



# County of Sacramento

## Sustainability Best Practices Activities



Platinum Level Award Winner



## 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 Award: Local Leadership toward Solving Climate Change. The Beacon Award 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 Award 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.



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.



## SPOTLIGHT AWARD

Areas of Accomplishment

		SILVER LEVEL	GOLD LEVEL	PLATINUM LEVEL
	Agency GHG Reductions	9%		
	Community GHG Reductions			
	Agency Energy Savings		16%	
	Natural Gas Savings		18%	
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities			2014



## Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. Adopted a county-wide energy conservation policy in May 2002. This includes requirements to turn off electrical loads such as lighting, appliances, printers, etc. when not in use and establishes office heating and cooling protocols and temperature settings.	<b>5-2014</b>

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	1. Converted 589 incandescent traffic signals to LED signals in 2010. The county is in the process of converting 22,000 street lights to LED – 1,700 completed to date, producing \$69,000 in annual energy saving and 932,000kwh annual savings. <a href="http://www.green.saccounty.net/Pages/EnergyStreetlights.aspx">http://www.green.saccounty.net/Pages/EnergyStreetlights.aspx</a>	<b>5-2014</b>
	2. Implemented a county-wide IT energy management system in 2014 that automatically powers down computers and servers based on usage, saving 1.7 Gwh of electricity per year.	

Level	Energy Efficiency & Conservation Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	1. Implemented an energy-managing project that automatically controls the thermostats for more than two million square feet of the county's buildings. The project saves 400 kilowatts of energy annually.	<b>5-2014</b>
	2. Upgraded a 3,000-ton chiller plant with variable-frequency drives and added controls to reduce annual energy usage. The project resulted in an electricity savings of 500,000 kilowatt hours and more than \$50,000 per year.	
	3. <u>Sacramento International Airport</u> has completed its initiative to improve lights in the parking garage by replacing 1,820 high-pressure sodium light fixtures with energy-efficient LEDs – reducing 1.7 million kilowatts of energy annually. The project translates into \$184,000 of savings a year in maintenance and energy costs for the Airport.	





# Water & Wastewater Systems Activity

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Conducted an audit of the agency's water and wastewater pumps and motors to identify the most and least efficient equipment.	5-2014

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Gold	1. Upgraded and retrofitted agency plumbing systems and appliances with water efficient technology and fixtures.  2. Adopted a water conservation plan 2005. <a href="http://www.waterresources.saccounty.net/Zone%2041/UWMP_master_20060105_revised.pdf">http://www.waterresources.saccounty.net/Zone%2041/UWMP_master_20060105_revised.pdf</a> .	5-2014

Level	Water and Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. The Sacramento County Water Agency (SCWA), in partnership with the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD), has developed a recycled water system that treats and delivers up to five million-gallons-per-day of recycled water. This water is used for irrigation purposes thereby conserving and extending the life of our precious drinking water resources. <a href="http://www.waterresources.saccounty.net/scwa/Pages/RecycledWater.aspx">http://www.waterresources.saccounty.net/scwa/Pages/RecycledWater.aspx</a>  2. Sacramento County, is part of the River Friendly Partnership Coalition (a collaboration of public agencies, non-profits, designers and private landscape architects in the greater Sacramento region) who created the River Friendly Landscape guidelines. 2009 US EPA Award winner. <a href="http://www.msa.saccounty.net/sactostormwater/RFL/default.asp">http://www.msa.saccounty.net/sactostormwater/RFL/default.asp</a>  3. Installed smart meters on all service connections throughout the county water agency boundaries. The county will be fully metered by the end of 2014.  4. In collaboration with other water agencies in the region, Sacramento County implemented a sophisticated communications and outreach plan which includes incentives to encourage water use reductions, primarily in the area of landscape irrigation. As a result, the region led the state in water conservation efforts for the summer of 2014.	5-2014









# Green Building Activity

Level	Green Building Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The county has incorporated materials that are renewable, reusable, recyclable, recycled, and nontoxic and those that have zero or low volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in agency buildings, where feasible.	5-2014

