



BEACON



SPOTLIGHT
AWARD

WINNER

BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of Brea

Sustainability Best Practice Activities



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

City of Brea

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			2013 (30%)
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities	2014		
	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. Brea joined the Community Energy Partnership, a coalition of ten diverse Southern California cities and Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas. The goal of the partnership is to engage communities in responsible energy use by raising awareness about energy efficiency, the importance of peak demand reductions and renewable energy. Through the partnership, Brea has distributed (free of charge) numerous energy-saving products to residents and small businesses, such as compact fluorescent light bulbs, fluorescent touchiere lamps, faucet aerators and low flow showerheads.

Gold

2. Installed heating, ventilating and air-conditioning upgrades at the Senior Center, City Maintenance Yard, City Yard Pump House and Pioneer Hall.
3. Replaced more than 5,000 interior and exterior lighting fixtures installed 900 sensors installed at city facilities including Brea Plunge, Old City Hall, Brea Museum, four fire station locations and two downtown parking structures.

Platinum

4. City council approved an additional Sustainability Planning document to help guide future efforts in energy efficiency and sustainability.
5. Replaced all 4200 high pressure sodium streetlights throughout the city with "Jersey series", 150 watt Sylvania Icteron induction-fluorescent lamp that produces a bright white light with less energy.
6. Brea replaced 108 existing fixtures with 60 new Musco Sports Cluster Green fixtures on 16 existing light poles at the junior high park. With the fixture reduction, it is estimated that a 20% energy savings will be achieved and the life-cycle operating cost for this lighting system will be reduced by half or more.
7. Upgraded the two handler units for the IT room with more efficient units, which will ensure that the room is maintained at 68 degrees.
8. Brea's energy efficiency and solar power project encompasses comprehensive HVAC and lighting upgrades at 14 different city facilities, plus the replacement of all outdoor city street lighting.





Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

Silver

1. City council adopted a water conservation ordinance calling for sensible conservation on outdoor water usage for all water consumers.

Gold

2. Installed a centralized irrigation system for agency facilities that uses weather data to automatically reprogram watering times. It also features flow sensors that detect leaks and shuts down if necessary.
3. Street medians have been retrofitted using slow drip lines directly to plants.

Platinum

4. Civic center buildings have been retrofitted with plumbing restrictors that reduce flows.
5. The city has created a water ordinance that prohibits inhabitants from using too much water for landscape purposes. It also declares specific times that are not permissible to water outside plants.





Green Building Activities

Silver

1. Signed a development agreement between the city and Blackstone developers with Jamboree Housing to create a new affordable housing project with a LEED-Silver rating.

Gold

2. Constructed a \$703,000 Fire Station No. 4 using earth-friendly design, which includes numerous energy saving and earth-friendly features fitting the natural environment of Carbon Canyon.
3. Promote programs and provide energy efficient builders with recognition at council; administer efficient/green home tours annually.

Platinum

4. As a critical component of the city's long-term commitment to provide a spectrum of housing to its residents, the city signed a development agreement with Blackstone builders which resulted in a master-planned community developed by Shea Homes and Standard Pacific Homes. Bonterra apartments are LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) Gold certified.





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

Silver

1. As part of an ongoing commitment to creating a cleaner, greener community, the City of Brea and Brea Disposal hosted a “Free Compost Giveaway.” Brea residents were eligible to receive up to 60 gallons of free compost.

Gold

2. The city participates in a program designed to encourage residents to recycle used motor oil and filters. Residents can go to one of three local certified collection centers.
3. City council has directed that the credit received from recycling revenue be used to offset a portion of residential refuse rates.

Platinum

4. In partnership, the police department and Family Resource Center host pharmaceutical “take-back” events twice a year. The most recent one collected 500 pounds of excess drugs that may otherwise have been misused or disposed of improperly.
5. Partner with Orange Count Health Department and provide information for a pilot restaurant composting and recycling program for restaurants.
6. Plan to increase solid waste diversion rate by another 5% by 2015.





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

Silver

1. Brea's purchasing policies encourage use of processes or materials that would be considered earth-friendly or sustainable. While "best price" will always drive vendor selection as the top criteria, during an evaluation process extra consideration can be given for certain circumstances. These would be: the vendor is city-based or there is a proven environmental value to be factored.

Gold

2. As possible, the purchasing manager actively seeks out office and janitorial supplies with post-consumer recycled content.
3. Public Works bid documents always include strict requirements for meeting current best practices in construction practices such as a debris removal plan, NPDES compliance, dust control, etc.

Platinum

4. Promote and participate in group purchasing of energy efficiency goods and services with other Community Energy Partnership cities.





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

Silver

1. Installed a 1.8 megawatt capacity solar power system on three city sites: the Brea Community Center, the Brea Civic & Cultural Center and atop a large water reservoir located at the maintenance yard. As a result, the city is currently the largest municipal producer of solar power in Orange County.

Gold

2. The City of Brea and the gas company have entered into a partnership to test an innovative new gas saving device. Given the demand for natural gas at the Civic and Cultural Center, the Civic Center boiler was selected as a prime unit for evaluating the new control device. The gas company installed a M2G control device that monitors and adjusts gas flow to the boiler in a more precise manner. The M2G control has saved up to 25% of natural gas consumption at other test sites.
3. Participated in a one year electric vehicle trial. The city secured an opportunity in 2010 to use five, limited-edition electric mini coopers as part of a year-long trial to examine the interest and benefits of electric vehicles.

