

PLATINUM LEVEL AWARD WINNER

BEACON

SPOTLIGHT
AWARD

WINNER

BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of Thousand Oaks

Sustainability Best Practices Activities



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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. 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 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		17%	
	Community GHG Reductions			
	Agency Energy Savings	7%		
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities			2016





Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city participates 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.	2016

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities	Reported
Gold	<p>1. The city conducted audits for the agency's top 17 energy using facilities. The installation of upgraded, higher efficiency rated equipment at the central plant for the Newbury Park and Thousand Oaks Libraries was a result of the data obtained from an energy audit. The mechanical system at the Civic Arts Plaza was also updated as a result of the audits. The update to the Plaza is expected to save thousands of dollars annually. New monitoring tools at the Plaza will also ensure occupant comfort and additional energy savings.</p> <p>2. The city has implemented multiple LED conversion projects at various city facilities, saving approximately 300,000 kWh per year. The LED conversion project replaced 700 high pressure sodium, metal halide fixtures and parking lot lighting throughout the city, including the Hill Canyon Treatment Plant, as well as at the Kavli theatre lobby in the Civic Arts Plaza. Another project included the conversion of 549 safety lights above traffic signal lights to 133 watt LED fixtures. Besides high-efficient lighting, other benefits from the conversion project include safety and reducing night-sky intrusion. Lastly, in 2015 the City converted 550 street lights to LED for a total energy savings of almost 310,000 kWh for an annual cost savings of more than \$21,000.</p>	2016





Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency & Conservation Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="345 501 1271 716">1. In May 2013, the city received a grant for the installation of a Utility Management and Sub-Metering system (UMS). The UMS is expected to go live in summer 2016 and allow staff and residents to see energy usage at select public facilities in real-time. This data will be tremendously useful for identifying high usage occurrences, where additional savings can be realized and benchmarking Energy Action Plan (EAP) progress. <li data-bbox="345 716 1271 1041">2. In 2012, the City of Thousand Oaks Council approved an EAP for city facilities and established an Energy Management Team consisting of a group of staff from various departments. The EAP complements the city's existing environmental programs and policies and provides guidance for further action. The goal of the EAP is to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions at City of Thousand Oaks facilities by 10 percent by 2017. The city's EAP was updated in 2014 and included energy efficiency projects and programs that have been implemented since 2012. <li data-bbox="345 1041 1271 1440">3. In 2007, the City of Thousand Oaks switched to a cogeneration heating facility at the Hill Canyon Water Treatment Plant. Prior to cogeneration being installed in 2007, the Admin building was heated by natural gas and the digesters were heated by digester gas, supplemented by natural on occasion. The city still occasionally supplements with natural gas but only when necessary during long periods of time when cogeneration is down. There are continued savings in natural gas usage at this city facility, which are already calculated in our greenhouse gas inventory. During each of the three complete years after co-generation was installed, 2008 – 2010, the drop in natural gas use at the facility ranged from 47 percent to 73 percent, with an average being 56 percent annually. 	2016





Water & Wastewater Systems Activity

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activity	Reported
Silver	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The city participates in the emPower Central Coast Program, which gives away aerators and shower heads, provided by the SoCal Gas Company, at community events. The city also provides free showerheads, faucet aerators and dye tabs to test for toilet leaks at community events and upon request. Additionally, the city works closely with water providers to educate the community and facilitate water conservation measures. Please see the following link for more information: http://www.toaks.org/ 	2016

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The city installed low-flow plumbing fixtures at the Municipal Service Center (MSC). As a result, the city reduced water use by over 30 percent. The city promotes local solutions for stormwater management. Landscaped areas at the MSC contain rain gardens and bioswales that were added during the MSC expansion and development of the Household Hazardous Waste Facility which was completed in spring of 2014. Additionally, Conejo Center Drive contains green street bulb-outs. These features provide stormwater management by cleansing the water and recharging aquifers through infiltration. <p>The city is currently preparing a new Landscape Master Plan and updated Forestry Master Plan for city-maintained trees and plantings in the public right-of-way. The overall goal of the project is to incorporate drought-tolerant and water-wise landscaping into public medians and the public right-of-way, while maintaining aesthetic integrity.</p>	2016





