Fleet Services currently manages over 600 vehicles and small equipment. Through various fuel reduction efforts, including purchasing more fuel efficient vehicles and eliminating underutilized vehicles, annual fuel use decreased to 232 thousand gallons in 2011. This 18 percent reduction in fuel use cut fuel costs by over \$135,000 and reduced municipal carbon emissions by 450 MT. In recognition of these fuel efficiency efforts and other sustainable practices, fleet services received the national Top Green Shop Award from Fleet Equipment Magazine in 2009.
5. The city offers many bike programs, such as free bike rack installation on city sidewalks in front of Ventura businesses, as long as the location meets the minimum requirements. The city also offers free bike valets for city sponsored events.
6. The city distributes brochures showing the community bicycle and walking trail systems to encourage reduction of vehicle miles traveled.





Land Use and Community Design Activities

Silver

1. The city participated in SCAG's development of the Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), in compliance with SB 375.

Gold

2. Since 2014, the city has offered the CaliforniaFIRST Program as an energy financing program for residential, commercial, industrial and multifamily property owners to install energy efficient retrofits, solar photovoltaic, or hot water systems on new or existing residential and commercial buildings. In 2015, the city added HERO, Ygrene, and Figtree energy financing providers.
3. As part of the Housing Element Update, the city identified potential infill development sites, and maintains a community-wide database of vacant and underutilized infill sites to monitor the community's growth and change.

Platinum

4. The city has reviewed zoning codes and development policies to identify changes that could improve implementation of land use and transportation policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
5. In May 2011, the city council adopted a new Bicycle Master Plan.
6. In an ongoing effort to improve travel modes, the city installed colored bike lanes. The city's primary reason for the use of the colored bike lanes was to improve safety. "Highlighting" these areas of bike-vehicle interaction is one of the city's efforts to heighten attention of people in vehicles and on bicycles. The city identified seven locations on Main St between Mills and Telephone, including a two stage left turn queue bike box, to install colored bike lanes. There is currently one additional project designed with green lanes also along Main St near Ventura High School.





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

Silver

1. The city hosts three certified farmers market throughout the week.

Gold

2. The city's Parks Division maintains more than 800 acres of parkland and facilities, which includes over 35 parks and recreation facilities serving various interests from sailing, surfing, tennis, league sports, skateboard parks, playgrounds and picnic areas. The city's numerous park ensures the long-term health and viability of trees and other vegetation.
3. The city utilizes integrated pest management practices at agency parks to reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers.

Platinum

4. The city plants native trees and drought tolerant vegetation throughout the community.
5. In 2016, the city is expanding the community's open space by adding a park in western Ventura.
6. The city has plans to develop an Urban Forestry Management Plan.





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

Silver

1. The city participates in the emPower Central Coast Program, which provides LED lightbulbs, reusable bags, and other give-away items at community events in Ventura to encourage environmental responsibility.

Gold

2. The city collaborates with other local government agencies to share information about climate change and best practices to reduce greenhouse gases. For example, the city participates on an advisory working group for implementing a community choice aggregation program in Ventura County.
3. The city publishes weekly environmentally related articles in the “Open Line”.

Platinum

4. The city participates in a Coastal Clean-up Day every September.
5. The City’s Green Business Certification Program (GBCP) recognizes and rewards small and medium sized Ventura businesses that demonstrate a substantial and purposeful commitment to environmental stewardship through solid waste reduction, energy and water conservation, environmentally preferable purchasing, air quality improvement and pollution prevention. The purpose of the free program is to help Ventura businesses become more efficient and competitive, in addition to being environmentally friendly. Businesses are not expected to make unreasonable capital investments. Most of the certification criteria are behavioral- and process-oriented and do not require additional expenditures. The city promotes Certified Green Businesses on the city website, in publications and recognizes them at a city council meeting. Certified Green Businesses receive a plaque and the official Ventura Certified Green Business logo to display in their window, use on their website and display in other marketing materials.
6. The city’s Sustainable Ventura webpage is a portal for the city’s environmental programs.





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