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed and implemented sustainable landscaping standards for public agency facilities to reduce water consumption.</li> <li>Enacted a construction and demolition debris recycling ordinance in 2009, including a recycling facility certification program. There are currently five certified C&amp;D recycling lines in the County. <a href="http://www.wmr.saccounty.net/Pages/ConstructionAndDemolitionDebris.aspx">http://www.wmr.saccounty.net/Pages/ConstructionAndDemolitionDebris.aspx</a>.</li> </ol>	5-2014

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Built the following LEED certified buildings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Animal Care and Regulation building – LEED Gold 2009 <a href="http://www.animalcare.saccounty.net/Pages/LEEDShelterDesign.aspx">http://www.animalcare.saccounty.net/Pages/LEEDShelterDesign.aspx</a></li> <li>Vineyard Surface Water Treatment Plant – LEED Gold 2011 <a href="http://www.waterresources.saccounty.net/scwa/Pages/Vineyard.aspx">http://www.waterresources.saccounty.net/scwa/Pages/Vineyard.aspx</a></li> <li>Sacramento International Airport Terminal B – LEED Silver+ 2011 <a href="http://www.green.saccounty.net/Pages/EnergyAirport.aspx">http://www.green.saccounty.net/Pages/EnergyAirport.aspx</a></li> <li>Fleet Maintenance Facility – LEED Silver+ <a href="http://www.green.saccounty.net/Pages/FleetMaintenance.aspx">http://www.green.saccounty.net/Pages/FleetMaintenance.aspx</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>The county uses cool roofs on agency buildings.</li> <li>Replaced county golf course turf with less water intense grasses (water savings of 7-15% to date) and replanted landscape with drought tolerant, water efficient plant materials at county facilities.</li> </ol>	5-2014





# Waste Reduction and Recycling Activity

Level	Waste Reduction Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The county operates an integrated waste management system of education, outreach, material collection and facility operation that emphasizes recycling and reuse, which resulted in a landfill diversion rate of 73% in 2012 and 2013.	5-2014

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Gold	<p>1. Through a public-private partnership, opened a bio-refinery on county land that uses anaerobic digestion to convert food waste into compressed natural gas vehicle fuel. The plant will soon have a capacity of 100 tons of food waste per day. <a href="http://www.rewmag.com/clean-world-biodigester-california-sacramento.aspx">http://www.rewmag.com/clean-world-biodigester-california-sacramento.aspx</a>.</p> <p>2. In partnership with California Electronic Asset Recovery, one of the world's premier e-waste recycling companies, operates an aggressive e-waste recycling program. This includes rolling advertisements, curbside collection and facility drop off and transport. 6200 tons have been recycled since 2007. <a href="http://cearinc.com/solutions/recycling">http://cearinc.com/solutions/recycling</a></p>	5-2014

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Platinum	<p>1. Supports and provides outreach for the Paint Care Program which allows residents to recycle unused paint at no charge. <a href="http://www.sacounty.net/news/latest-news/Pages/Recycle-That-Old-Paint.aspx">http://www.sacounty.net/news/latest-news/Pages/Recycle-That-Old-Paint.aspx</a></p> <p>2. Promotes backyard composting through agency website to encourage household gardens that reduce green waste at landfills via county website. <a href="http://www.wmr.sacounty.net/Pages/Composting.aspx">http://www.wmr.sacounty.net/Pages/Composting.aspx</a></p> <p>3. Adopted a policy instructing employees to review how supplies, materials and equipment are manufactured, purchased, packaged, delivered, used and disposed of prior to ordering in an effort to generate and reduce waste material."</p>	5-2014







