

BEACON

SPOTLIGHT
AWARD

WINNER

BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of Camarillo

Sustainability Best Practice Activities



INSTITUTE FOR
LOCAL GOVERNMENTSM

Promoting Good Government at the Local Level

City of Camarillo

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			2016 (20%)
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities		2016	2017
	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 participates in the in Southern California Edison's Energy Leader Partnership and attained Gold Level Tier with the adoption of the city's Energy Action Plan for agency facilities. The partnership assists with identifying and addressing energy efficiency opportunities in municipal facilities and pays increased incentives for city energy efficiency projects.

Gold

2. Since 2004, the city has used an energy control system to manage and monitor real-time energy use in city hall, the corporation yard, and water department facilities to identify usage patterns and abnormalities.
3. Since 2014, the city has offered emPower Central Coast and CaliforniaFirst energy financing programs for residential property owners. In 2015, the city added HERO and Ygrene residential energy financing providers.

Platinum

4. The city completed an Integrated Demand Side Management audit at all eligible facilities greater than 200kW.
5. The city has installed the following high efficiency measures at city hall, the corporation yard, and water department facilities: HVAC equipment, office lighting lamps and electric ballast retrofits, electric motors for a water pump station and two wells. The city's general service facilities division performs on-going energy efficiency efforts to HVAC equipment and controls and lighting. The city upgrades building exit lights and emergency lighting with LEDs and installs vending machine miser occupancy controls at city buildings. Additionally, the city opened a new library with energy efficient elements including a closed-loop HVAC system with variable-frequency drive motors, an energy management system, and an automated lighting system. Based on the average total electrical consumption of years 2007 and 2008, usage has decreased by 21%.
6. The city's information services division implemented server virtualization due to the infrastructure being outdated. The server virtualization eliminated wasted energy from the previous practice of dedicating a physical server to each computer system program. The expandability within the single system reduces the need for more computer equipment that in turn increases demand for electricity.





Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

Silver

1. The city participates in the emPower Central Coast program. emPower Central Coast provides free faucet aerators and water-efficient shower heads to residents during Energy Coach site visits as well as community events. The faucet aerators and low-flow shower heads are provided by Southern California Gas Company.

Gold

2. The city's general services facilities division has installed four waterless urinals and seven sensor activated sink faucets in city hall and five waterless urinals at the corp yard. Water consumption at city hall has decreased by 32% annually and 33% annually at the corp yard.
3. The city maintains a website with information on water-wise gardening as well a water conservation tips, resources, classes and educational opportunities.

Platinum

4. The city maintains a website that provides residents with information to about stormwater pollution and how to prevent it from occurring.
5. The Camarillo Sanitary District administers a Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Source Control program to protect the public and the environment as well as reduce blockages in their wastewater system through the regulation of wastewater discharges from food service establishments.
6. The city participates in the 20 Gallon Challenge, which encourages residents to save 20 gallons of water per person per day.





Green Building Activities

Silver

1. Since 2014, the city participates in the emPower Central Coast. The emPower program includes an energy coach service where coaches that 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.

Gold

2. The emPower program has teamed up with the statewide Energy Upgrade California program to provide homeowners with increased utility rebates for implementing energy efficient upgrades.
3. 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, benchmarking, and HVAC trainings.

Platinum

4. The city's Residential Development Control System provides incentives for projects that include water and energy conservation. Points to be awarded to projects, which incorporate various measures, such as landscaping which considers solar energy benefits, use of 10% additional energy conservation, solar access plan, and solar stub-outs on the roof.
5. The city has established a website with green building awareness information to educate and encourage homeowners and builders to use green building techniques.
6. The city uses mulch in agency landscaping as a water conservation measure.





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

Silver

1. The city, with assistance from local nonprofit community groups and a document shredding company, provides no cost periodic document shredding events to residents and businesses.

Gold

2. City residents can drop off syringes at the city's Household Hazardous Waste program or at the Mariposa Urgent Care on Las Posas Road. Pharmaceuticals can be dropped off at the Camarillo Police Station on Las Posas Road.
3. The city contracts with a private company to provide hazardous waste collection events for residents and conditionally exempt small quantity generators. Household Hazardous Waste events are held the second Friday and Saturday of every month.

