

PLATINUM LEVEL AWARD WINNER

BEACON
SPOTLIGHT
AWARD
WINNER
BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of Chula Vista

Sustainability Best Practices Activities

About This Document

This document tracks and shares local agency best practice activities completed and counted as part of a city or county's participation in the climate change and sustainability recognition program, the Beacon Program: Local Leadership toward Solving Climate Change. The Beacon Program is a statewide program recognizing cities and counties that are working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save energy and adopt policies and programs that promote sustainability.

The Beacon Program is sponsored by the Institute for Local Government and the Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative. The Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative (SEEC) provides support to cities and counties to help them reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save energy. SEEC is an alliance between three statewide non-profit organizations and California's four Investor-Owned Utilities. It builds upon the unique resources, expertise and local agency relationships of each partner.



Supporting California local governments

The Beacon Program is funded by California utility customers 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.



SPOTLIGHT AWARD

Areas of Accomplishment

	SILVER LEVEL	GOLD LEVEL	PLATINUM LEVEL
Agency GHG Reductions		13%	
Community GHG Reductions			21%
Agency Energy Savings			24%
Natural Gas Savings			30%
Sustainability Best Practice Activities			2013



Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city retrofitted over 1,700 outdoor light fixtures at over 50 municipal sites with induction technology which can generate 545,000 kWh in annual energy savings.	2015

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities	Reported
Gold	1. The city converted 4,200 streetlights along residential roadways to LED technologies, which reduces energy use and improves light quality for public safety purposes. 2. The city's Home Upgrade, Carbon Downgrade Program has provided over 1,900 rebates to local community members (using ARRA funds) for replacing their old home appliances with more energy efficient models.	2015

Level	Energy Efficiency & Conservation Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. The city distributed almost \$100,000 in incentives to residents to support whole-home retrofits through Home Upgrade, Carbon Downgrade under the statewide Energy Upgrade California. 2. The City of Chula Vista installed new high-efficiency condensing boilers at both municipal aquatic centers generating over 30,000 therms in annual energy savings. 3. The city upgraded the heating and air conditioning system at the Chula Vista Public Works Corp Yard generating over 300,000 kWh in annual energy savings. 4. Pilot Project: Retrofitted 205 florescent lamps to LED lighting, The total savings equals 58.6 kWh. 5. The city has launched two residential and commercial PACE programs that have helped finance more than two million in energy savings and water savings upgrades to date.	2015





Water & Wastewater Systems Activity

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city is proposing an ordinance to require pre-plumbing in new residential homes for single-source (Laundry-to-Landscape) graywater systems	2015

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city is developing a “Water Reuse Resource Guide” to help educate community members about safe, effective ways to install graywater and rain harvesting systems. 2. In partnership with San Diego Gas & Electric, distributed over 500 indoor water savings kits to residents through city-sponsored events. 	2015

Level	Water and Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Over 350 residential, business and school properties have participated in the city’s sustainable landscaping program (“NatureScape”). 2. The city Chula Vista is the largest city in California to receive certification through the National Wildlife Federation’s ‘Backyard Habitat’ campaign, which promotes wildlife and water-friendly landscaping. 3. The city’s new Landscape Water Conservation Ordinance establishes water budgets for new construction and major renovation projects, which emphasize water-wise plants and high efficiency irrigation systems. 4. The city has launched two residential and commercial PACE programs that have helped finance more than two million in energy savings and water savings upgrades to date. 5. In 2014, the city passed a PACE expansion guideline that enables three more providers to offer their services in Chula Vista. 6. In 2014, the city installed smart irrigation controls in 22 parks and landscaped facilities. 7. The city provides five public workshops on outdoor water conservation. 	2015





Green Building Activity

Level	Green Building Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city adopted a mandatory Green Building Standard and is the only jurisdiction within San Diego County to have done so. Since its inception in 2010, 630 new residential and commercial units have complied with the standards.	2015