Water & Wastewater Systems Activity

Level	Water and Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city's MSC uses catch basin biofilters to further minimize pollution from storm water run-off, the MSC has installed specially designed biofilters in each of its five catch basins. The addition of these filters are an effective tool for reducing sediment, dissolved solids, oil and grease from entering waterways. 2. The city's Save Water home page provides an interactive map for public water conservation gardens. The map lists directions for individuals to visit the demonstration gardens, which feature drip irrigation systems, mulching, biochar and drought tolerant flowers, plants, and shrubs. http://www.toaks.org/government/depts/public_works/water/lawns_and_gardens/default.asp. 3. In May 2015, the Thousand Oaks City Council adopted a Drought Action Plan. A Level 2 Water Supply Shortage has also been adopted along with a series of water conservation measures that impact residents. The Drought Action Plan is included on the city's Save Water campaign home page at www.toaks.org/savewater. The website explains the Level Two and Permanent Water Conservation Ordinance highlights and provides a calendar for water conservation workshops and presentation. Additionally, the website includes tips for saving water as well as information on BioChar, a soil amendment that provides nutrients and can save up to 50 percent of water normally used to irrigate. 	2016





Green Building Activity

Level	Green Building Activity	Reported
Silver	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Since 2014, the city has participated in the emPower Central Coast Program. The emPower 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. The emPower Program also works with contractors to provide them with training on green building techniques. Please see the following link for more information: https://www.empowersbc.org/its-easy-get-started/energy-advice. 	2016

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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 efficiency upgrades. Please see the following link for more information on emPower's rebate program: https://www.empowersbc.org/about-program. The city also consistently organizes local outreach and community events during traditional spring/earth day season to inform the public energy efficiency, green building, demand reduction and new technologies including cars and solar systems. 2. 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, solar and HVAC. 	2016





Green Building Activity

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city's Municipal Service Center (MSC) uses light colored permeable paving to lower the overall site temperature by reflecting solar radiation back into atmosphere and reducing the 'heat island effect'. The permeable paving aids in stormwater management during rain events and allows for infiltration to recharge aquifers. The permeable paving is located in areas with soil that accepts infiltration as well as areas of enhanced paving. 2. The city utilizes materials with low or no volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and no added urea-formaldehyde in all interior spaces to promote occupant health. VOCs and urea-formaldehyde contribute to ozone depletion, are known to cause nausea, asthma and headaches, and may be cancer-causing. 3. All city-maintained landscaped areas use wood chips as mulch and are watered with direct irrigation, which conserves water by irrigating just where the plant needs. This practice also aids in stormwater management by evapotranspiration of rainwater and reduces the heat island effect. 	2016





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activity

Level	Waste Reduction Activity	Reported
Silver	<p>1. The city operates a permanent Household Hazardous Waste Facility located in Newbury Park, which opened in 2014. This state-of-the-art hazardous material collection facility is open by appointment Friday and Saturdays from 9 am to 1 pm. Any resident of Thousand Oaks or unincorporated Ventura County can bring their hazardous waste there, including used electronic goods, CFLs, batteries, paint, used car oil, fluorescent lights and other toxic cleaning materials. For a low fee, small businesses can also dispose of waste at this facility, one day a week by appointment, if the business qualifies as a small quantity generator. The city also encourages residents to use the Goodwill Electronics collection which is free and provides support and job training for Goodwill staff.</p> <p>Additionally, the city collects lead and cadmium jewelry because both are toxic and have been found in large quantities in cheap children's jewelry from China. Collection tubs have been placed at City Hall and the libraries allowing the public to safely dispose of suspect jewelry. Please see the following link for more information on hazardous waste disposal: https://www.toaks.org/government/depts/public_works/environmental/residential/hazardous_waste/default.asp.</p> <p>As part of the city's Reuse Program, when materials are collected at HHW Events that are in usable condition, such as leftover paint and cleaning products, the materials are made available for free to residents at a Materials ReUse Store. https://www.toaks.org/government/depts/public_works/environmental/residential/hazardous_waste/default.asp</p>	2016





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activity

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. City staff assist local businesses in developing and implementing recycling and diversion programs. The Public Works Department and Waste Management offer free waste assessments to evaluate current service and advise businesses on how to start or improve their recycling program. These on-site assessments can also trouble shoot space limitations and other obstacles to recycling. During the assessment, agency staff will evaluate the amount and type of waste generated, determine your building's recycling potential and recommend how to incorporated recycling into your current service mix. The city also provides waste reduction and recycling tips on our website. Please see the following link for more information: https://www.toaks.org/government/depts/public_works/environmental/business/solid_waste/default.asp. 2. Puncture resistant sharps plastic containers are offered to the public for free upon request to provide for the safe storage, transportation and disposal of sharps (e.g., needles, razors) from residences. 	2016