Platinum

4. The city maintains a website and distributes information to residents for e-waste collection centers, toner and ink cartridges recycling opportunities, as well as where to drop off batteries and compact fluorescent lights.
5. The city distributes materials and posts information online illustrating best practices for composting.
6. The city's solid waste division works with local organizations to provide recycling events for the residents. The city also provides information about recycling opportunities on the agency's website.





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

Silver

1. The city distributed the SCE energy solutions brochure to all city employees.

Gold

2. 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.
3. The city uses a variety of technologies to reduce energy use and direct energy use to off-peak times, including installing motion detectors on some lights, automatically shutting off computers and lights at night, and educating city staff and the community about energy efficiency and alternative sources of energy.

Platinum

4. The city has reviewed current purchasing practices to identify possible green procurement opportunities.
5. The city considers life cycle pricing to ensure that the maintenance, operating, insurance, disposal, and replacement cost of producers or services are considered when evaluating purchase options.
6. In 2017, VCREA established a countywide green business program that includes the city. The green business program works with the business community to educate them about climate-friendly procurement opportunities through social media and traditional marketing.





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

Silver

1. The city received grant funds from the EECBG through the U.S. Department of Energy to develop an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy, as well as implement some major improvements to the city's corporation yard. These energy efficient improvements include the installation of a 75 kW solar array to provide an alternative, renewable source of electricity to the city. To date, the solar power system has resulted in an 82% decrease in electricity consumption.

Gold

2. The city has installed bicycle racks, and other amenities at agency facilities to promote bicycle use by agency employees and visitors.
3. The city coordinates with SCE to provide free solar workshops to Camarillo residents, businesses, and industrial property owners throughout the year.

Platinum

4. The city has installed over seven public electric vehicle charging stations and one high power station throughout Camarillo.
5. 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.
6. The city coordinates with VCREA and the Community Environmental Council of Santa Barbara to provide free solar workshops to Camarillo residents, businesses, and industrial property owners throughout the year. For example, the city is partnering with the Community Environmental Council in June to host a Solarize Ventura County Workshop at the Camarillo Public Library.





Efficient Transportation Activities

Silver

1. Since 2004, the city's Public Works department began converting street intersection traffic signal lights to LED lamps. The city upgraded all 55 traffic signal street intersections with a grant from the Energy Commission and matching funds from the city.

Gold

2. The city provides Camarillo residents with public transit bus services, including the low-cost and convenient Camarillo Area Transit Fixed Route and the Ventura County Transportation Commission Intercity service, which connects Camarillo with Thousand Oaks, Oxnard and Ventura.
3. The city provides the Camarillo Area Transit Dial-A-Ride (DAR) for curb-to-curb transit service, similar to a taxi service. This service is available to the general public and will take you anywhere within the Camarillo city limits. All DAR buses are clearly marked for identification. They are equipped with two-way radio systems, wheelchair ramps and tiedowns. Rides may be made for any purpose, such as medical appointments, work, shopping or other personal business, with the exception of rides to and from school.

Platinum

4. The city created a new asphalt bike trail connecting Camarillo and Oxnard along Ventura Blvd., near Central Avenue. The city maintains three types of bikeways in Camarillo, including: bike paths that are separate trail facilities away from the roadway; bike lanes that are signed and striped lanes along the roadway; and bike routes on marked road with an adequate shoulder.
5. The city's Department of Building and Safety offers an online-permit system as a simple, hassle free way to obtain non-plan check permits.
6. The city works with other agencies such as the Ventura County Transportation Commission to make regional bus and train service available to meet citizens' needs as well as share transportation-related information, coordinate planning goals, and take advantages of opportunities to combine and leverage resources.