# Climate-friendly Purchasing Activity

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. Adopted an Environmental Purchasing Policy in January 2003.	<b>5-2014</b>
Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	1. The county conducts life-cycle cost analysis when considering purchase of fixed assets.  2. The county requires the use of alternative-fueled trucks in waste hauling and street sweeping contracts. <a href="http://www.californiabids.com/bid-opportunities/2014/05/22/5576117-Street-Sweeping-Services-Using-Alternative-Fuel-Sweepers.html">http://www.californiabids.com/bid-opportunities/2014/05/22/5576117-Street-Sweeping-Services-Using-Alternative-Fuel-Sweepers.html</a>	<b>5-2014</b>
Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	1. Adopted and implemented a procurement policy that establishes standards for purchasing climate-friendly products and services. Examples may include office and cleaning supplies and equipment that minimize environmental impacts and that do not have a negative effect on human health, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paper products that contain a minimum percentage of post-consumer recycled content;</li> <li>• Cleaning products and services recognized with the GreenSeal or EcoLogo;</li> <li>• New equipment that meets Energy Star or comparable energy efficiency standards;</li> <li>• Computers that meet the highest feasible Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) certification level; Computer and lighting controls that reduce energy and computer idle time;</li> <li>• Rechargeable batteries, where appropriate; and</li> <li>• Recyclable or reusable cups, plates and utensils.</li> </ul> 2. The county encourages all department to purchase green building materials that create a healthier and more sustainable environment, such as: building and landscaping materials and systems that exceed the CALGreen building code; carpeting, furnishings or plastic items that contain a minimum percentage of recycled content; and paint or carpets that contain low or no volatile organic compounds (VOC).  3. The county purchases fleets that reduce environmental impact, such as: fuel efficient, dual fuel or alternative fuel fleet vehicles and vehicles that have GPS or trip planning devices.	<b>5-2014</b>





# Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activity

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activities	Reported
Silver	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The county landfill has been producing renewable energy using landfill gas since 1999. There are two power plants producing 14Mwh of renewable power, enough to power 9000 homes. <a href="http://www.green.saccounty.net/Pages/GasToEnergy.aspx">www.green.saccounty.net/Pages/GasToEnergy.aspx</a></li> </ol>	5-2014

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The entire county garbage and recycling collection fleet (over 100 trucks) and half of its long-haul fleet consists of natural gas-powered trucks. The county has converted 15% of its light fleet to hybrid vehicles. These efforts resulted in the county being awarded a 50 Best Government Green Fleet Award in 2013. <a href="http://www.green.saccounty.net/Pages/AltFuelStations.aspx">www.green.saccounty.net/Pages/AltFuelStations.aspx</a> <a href="http://www.green.saccounty.net/Pages/AlternativeFuelWasteCollectionTrucks.aspx">www.green.saccounty.net/Pages/AlternativeFuelWasteCollectionTrucks.aspx</a></li> <li>After four years of fleet reductions, the county is beginning to replace gasoline only cars with Toyota Prius models. The county has vehicle replacement standards so that cars are replaced when they are no longer economical to own due to wear and costly maintenance. <a href="http://www.saccounty.net/news/latest-news/Pages/The-Common-Sense-of-Eco-Friendly-Fleet-Management.aspx">http://www.saccounty.net/news/latest-news/Pages/The-Common-Sense-of-Eco-Friendly-Fleet-Management.aspx</a></li> </ol>	5-2014

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Authorized a Property Assessed Clean Energy Program (PACE) in November 2013. <a href="http://www.saccounty.net/news/latest-news/Pages/PACE-Program-Approved-for-Homes-and-Businesses.aspx">www.saccounty.net/news/latest-news/Pages/PACE-Program-Approved-for-Homes-and-Businesses.aspx</a></li> <li>Sacramento County has begun switching to compressed natural gas (CNG) from liquified natural gas (LNG) for its fleet by awarding a contract to TruStar Energy for fueling infrastructure. <a href="http://www.government-fleet.com/channel/green-fleet/news/story/2014/10/calif-county-moving-from-lng-to-cng.aspx">http://www.government-fleet.com/channel/green-fleet/news/story/2014/10/calif-county-moving-from-lng-to-cng.aspx</a></li> <li>Sacramento County will soon be using CNG Street Sweepers to clean the county's streets as a result of a contract awarded by the Department of Transportation.</li> <li>Rather than using traditional equipment, the county used sheep and goats for weed control at the <a href="http://www.saccounty.net/news/latest-news/Pages/Sheep-Grazing-a-Path-to-Green.aspx">County's Kiefer Landfill</a> where these animals can munch 250 acres more cheaply and efficiently than any machine. <a href="http://www.saccounty.net/news/latest-news/Pages/Sheep-Grazing-a-Path-to-Green.aspx">www.saccounty.net/news/latest-news/Pages/Sheep-Grazing-a-Path-to-Green.aspx</a></li> </ol>	5-2014