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city adopted "Solar Ready" ordinance requiring residential units be pre-wired and pre-plumbed for solar photovoltaic and solar hot water systems, respectively. 2. The city is currently completing a cost effectiveness study to determine the feasibility of incorporating "cool" roof and paving standards to help increase energy savings and mitigate the "Urban Heat Island Effect." 	2015

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chula Vista's Green Building Standard requires a 20% improvement in indoor water conservation for new and renovated buildings. 2. The Green Building Standard requires a 15-20% improvement in energy efficiency for new and renovated buildings, energy efficiency and indoor air quality. 3. The Green Building Standard requires low volatile organic compounds (VOC) construction and finishing materials to sustain healthy indoor air quality in new and renovated buildings. 4. In 2014, the city passed the Chula Vista Landscape Water Conservation Ordinance requiring new homes to be pre-plumbed for single-source (laundry to landscape) grey water irrigation. 5. In 2014, the city hosted workshops focused on green building topics for city staff and general residents. 	2015





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activity

Level	Waste Reduction Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city adopted a comprehensive Construction and Demolition Debris Ordinance, which requires 100% of inert materials and at least 50% of remaining debris generated from a project to be recycled or reused.	2015

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The City of Chula Vista offers master composter classes to community members helping to educate them about sustainable landscaping and diverting organic materials from the landfill. 2. The city continues to successfully implement numerous reduce, reuse and recycling initiatives allowing the jurisdiction obtain a 50% diversion rate. 	2015

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city completed a pilot project that incorporated recycled asphalt roof shingles into roadway pavement capital projects. 2. The city of Chula Vista expanded material management services to include pharmaceutical collection and document shredding events for the community. 3. As part of Household Hazardous Waste Program, the city initiated door step collection for disabled and elderly residents and mail-back, sharp waste (needles and syringes) containers at 20 local pharmacies. 3. In 2014, the city has a an experimental program to determine logistics and operational issues associated with food waste collection citywide. 4. The city's master composter training course has expanded to include free weekly backyard composting training programs at the Living Coast Discovery Center, city subsidized compost bins are made available to workshop attendees. In 2014, 250 residents attended the workshop. 	2015





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activity

Level	Climate-Friendly Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city adopted an Environmental Preferable Purchase Policy.	2015

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city updated the Environmental Preferable Purchase Policy to provide a more effective, streamlined method to ensure that the city is leveraging its “purchasing power” to promote sustainable products/services. 2. The city encourage municipal departments to purchase products/services from local businesses enrolled in the city’s CLEAN Business recognition program. 	2015

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city launched a “virtual warehouse” to facilitate the reuse and sharing of existing office supplies and equipment amongst city departments. 2. The city hosted a green purchasing training, in collaboration with Office Depot, for local businesses and city procurement specialists. 3. The city is completing a study to evaluate opportunities to integrate “cool paving” materials into municipal parking lot and street rehabilitation projects. 4. The city has started training to assure 80% of all items purchased by the city are certified green. Currently 50% of all city items are certified green. 	2015





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activity

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city created a Municipal Building Energy Policy requiring new and renovated city buildings to incorporate on-site renewable energy systems to meet at least 20% of building energy demand.	2015

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city installed a 12,000-gallon biodiesel tank at its public works yard allowing over 125 heavy-duty vehicles to convert to the low carbon fuel source. 2. The biodiesel fuel is refined from locally-collected used restaurant grease and oil, thus turning a waste product into a valuable resource. 	2015

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city installed a solar hot water system at the city's main aquatic center drastically reducing natural gas consumption. 2. Using federal stimulus funds, the city has completed installation of over 450 kW of solar photovoltaic systems at 11 facilities over the past year. 3. The city of Chula Vista has worked with the city-contracted trash hauler and transit fleets to transition to 100% alternative fuel sources. 4. The city has installed a system to monitor all 18 solar producing sites in order to help save time, money and fuel cost associated with driving to each site inspection. 	2015





Efficient Transportation Activity

Level	Efficient Transportation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city is implementing a grant from the National Association of Realtors to educate large local employers and professional realtors about alternative commute options, with a special focus on bicycling.	2015