Land Use and Community Design Activities

Silver

1. The city participated in SCAG's 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.

Gold

2. The city's community development department updated Section 10.10 of the Community Design Element to add policies, objectives, and standards relative to sustainable design practices for projects within the City, such as energy conservation.
3. Since 2014, the city has offered the CaliforniaFIRST program as an energy financing program for residential, commercial, industrial and multifamily property owners to install energy efficient retrofits, solar photovoltaic, or hot water systems on new or existing residential and commercial buildings. In 2015, the city added HERO, Ygrene, and Figtree energy financing providers.

Platinum

4. 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.
5. 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.
6. In an effort to help control development within its sphere of influence, Camarillo amended the city's General Plan in 1998 by adding the SOAR (Save Open space and Agricultural Resources) Ordinance. The ordinance created the Camarillo Urban Restriction Boundary (CURB) line to encourage growth patterns and protect agriculture, natural resources and other open space uses by confining development within urban limits.





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

Silver

1. The city hosts a certified farmers market on Saturday mornings from 8 am to noon on Ventura Boulevard.

Gold

2. The city maintains over seven community parks and 21 neighborhood parks to ensure the long-term health and viability of trees and other vegetation.
3. The city's landscaping section maintains a large and varied inventory of city trees because the city feels strongly that trees are good for the environment and help keep the city looking good.

Platinum

4. The city signed a Greenbelt Agreement with the City of Oxnard, County of Ventura, and LAFCO to preserve agriculture and open space between communities around the city. The agreement protects open space and agricultural lands and reassure property owners located within these areas that lands will not be prematurely converted to agriculturally incompatible uses.
5. The city is removing and replacing turf with water efficient landscaping on Carmen Drive between Paseo Camarillo and Las Posas Road.
6. The city continues to build upon the shade tree corridor effect, which began with the remaining old segments of eucalyptus rows along the U.S. 101 freeway. To this end, the Village at the Park was required to provide a dense, wooded landscape along the length of the project's freeway frontage.





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

Silver

1. The city participates in the emPower Central Coast program, which provides LED lightbulbs, reusable bags, and other give-away items at community events in Camarillo to encourage environmental responsibility.

Gold

2. The city teamed up with the VCREA to cohost a local household hazardous waste (HHW) and electronic waste (e-waste) event in November 2015 to provide residents with free energy saving LED light strands during the holiday season. The goal of the holiday light exchange was to educate Camarillo residents on the benefits of switching to LED holiday lights, which help the environment as well as lower energy use during the high demand holiday season. Camarillo residents had the opportunity to recycle several strands of their old incandescent holiday lights – whether or not they still work – in exchange for two free strands of LED holiday lights.
3. The city participates in a Coastal Clean-up day every September. During 2015's Coastal Clean-up, 32,826 volunteers removed nearly 10,000 pounds of trash and recyclables from 34 miles of Ventura County beaches and inland waterways. In Camarillo, 208 volunteers collected 816 pounds of debris from two sites. In addition to collecting trash from waterways and beaches, cleanup volunteers also collect data that provides important clues as to the nature and source of the trash. Data collections from past cleanups have shown that over 60% of the trash picked up on Coastal Clean-up day probably originated from an inland source—a city, a storm drain, or other noncoastal location and was washed onto the beach through a creek or river.

Platinum

4. The city collaborates with other local government agencies to share information about climate change and best practices to reduce greenhouse gases. For example, the city participates on an advisory working group for implementing a community choice aggregation program in Ventura County.





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

Platinum

5. The city is a member of the VCREA. Since 2016, VCREA has participated in the Camarillo High School Earth Day event and the California State University Channel Islands Annual STEM Exposition held in conjunction with Ventura County Education's Science Fair. At these events, VCREA educates students about opportunities to be more energy efficient and to reduce, re-use, and recycle. VCREA also distributes give-away items such as reusable bags and water bottles.
6. Since 2014, the city has participated in a regional climate action partnership with the County of Ventura, VCREA, and the cities of Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Simi Valley (joined in 2016), Thousand Oaks, and Ventura. This partnership resulted in the development of the Climate on the Move report. The report includes greenhouse gas inventories for the region as a whole and all eleven participating jurisdictions, 2020 greenhouse gas emission forecast, and reduction target options.





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