# Efficient Transportation Activity

Level	Efficient Transportation Activity	Reported
Silver	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implemented a complete street strategy. This included the completion of pedestrian and bicycle master plans, and a policy of designing and constructing all public road projects as complete streets. The county's first green and sustainable street was completed in 2013.  <a href="http://www.saccounty.net/news/latest-news/Pages/County-Awarded-for-First-Ever-Green-Street.aspx">www.saccounty.net/news/latest-news/Pages/County-Awarded-for-First-Ever-Green-Street.aspx</a> </li> </ol>	5-2014

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Installed five electric vehicle charging stations, three at the downtown complex and two at the suburban branch complex.  <a href="http://www.green.saccounty.net/Pages/ElectricVehChargStation.aspx">www.green.saccounty.net/Pages/ElectricVehChargStation.aspx</a> </li> <li>Implemented an aggressive Safe Routes to School program (\$4,850,000 programmed in 2014-15 alone) to provide safe alternatives to motorized transport to schools.</li> </ol>	5-2014

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepared a bicycle master plan to guide bikeway policies and development standards to make bicycling safer, more convenient and enjoyable for all bicyclists</li> <li>Increased the number of bicycle lanes, lockers, racks, paths and signage throughout the community.</li> <li>Integrated bike lanes into street overlay and ADA projects wherever possible to advance active transportation.</li> <li>Collaborated with park agencies and DOT projects for joint funding applications on bike trails and roadway improvement projects that advance connectivity, walk and bike ability.</li> </ol>	5-2014





# Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Adopted the county's Housing Element 2013-2021 which sets sustainable policies and programs such to "Promote public health, safety and livability through community design and the built environment"; and "master plans for residential developments, mixed use, commercial, office and retail developments, in existing and new communities that are designed, built and maintained so as to promote the health, safety and livability of residents, employees, visitors and the community."	5-2014

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Gold	<p>1. Adopted Corridor Plans and Development Code that streamline and advance infill development especially in transit priority areas allowing for a mix of land uses and reducing regulatory requirements. Several corridor plans have been adopted including North Watt and Fair Oaks Blvd, more are underway. <a href="http://www.per.saccounty.net/LandUseRegulationDocuments/Documents/Commercial-Corridor/FairOaksBlvdCorridorPlan.pdf">http://www.per.saccounty.net/LandUseRegulationDocuments/Documents/Commercial-Corridor/FairOaksBlvdCorridorPlan.pdf</a></p> <p>2. The County Infill Program-started in 2011 to assist with and advance infill development in the county. Infill Home Plan program with energy improvements exceeding Title 24 done in cooperation with SMUD (local utility) and the City of Sacramento. Plans are preapproved reducing plan review time and permitting costs. <a href="http://www.saccountyinfill.net/Documents/FINALInfillModelHomePlanProgramdocLIDupdate4-1-13.pdf">http://www.saccountyinfill.net/Documents/FINALInfillModelHomePlanProgramdocLIDupdate4-1-13.pdf</a></p>	5-2014



Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implemented improvements along <u>Freedom Park Drive</u>, (off North Watt in North Highlands) that included planting trees, plants that naturally prevent water pollution from going into local creeks, and a street design that utilized approximately 4,000 recycled tires used in the road's asphalt and eliminates 964 lbs. of greenhouse gases annually. <b>Freedom Park Drive Won an American Planning Association Award</b>. The first street of its kind, it was awarded for its sustainable landscape and design. Three departments collaborated to create a street that fosters greenhouse gas emissions reduction and water conservation. Energy efficient LED street lighting, recycled tire asphalt paving, roundabouts, and wide sidewalks and well-marked bike lanes improve safety for pedestrians/cyclists and encourage fitness opportunities. Learn more about <a href="#">American Planning Association - Sacramento Valley Section</a>.</li> <li>2. Implemented an <u>Environmental Horticulture Program</u> that focuses on sustainable landscaping through a comparison of species that require less water and mowing, and the development of economical practices that reduce use of natural resources and protect the environment.</li> <li>3. Advanced infill and transit oriented development by completing infrastructure technical studies around transit station areas on Regional Transit's Gold line within the county. Assets, opportunities and barriers are identified so that critical infrastructure projects can be coordinated and advanced.</li> </ol>	5-2014







# Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Silver	1. Adopted a tree preservation and protection ordinance. <a href="http://www.per.saccounty.net/applicants/Pages/ProjectSitesWithTrees.aspx">www.per.saccounty.net/applicants/Pages/ProjectSitesWithTrees.aspx</a>	5-2014

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Gold	1. In partnership with the Sacramento Tree Foundation, supports the Green Print Initiative, striving to double the region's tree canopy over the next 40 years.  2. Established the South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan (SSHCP), encompassing 341,270 acres and 40 species of plants and animals, 10 of which are threatened or endangered. The SSHCP a regional approach to addressing issues related to urban development, habitat conservation and agricultural protection. The SSHCP will consolidate environmental efforts to protect and enhance wetlands (primarily vernal pools) and upland habitats to provide ecologically viable conservation areas. It will also minimize regulatory hurdles and streamline the permitting process for development projects. <a href="http://www.per.saccounty.net/PlansandProjectsIn-Progress/Pages/SSHCPPlan.aspx">www.per.saccounty.net/PlansandProjectsIn-Progress/Pages/SSHCPPlan.aspx</a>	5-2014

Level	Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emissions Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. Adopted a Climate Action Plan that provides an overall approach to addressing climate change and a framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and managing resources.  2. Worked with the State Lands Commission, the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency and Sac Valley Conservancy to acquire 11 acres of open space along the American River Parkway.  3. Initiated a Park Prescription Program with County Regional Parks and 18 Recreation and Park agencies throughout the county in collaboration with the County's Public Health Officer. The goal was to increase park and open space use and resident accessibility while promoting health. Partnering with the Sierra-Sacramento Valley Medical Society for monthly Walk with a Doc Programs in parks throughout the County. <a href="http://www.ssvms.org/events/eventinfo.aspx?sessionaltcd=WWAD11-1-14">www.ssvms.org/events/eventinfo.aspx?sessionaltcd=WWAD11-1-14</a> . <a href="http://www.walkwithadoc.org/our-locations/sacramento/">www.walkwithadoc.org/our-locations/sacramento/</a>	5-2014





# Fair Oaks Boulevard Corridor Plan

**Overall Planning Goals,  
Objectives, Vision and  
Design Concepts**

**Sacramento County and  
Carmichael Community**

**Prepared by:  
Sacramento County  
Planning Department**

**With assistance by:  
RACESTUDIO and  
A. Plescia Company**

October 2011





# Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Silver	1. Created online options for 53 county services, allowing customers the option to save trips to county offices.	5-2014

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Gold	<p>1. Launched the Green Sacramento County website in 2012. This includes news on the County's sustainability efforts, information on sustainable living, links to bicycle maps, vehicle charging stations, the county's Climate Action Plan and other associated organizations. <a href="http://www.green.saccounty.net/Pages/default.aspx">www.green.saccounty.net/Pages/default.aspx</a></p> <p>2. Sponsored "Recreate", a reuse and recycling educational program delivered to every 3rd and 4th grade class in each of the 78 elementary schools in the unincorporated area. <a href="http://www.recreate.org/education-program-recreate/">www.recreate.org/education-program-recreate/</a></p>	5-2014

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Platinum	<p>1. The county's <a href="#">Business Environmental Resources Center</a> (BERC) helps businesses be green. Also called Sustainable Business, staff assists businesses through the environmental regulatory process, permitting and provides other business support. There is also an awards program to recognize Sustainable Businesses. Sacramento County has resources to help Sacramento County businesses "go green" at the <a href="#">Business Environmental Resources Center</a> (BERC) on the <a href="#">Sacramento Area Sustainable Business</a> page.</p> <p>2. Created a sustainability handbook, available online and in hard copy, that outlines the steps residents and businesses can take to go green, such as by reducing energy and water use, recycling and using alternative transportation.</p> <p>3. Distributed give-away items, such as reusable bags and compact fluorescent light bulbs to encourage environmental responsibility.</p>	5-2014





# INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT<sup>SM</sup>

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