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city offers compost bins at a discount to residents as well as free compost workshops once a year. Please see the following link for more information: https://www.toaks.org/government/depts/public_works/environmental/residential/home_composting/default.asp. 2. The city provides up to 50 free deskside recycling boxes to Thousand Oaks businesses upon demand. These cardboard containers are used for collecting clean recyclables (office paper, empty bottles/cans, plastic containers, etc.) in an office environment. 3. The city accepts old batteries and compact florescent lights (CFLs) by appointment at its Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility. The city also promotes 14 battery drop off locations around the city where batteries can be dropped off. We also promote the Home Depot CFL recovery program. Please see the following link for more information: https://www.toaks.org/government/depts/public_works/environmental/residential/hazardous_waste/default.asp 	2016





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activity

Level	Climate-Friendly Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city's Municipal Service Center (MSC) uses materials with high recycled content to reduce landfills and regional materials to reduce transportation costs and promote the local economy. Sustainably forested wood products are also utilized in the MSC. These wood products reduce forest degradation and promote equitable work practices.	2016

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> At the end of 2015, the City of Thousand Oaks adopted an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) policy. The EPP policy sets out guiding principles for city purchasers to identify products that are environmentally preferable compared to their conventional counterparts, including products that are durable, reusable or refillable. This includes any equipment that consumes energy. City staff members are guided to identify the most resource and energy efficient options that are both effective and price competitive. The city considers efficient transportation methods when purchasing goods and services, such as using local vendors and or locally produced goods to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. 	201

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The city encourages the practice of not purchasing new materials, such as office supplies and furniture, through the reuse of existing items in surplus when appropriate and feasible City departments are encouraged to implement the EPP and review current purchasing practices to identify possible green procurement opportunities. The city has nearly achieved its goal of converting two-thirds of its pool vehicle fleet to alternative fuel vehicles. This number is independent of the city's 19 public transit city buses and vans, which are 100 percent natural gas powered. 	2016





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activity

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Silver	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Solar powered lighting has been installed at 13 city bus shelters including, the very first installed solar powered shelter located in front of City Hall. The City Hall shelter is fully self-contained, using bright, LED lighting fixtures. These 13 solar powered shelters comprise approximately one-third of the city's total bus shelters. The city used grant funds to install 12 additional solar shelters as a cost effective, clean energy, lighting option for bus shelters. The remaining shelters are located in heavily lit areas that make solar lighting ineffective and in other locations where the urban tree canopy doesn't permit enough light to reach the solar panels, making solar impractical. 	2016

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city developed renewable energy generation at the Hill Canyon Wastewater Treatment Plant (HCTP) that is 100 percent onsite self-sufficient. The HCTP has a single-axis 500 kW solar array and 300kW cogeneration units. Any excess energy is fed back into the grid. 2. In 2012, the city installed its first fully-owned solar 300 kW array, located atop the Conejo Recreation & Park District and the National Park Service offices. The system provides over 40 percent of the facilities' electricity needs. 	2016

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city has 22 electric vehicle charging stations strategically placed at 11 locations around the city. To augment this program, the city's Transportation Center became home to Ventura County's first Level III fast charging station in 2013. Since that time, two more fast charging stations have been placed in the city. 2. The city has installed bicycle racks, and other amenities at agency facilities to promote bicycle use by agency employees and visitors. 3. Alternative fuel public transit and paratransit. The city has trained agency fleet mechanics to service alternative and fuel efficient vehicles. The city currently owns 11 transit buses, all of which are powered by CNG. The city owns 8 Dial-a-Ride vans, all of which are CNG powered. The city owns one all-electric transit support vehicle and one gasoline hybrid support vehicle. 	2016





Efficient Transportation Activity

Level	Efficient Transportation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city's Slurry Seal Program uses around 4,300 tons of material which is composed of 10 percent recycled tire rubber. Slurry seal protects streets from water penetration and is a quick and economical street repair method.	2016

