

BEACON



SPOTLIGHT  
AWARD

WINNER

BEST PRACTICE  
ACTIVITIES



# City of Tulare

## Sustainability Best Practice Activities



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

*Promoting Good Government at the Local Level*



# City of Tulare

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

SPOTLIGHT AWARD		SILVER LEVEL	GOLD LEVEL	PLATINUM LEVEL
Areas of Accomplishment				
	Agency GHG Reductions			
	Community GHG Reductions			
	Agency Energy Savings		2013 (16%)	
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities	2013		
	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. The city entered into a Performance Agreement to retrofit all city buildings with high efficiency HVAC systems, double pane windows, T5 fluorescent lighting, programmable thermostats and reflective roof coating.

## Gold

2. The city's 40 signalized intersections, which had been retrofitted earlier with LED bulbs, were retrofitted with 160 T5 fluorescent safety lighting fixtures.
3. A total of 200 downtown high pressure sodium (HPS) decorative lighting fixtures were retrofitted with T5 lighting.

## Platinum

4. The city is a member of the Energy Champion Partnership with Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas Company.
5. City parking lots have been retrofitted with LED lighting and nine utility-owned streetlights surrounding the new public library have been retrofitted with LED lights.





# Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

## Silver

1. A component of the city's Performance Agreement in 2006 was to meter all 19,000 residential water services in Tulare, meeting state requirements 15 years early. The meters were equipped with remote radio reading registers allowing the entire city to be read by the same two meter readers who previously focused on commercial and industrial meters. The water consumption trend has turned downward, indicating the metering is an effective conservation measure.

## Gold

2. The city and Tulare Irrigation District entered into a partnership in 2006 to acquire land and construct new groundwater recharge facilities. The city raised water rates to purchase surface water in wet years to put into the recharge facilities. The goal is to recharge between 10,000 and 15,000 additional acre-feet per year to eliminate the groundwater overdraft in the region.
3. The city constructed a new industrial wastewater treatment plant in 2009. The state-of-the-art sequential batch reactor (SBR) is the largest in the US at 12.0 million gallons per day of capacity. The blowers providing air to the treatment process, which now removes nitrates from the effluent, are high efficiency Danish Turblex 700 hp models, for which Southern California Edison paid the city a \$256,500 incentive.

## Platinum

4. The city is currently constructing a new headworks pumping and screening structure for the domestic wastewater plant that will include a meter and pinch valve to send wastewater in excess of domestic plant capacity to the unused capacity in the industrial plant. This will allow 8-10 years of overall treatment capability before the domestic plant has to be expanded.
5. Treated effluent is used for irrigation of non-food fiber and feed crops, reducing the amount of pumping necessary to irrigate crops on 3,200 acres near the treatment plant.





# Green Building Activities

## Silver

1. The city constructed a new public library and council chambers that is certified LEED Gold.

## Gold

2. The Tulare Redevelopment Agency required that any projects funded by redevelopment comply with the Build It Green GreenPoint Rated Program. The Tule Vista (57-units), Valley Oaks Phase II (72-units) and West Trail Apartments (49-units) were all enrolled in this program and implemented energy and resource conservation measures, indoor air quality, and other green building components.
3. The city adopted the 2010 California Green Building Standards Code in January 2011, and it is now in effect. The city adopted Ordinance 11-09 on September 21, 2011, adopting the voluntary Tier 1 measures.

## Platinum





# Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

## Silver

1. Tulare is a member of the Consolidated Waste Management Authority, comprising the County of Tulare and seven of its eight cities. The recycling rate is 68% for the CWMA.

## Gold

2. Provides curbside recycling and green waste collection (composting).

## Platinum







# Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

## Silver

1. On November 18, 2008, Tulare approved an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy as an addendum to the city's existing Procurement Policy Section 1C, General Provisions, Recycled Goods.

## Gold

2. The Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy gives a 5% preference to bids from local vendors.

## Platinum





# Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

## Silver

1. The city operates four 300 kW FuelCell Energy biogas fuel cells. This 1.2 MW installation is among the largest in the country operating on biogas. The 9.5 million kWhrs generated annually offset 6,200 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.