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city of Chula Vista hosted a presentation highlighting the economic, environmental, health and broader quality of life benefits from bicycling. Attended by over 300 businesses, employees and realtors. 2. As part of this grant, the city also created its first “Bike Chula Vista: Map & Resource Guide” that included bicycling safety tips and local bike shop information. 	5-2014

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In partnership with all eight bike shops in Chula Vista, over 5,000 bike maps were distributed to community members in less than six months. 2. The city of Chula Vista applied for “business-friendly” recognition from the American League of Bicyclists. 3. The city updated its Bikeway Master Plan to assess current bicycle infrastructure deficiencies and to plan for 50+ miles of additional bike paths, lanes and routes. 4. The City of Chula Vista received the bronze award for Bicycle Friendly Business by the League of American Bicyclist in 2014. 5. The city hosted an employee Lunch-N-Learn and Bike to Work pit stop events to help educate employees on alternative commute options. 	5-2014





Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activity	Reported
Silver	1. In coordination with a community stakeholder group, Chula Vista began developing a new general plan, zoning and operation guidelines for Electrical Generating Facilities (EGF) including peaker power plants, emergency generators and private facilities.	2015

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city's draft regulations in the zoning and operation guidelines of the General Plan would require any new energy generation facility to offset 100% of their greenhouse gas emissions through local energy efficiency and other mitigation projects. 2. The city's new policy would also incentivize clean and renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, fuel cells and biogas. 	2015

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city of Chula Vista has updated its Air Quality Improvement Plan guidelines to require integration of energy efficient building and transportation design into large development projects (50 or more dwelling units or equivalent). 2. The city's design guidelines were updated to emphasize sustainable design features (such as shade trees, water-wise landscaping, passive solar/ventilation and multi-modal transportation) into smaller development projects (less than 50 dwelling units). 3. For new development projects, Chula Vista requires that all new development projects analyze their GHG emissions and design their projects to exceed "business as usual" by at least 20%. 	2015





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Silver	1. The city adopted climate adaptation strategies, committing the city to ensuring that its open space and wildlife preserves are resilient to expected climate change impacts.	2015

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city is currently revising the city's habitat monitoring, management and restoration protocols to address different climatic conditions in the future. 2. The city evaluating opportunities to leverage the emerging "carbon market" as a means to fund the ongoing management and expansion of its urban forests. 	2015

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city adopted a new Shade Tree Policy that requires 50% shade cover for parking stalls and encourages preservation of existing shade trees. 2. The city installed master valves throughout the city's open space network to prevent water leaks from irrigation line breaks. 3. The city is developing a new Natural Resources Management Plan, through a stakeholder-driven process, to better manage the Chula Vista bayfront's sensitive species and habitat. 	2015





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Silver	1. The city is implementing part of a federally-funded grant with the California Center for Sustainable Energy to develop the Chula Vista Community Savings Initiative, a “group buy” program for whole home energy upgrades.	2015

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city assisted Rancho del Rey residents in selecting preferred Energy Upgrade California contractors, who will offer generous discounts and extended warranties to participating homeowners in their neighborhood through the Initiative. 2. The City of Chula Vista collaborated with the California Center for Sustainable Energy and San Diego Gas & Electric to develop an Energy Showcase Home providing residents an opportunity to learn firsthand about home energy upgrades. 	2015

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The City of Chula Vista created and maintains Facebook page for Chula Vista Clean promoting regional sustainability events and opportunities. 2. Under the Free Resource & Energy Business Evaluation (FREBE program), Chula Vista provided approximately 3,000 free energy and water evaluations to businesses as part of the city’s licensing process. 3. The city enrolled over 100 local businesses into its CLEAN Business recognition program to highlight their sustainable operations and facilities. 4. The city started participating in the Georgetown University Energy Prize to challenge and encourage residents to save energy. 	2015



Notes:







INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTSM

Promoting Good Government at the Local Level

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