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city offers online permitting services to reduce the need to travel to the agency offices for minor permits. Please see the following link for more information: https://www.toaks.org/services/default.asp. 2. There are currently 70 miles of bike lanes throughout the city. The city's Bicycle Advisory Team (BAT) has been meeting quarterly for 10 years. They help prioritize bike projects and support staff with bike education. Bike education includes hosting a Bike Rodeo at Arbor Earth Day which includes distribution of a free bike helmet for all children who participate. During the Public Works Week open house in May, there is a BikeSafe booth that teaches children about bike safety. It's estimated that over 1,000 children are educated about bike safety annually. Thousand Oaks consistently ranks in Bicycling Magazine's biennial ranking, Top 50 bicycling cities in the USA. In 2014, Thousand Oaks ranked 33, up five places from 2012. 	2016

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. The city has consolidated offices that community members often visit at the same time (such as building permitting and environmental health permitting) to reduce vehicle miles traveled.	2016





Efficient Transportation Activity

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Platinum	<p>2. For over 40 years the city has provided public transportation services through a variety of bus services as well as on-demand transportation services for seniors and those with disabilities, including bus and dial-a-ride services. The city has invested millions into programs and facilities to promote carpooling, to make accessing a bus easier throughout the city, and to make the community a more bike and pedestrian-friendly place to live and work. All city buses are equipped with bike racks and free Wifi to encourage commuting by bus. The city developed a Bikes on Buses brochure, for more information go to: www.toaks.org/government/depts/public_works/transit/bikes_on_buses.asp</p> <p>3. As a founding member of the East County Transit Alliance, the city is part of a group of agencies working to provide more integrated transportation options to area residents. Additionally, the city is utilizing a California Department of Transportation grant, to develop a Transit Master Plan with the assistance of a consultant and the Southern California Association of Governments. For more information, please view the following link: https://totransitmasterplan.com/page/2/.</p>	2016





Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activity	Reported
Silver	<p>1. The City participated in Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) development of the Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), in compliance with SB 375. The addition of the sustainable communities strategy to the RTP means that the RTP now integrates not only transportation and land-use planning, but also housing and environmental planning with the goal of reducing regional greenhouse gas emissions. The city uses the RTP/SCS when conducting its own transportation, land use, and environmental planning to assist in efforts to reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions.</p>	2016

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Gold	<p>1. As part of the general plan 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.</p> <p>2. The City has increased the number of bicycle lanes, lockers, racks, paths and signage throughout the community. In 2010, the City developed a Bicycle Facilities Master Plan that maps out streets, recent improvements, future improvements and bike routes and lanes throughout the city. Please view the following link for more information: www.toaks.org/civica/filebank/blobdload.asp?BlobID=10055. The City also offers a Bike Rack Grant Program, which seeks to encourage and facilitate bicycling as a viable means of transportation in the city through the granting of bicycle racks to local businesses and other activity centers. In order to provide easy access to bicycling as a commute and recreation option, BikeSafe has partnered with the City's Community Enhancement Grant program and local Eagle Scout candidates to provide the community with the opportunity to receive free bike racks. Please view the following link for more information: www.toaks.org/civica/filebank/blobdload.asp?BlobID=20053.</p>	2016





Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city has installed neighborhood traffic calming roundabouts to improve livability by reducing speeding and traffic volumes and increase safety for walking and bicycling. 2. 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. 3. In 2014, the city first offered emPower Central Coast and CaliforniaFIRST Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing programs for residential property owners to install renewable energy systems and/or make energy efficiency upgrades. The PACE financing providers with whom the city has partnered now include Alliance NRG, Renewable Funding LLC, Renovate America, Inc., the Western Riverside Council of Governments' HERO program, FigTree and Ygrene PACE providers. Please see the following link for more information: www.toaks.org/government/depts/public_works/environmental/residential/energy/default.asp. 	2016





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Silver	1. There are over 27,000 city maintained trees in Thousand Oaks. The city has implemented the use of drought tolerant and flood resistant landscaping in all city-maintained areas designated for planting. The city is currently updating its Forestry Master Plan and creating a new Landscape Master Plan to provide attractive drought tolerant median plantings that will reduce irrigation needs.	2016

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city achieved Tree City USA status in 1998. The city keeps this status by maintaining a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry and celebrating Arbor Day. The annual Arbor Earth Day celebration has become one of the city's signature public events. 2. The city is host to a Ventura County Certified Farmers Market on Saturday mornings. The Thousand Oaks Farmers Market runs on Thursday afternoons at the Oaks Mall. Farmers markets support the availability of healthy, locally grown produce. 	2016