Platinum

4. Public Works has replaced street sweepers with new LPG (liquid propane gas) models. They also selected an LPG passenger van for the After School program use and opted for an LPG forklift when replacement was due. The wash rack in the yard has now been converted from diesel burning to LPG.
5. Installed stations for electrical vehicle charging at Civic & Cultural Center and in downtown parking structure.
6. The city partnered with Chevron Energy Solutions in order to create an energy efficiency and solar project, which is expected to generate an estimated \$13 million in net savings over the 25-year project. The city has already noticed a tremendous improvement in energy savings due to the installation of solar panels on many building in the area.





Efficient Transportation Activities

Silver

1. Installed paved bike trail in Arovista Park on the south side of town that leads along the west edge of downtown, behind the east parking structure.

Gold

2. The Senior Center operates a daily shuttle to serve members as well as weekly shopping shuttles.
3. Grant fund for building EV charging stations on public property around the city of Brea.

Platinum

4. Bike and walk way expansion: expanded bikeways and bike lanes, "the Tracks at Brea" walking trail expanded as well to keep the city connected in ways that do not require vehicles.





Land Use and Community Design Activities

Silver

1. The Brea Lofts, a sustainable mixed use project consisting of 47 live/work units (10 affordable) and 7,500 square feet of retail located south of Brea's downtown. The project sets an example of successful sustainability options in a mixed-use development, and has been awarded the California Redevelopment Association's 2008 Award of Excellence for Sustainability; the 2007 SCAG Compass Blueprint Award for Visionary Planning in Sustainability; and the 2007 American Planning Association, Orange County section Outstanding Planning Project Award.

Gold

2. Residential building has been strong in recent years. In addition to new affordable apartments (see #3 Green Building) construction continues on two major neighborhoods. La Floresta is a mixed-use community that offers varied housing types, including senior living choices. There are also office and retail components underway. Blackstone is an upscale collection of almost 800 units of higher end housing. All of the merchant builders within these master communities are using green building principles.
3. Work is underway to reclaim a neglected strip of dirt along Imperial Highway, across from the new La Floresta development and convert it to a pedestrian and bike-friendly greenbelt passage.

Platinum

4. Drought tolerance landscaping: promote, with grant funds, augment water district rebates for drought tolerant planting, turf replacement and buy-back.





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

Silver

1. City council approved “Tracks at Brea” project, a four mile long multi-use trail that will traverse the city from east to west. When finished, it will carry a two-way paved bikeway and a separate pedestrian footpath providing an opportunity to make easy connections across town. It is certain to become an attractive option for public access to the Brea Senior Center and the Brea Boys and Girls Club, as well as six schools, Downtown, the Brea Community Center, city parks, shopping and numerous employers. Comprising about 50 total acres of lineal open space, The tracks also will offer new community green space within an urban corridor.

Gold

2. Over many years, Brea has continued to meet all four standards required to be designated as a Tree City USA. The national Tree City program operates in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service. It promotes the effective use of trees within urban environments.
3. In conjunction with hundreds of move-ins at the new Blackstone community, two significant new parks have been opened to the public. Wildcatters provides 16 acres that encompasses sports fields, open lawns and a large playground. Nearby, the Brea Dog Park is an acre of safely fenced romping room for pets. It is sectioned into areas for large or small breeds.

Platinum

4. Shade trees: Augment existing tree program to promote properly sited and selected shade trees to reduce heat islands and provide shade to offset air conditioning on public land, also used to promote better air quality through carbon offsetting.





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

Silver

1. Brea is among the first Orange County cities to authorize a new financing program for renovation projects that increase energy efficiency. Rather than making monthly payments, HERO allows property owners to repay over time through a voluntary annual assessment that can be added onto their property tax bill for five, ten, fifteen or twenty years.

Gold

2. Brea has encouraged the public to become more conservation minded through a continuing outreach known as the Mayor's One-Ton Challenge.
3. Created the Green Life, Green Brea award to help promote, inspire, and recognize sustainable practices embraced by Brea businesses. Only the most innovative and ambitious environmental initiatives are destined to receive this distinction. By encouraging "green" thinking, recognizing such achievements, and being a leader in energy conservation, we believe more business will be inclined to go green to the benefit of the entire community.

Platinum

4. The city hosted a workshop for SCE to conduct training for other cities regarding demand/response programs available.
5. Partnered with the local Home Depot and California Garden Friendly for an on-site workshop for gardeners in May 2014.
6. Hosted and participated in community volunteer days.
7. Brea has distributed (free of charge) numerous energy-saving products to residents and small businesses, such as compact fluorescent light bulbs, fluorescent lamps, faucet aerators, and low flow showerheads.
8. The city provides lectures, seminars and training on energy efficient and green building options with emphasis on residential through web site and over the counter services.
9. Brea participates in the One Ton Challenge. The goal is to educate and inform community members so everyone has an impact on the environment and is pushed to reduce their carbon footprint.





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