## Gold

2. The city operates a 450 kW internal combustion engine generator running on biogas.
3. The city has installed a 1.0 MW solar photovoltaic power plant that compliments an earlier 30 kW solar carport at the wastewater treatment plant. The 1.8 million kWhrs generated annually offset 1,175 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.

## Platinum

4. The city is a member of the US EPA Green Power Partnership and ranked 16th largest on-site Green Power Generator.
5. The city has provided a public access compressed natural gas (CNG)/liquefied natural gas (LNG) fueling station for fifteen years.
6. The city sponsored the opening of the third public E85 ethanol fueling station in California in February 2008.





# Efficient Transportation Activities

## Silver

1. The city fuels its diesel fleet with B20 biodiesel.

## Gold

2. The city LNG fleet includes 21 refuse trucks and transit buses.
3. The city CNG fleet includes 30 transit buses, street sweepers, and light vehicles.

## Platinum

4. The city operates a light fleet of 65 flex fuel vehicles on E85.
5. The city established a partnership with the City of Visalia and College of the Sequoias (CoS) to develop a new transit route between Visalia, Tulare, and the CoS campus in each community. This will help facilitate access to each campus and allow for the utilization of public transportation, therefore reducing reliance on vehicles. In July 2011, there were 3,856 riders on Tulare's buses on the 11x route.





# Land Use and Community Design Activities

## Silver

1. The Tulare Redevelopment Agency has established a priority for infill sites, many of which are environmentally contaminated, and is working to promote the sustainable redevelopment of infill sites through an active Brownfield's Revitalization Program, Façade Improvement Program in the downtown, and active Economic Development Department that works to revitalize vacant and underutilized buildings.

## Gold

2. In the previous five years, the Redevelopment Agency has secured over \$1,000,000 to assess, plan, and cleanup a variety of contaminated infill sites within the City of Tulare. This effort included the cleanup of a railroad site adjacent to the downtown corridor, which is being redeveloped as a Fresh & Easy and other retail providers. Additionally, the program includes a health & safety component, so the agency has been able to integrate tracking of contaminated sites with permitting systems, and support additional training opportunities for the fire department.
3. Implementing Brownfields 2010 Job Training through the US EPA.

## Platinum





# Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

## Silver

1. Tulare has an Integrated Non-motorized Transportation Program in West Tulare, which includes evaluation of non-motorized transportation about Mulcahy, Roosevelt and Maple Schools, the installation of over 24,000 sq. ft. of new sidewalks and improvements, and the development of a new neighborhood Park at Mulcahy School. All of the improvements are either connected by new sidewalks or the Santa Fe Recreational Trail, which travels six miles east/west through the city. These improvements promote access to open space by children at the schools and the neighboring 57-unit affordable housing development Tule Vista. This collaboration is a prime example of how successful planning and coordination between municipal departments can lead to safer community, reduced vehicle usage, and improved access to open space and recreational opportunities.

## Gold

## Platinum





# Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

## Silver

1. The City of Tulare has implemented a Tulare Affordable Solar Program (TASP), which provides gap financing to install individual solar systems on affordable single-family housing, in conjunction with the state Single-family Affordable Solar Homes (SASH) rebate. Through TASP and partnering with GRID Alternatives, Tulare anticipates installing solar on over 30 residential single family homes in Tulare. To date, there have been approximately 20 residential systems installed utilizing the SASH rebate, in partnership with GRID Alternatives.

## Gold

2. The city is actively marketing and utilizing the California PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) Program, in coordination with Figtree Energy Resource Company. Tulare launched a marketing campaign in August 2011 for the program, in the hopes of expanding utilization and energy retrofits to commercial facilities in Tulare.

## Platinum







© 2019 by Institute for Local Government  
1400 K Street, Suite 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-658-8208  
[www.ca-ilg.org](http://www.ca-ilg.org)