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. The city offers the Adopt an Oak Program as an innovative way to raise funds for open space maintenance. Oaks can be adopted in honor or memory of a loved one or business associate. The Adopt an Oak Program helps support Thousand Oaks' 15,135 acres of public open space, which comprises 40 percent of the city. Please see the following link for more information: https://www.toaks.org/government/depts/community/oak.asp .	2016





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
<p>Platinum</p>	<p>2. The Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency (COSCA) has been entrusted with the responsibility of preserving, protecting and managing open space resources in the Conejo Valley. COSCA was created in 1977 by a joint powers agreement between the City of Thousand Oaks and the Conejo Recreation and Park District, enabling the two agencies to "jointly exercise their legal powers to create a jurisdictional framework for the conservation of natural open space lands, assure coordination of local land use and resource management decisions and establish an entity to focus community resources toward achievement of adopted General Plan goals." In this context, "open space" is defined as land which is in essentially a natural, undeveloped state, and does not include golf courses, developed park sites or landscaped greenbelts. COSCA currently owns or manages 15,194 acres of open space, which comprises 40 percent of the City of Thousand Oaks, and maintains more than 150 miles of trails. Please see the following link for more information: www.conejo-openspace.org/description.htm.</p> <p>3. In 1970, the City adopted Ordinance 137-NS: Oak Tree Preservation and Protection. The ordinance is included in Chapter 14 of Title 5. Public Welfare, Morals, and Conduct of the City of Thousand Oaks Municipal Code. Please see the following link for more information: http://library.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/California/thousandoaks_ca/thecityofthousandoakscaliforniamunicipal?f=templates\$fn=default.htm\$3.0\$vid=amlegal:thousandoaks_ca.</p>	<p>2016</p>





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Silver	1. Since 2014, the City has participated in the emPower Central Coast Program, which provides LED lightbulbs, reusable bags, and other give-away items at community events in Thousand Oaks to encourage environmental responsibility. The city has also participated in over six LED Holiday Light Strand Exchange events.	2016

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Gold	<p>1. The City's Green Business Certification Program (GBCP) recognizes and rewards small and medium sized Thousand Oaks 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 Thousand Oaks 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 Thousand Oaks Certified Green Business logo to display in their window, use on their website and display in other marketing materials. Thousand Oaks Certified Green Businesses become part of a statewide network of eco-conscious businesses that attract customers increasingly drawn to businesses that demonstrate environmental stewardship. Please see the following link for more information: http://www.toaks.org/government/depts/public_works/environmental/business/green_business_certification/default.asp.</p> <p>2. The city offers a Community Enhancement Grant Program for local non-profits that undertake an environmentally beneficial project such as tree planting or setting up a recycling program on campus.</p>	2016





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
<p>Platinum</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city provides free trash and recycling bins to residents for a block or neighborhood cleanup event. 2. The City of Thousand Oaks' GoGreen webpage is a portal for the city's environmental programs. The Environmental Programs unit of the Public Works Department engages residents and businesses regularly through a variety of platforms and events. The city uses online and print communications to inform the public about energy saving tips, available rebates and events in which residents and businesses can find resources to save energy, including a blog at www.toaksgogreen.org, which was launched in 2012. The email list has over 9,500 recipients that receive our monthly e-newsletter which reduces our direct mail and print advertising costs. Please see the following link for more information: https://www.toaks.org/government/depts/public_works/environmental/default.asp. 3. The city worked closely with Waste Management and the Conejo Valley Unified School District (CVUSD) to implement a district-wide school bottle and can recycling and outreach program in fall of 2012. In total, 27 schools in the district adopted recycling programs with a goal of recycling 80 percent of bottles and cans on campus. In the first four months of the program's operation, 10 schools reported results that cumulatively diverted more than 2 tons of bottles and cans from landfill. A blog-based website, along with Facebook and Instagram social media pages, were launched to accompany the program and provide outreach, and were maintained by city staff with input from student-run recycling teams, see www.cvusdrecycles.org. The city still works with CVUSD to implement bottle and can recycling programs. Currently, there are student or parent groups on many of the 22 campuses participating that oversee the day to day operations of the recycling program. Money collected from bottle and can recycling is used to fund school programs. 	<p>2016</p>





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