

BEACON



SPOTLIGHT  
AWARD

WINNER

BEST PRACTICE  
ACTIVITIES



# City of Norwalk

## Sustainability Best Practice Activities



**ILG** INSTITUTE FOR  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT<sup>SM</sup>  
*Promoting Good Government at the Local Level*



# City of Norwalk

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		2018 (12%)	
	Agency Energy Savings		2017 (13%)	
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities			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 implemented an Energy Action Plan (EAP) for city facilities. The initiatives in energy conservation highlighted in the EAP have been carried out since joining the Energy Leader Partnership Program.

## Gold

2. The city replaced more than 3,000 incandescent lights with more energy efficient LEDs in 14 buildings.
3. The city installed cool roof systems on two existing facilities, Gerdes Park and Social Services.

## Platinum

4. The city installed high efficiency HVAC units at Gerdes Park, the Community Center, and the Arts and Sports Complex.
5. The city replaced decorative lighting to LEDs at the Transportation Center, Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex, and City Hall during FY 2016-17.
6. The city upgraded to more efficient lighting by replacing walkway lighting at eight parks and replaced 282 incandescent street intersection safety lights with LEDs.
7. The city provides information about energy efficiency programs and rebates available on its website and local publication *Norwalk Now*.
8. The city is participating in the voluntary Beacon Program: Local Leadership toward Solving Climate Change to track and share city energy savings accomplishments.





# Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

## Silver

1. The city implemented a closed circuit television (CCTV) inspection and condition assessment in the Sewer System Master Plan, which covers cleaning and evaluation of Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) in sewer systems pipes.

## Gold

2. The city audited three water well pumps to identify most and least efficient equipment through the Energy Leader Partnership.
3. Norwalk is using reclaimed water at Ramona Park, Vista Verde Park, Gerdes Park, Zimmerman Park, and Foster Greenbelt.

## Platinum

4. The city installed a CalSense smart irrigation controller in early 2016 in Ramona Park to track water usage, leak detection, and the effectiveness of water efficiency activities and programs. There was a 35% decrease from the previous year's water usage and staff cost savings was captured due to the automated controller.
5. The city installed a weather based controller (WBIC) at city hall for use with CalSense smart irrigation controllers.
6. Norwalk hosted an event to distribute almost 200 rain barrels to residents to promote water conservation and rain water reuse for landscaping.
7. The city's website provides water efficient landscape design concepts as a resource to help comply with the adopted Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance.
8. The city installed smart irrigation controllers at Ramona Park and city hall for landscaping irrigation.





# Green Building Activities

## Silver

1. Norwalk enacted a Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling Ordinance that requires 65% or more diversion of project waste with security deposit system to ensure compliance based on the Green Code suggestions.

## Gold

2. The city implemented bioswales in side panels through environmental enhancement and mitigation.
3. The city trained appropriate agency staff in green building standards and technologies to facilitate the permitting approval and inspection processes.

## Platinum

4. Norwalk adopted a Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance in January 2016.
5. The city encourages the use of sub-surface drip irrigation or other low-flow water distribution systems to prevent overwatering in public parkways.
6. The city installed an energy efficient water heater at city hall.





# Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

## Silver

1. The city provides recycled trash-only containers at each employee office area for proper disposal of office paper.

## Gold

2. Norwalk provides monthly Mini Mr. SUN events. The Mini Mr. SUN Program is a neighborhood clean-up program, scheduled throughout the year at various specified areas of the community. The city provides various services including self-serve dumpsters for disposal of trash, tree clippings, furniture, large item pick-up, household hazardous waste, small batteries, and disposal of used motor oils and filters.
3. The city holds an e-waste collection and Shred-A-Thon for the community twice a year.

## Platinum

4. City employees are advised and encouraged to use recycled products by providing automatic substitutions through current office supply vendors when price and quality are the same as or within a reasonable cost of non-recycled products.
5. The city uses Green Halo software, which is an online software resource that allows the city to track and view reported construction and demolition recycling, and follow projects in real-time while ensuring compliance with recycling guidelines.
6. Norwalk provides bins for collection of used batteries for proper disposal and recycling at five city facilities.
7. The city recycles old electronic components with a properly certified recycler.
8. Norwalk returns all used copy machine ink toner cartridges, fax machines, and printer toner cartridges to the manufacturers for recycling.
9. The city provides presentations to local elementary schools on the importance of recycling used motor oil and oil filters. This education program includes an annual artwork contest, where the winning entries are recognized at a city council meeting and featured on the city's website and cable channel to promote used oil recycling.





# Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

## Silver

1. The city passed an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy to help minimize pollution and waste and maximize use of recycled materials.

## Gold

2. The city's purchasing system includes a 5% reduction in bid calculation for preference in local vendors.
3. The "preferred" designated choice of products is recycled products. Staples supplies the city with an Environmental Purchases Summary Report outlining information about environmental attributes.

## Platinum

4. The city purchases printing and writing papers, including all imprinted letterhead/stationery paper, envelopes, and copy paper containing a minimum of 30% post-consumer recycled content.
5. The city purchases paper products, including janitorial supplies, shop towels, hand towels, toilet paper, corrugated boxes, file boxes, file folders, and other products composed largely of paper with recycle content.
6. The city purchases recycled plastic products when feasible considering cost and durability.





# Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

## Silver

1. The city invested in the construction of a CNG station to provide fuel to 18 CNG transportation buses operating in Norwalk, saving the city approximately \$500,000 a year.

## Gold

2. The city installed 12 electric charging stations at the Metrolink Station through SCE's Charge Ready Program.
3. The city's website provides an energy efficiency section, which details information about the California Solar Initiative Rebate and resources from SCE.

## Platinum

4. The city allocated Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCCTOP) funds to Cerritos Community College to support its Falcon Student Pass Program in an effort to increase ridership of the CNG transit buses.
5. The city purchased fuel efficient vehicles to save fuel and money and reduce GHG emissions with a fleet of three Ford Fusion hybrids, 15 Toyota Prius C, four Ford CNG trucks, and 18 CNG buses. The city constructed a natural gas charging station for city vehicles in 2015.
6. Effective September 16, 2015, the City of Norwalk and the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District entered into an agreement whereby the district has agreed to purchase and the city has agreed to sell CNG fuel for a three-year term. The term may be extended upon terms and conditions mutually agreed upon by both parties in writing.





# Efficient Transportation Activities

## Silver

1. The Norwalk Transit System (NTS) provides services to Norwalk and portions of seven surrounding cities. Norwalk Transit's paratransit advance reservation dial-a-ride service operates within the jurisdictional boundary of the city and provides paratransit user-side subsidy taxi voucher service for weekday inter-jurisdictional service and late evening service.

## Gold

2. The city uses Fleet Watch to manage CNG fuel use and manage vehicle use efficiently.
3. The city hosts a verification of transit training annually to remind operators of ways to drive properly and efficiently.

## Platinum

4. Norwalk Transit hosts an annual Thanksgiving canned food drive, offering a free one-way trip for a canned good donation.
5. The city promotes public transit through incentives and by improving bus stops.
6. Norwalk installed bicycle racks, showers, and other amenities at the Arts and Sports Complex facility, Transportation/Public Services Center, and City Hall to promote bicycle riding.





# Land Use and Community Design Activities

## Silver

1. The Community Development Department incorporated water conservation and sustainability in an internal staff presentation video.

## Gold

2. The city's 2020 Vision Strategic Action Plan includes an objective to identify locations to construct alternative urban pathways, including bike and walking paths and park trails.
3. The city partnered with LA County Public Library on smart gardening workshops, which included drought-tolerant landscaping practices.

## Platinum

4. The city assesses pedestrian and bicycle conditions in communities for need and implementation as funding allows.
5. The city requires sidewalks in all new developments and seeks to incorporate trees and tree wells in all sidewalk areas, where feasible.
6. The city participates in regional planning efforts, such as processes to develop and implement the regional SCS and, where appropriate, aligns local general plans and zoning with the regional transportation plan for consistency.





# Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

## Silver

1. The city adopted a Tree Care Ordinance to protect urban forests, including protection for specific individual trees or tree species important to the community.

## Gold

2. City staff takes inventory of existing trees owned and managed by the city.
3. The city provides tree planting resources and information on the city website.

## Platinum

4. The city was designated a Tree City USA community by the Arbor Day Foundation for three consecutive years.
5. The city increased recreational open space by acquiring 15 acres of the Norwalk Tank Farm for future expansion of Holifield Park.
6. The City of Norwalk maintains two greenbelts, 11 parks, a skate park, an aquatic pavilion, and teen center.
7. City staff, seniors, students, and volunteers completed above-ground planters with herbs, fruits, and vegetables at the Senior Center to promote healthy living and multigenerational collaboration.





# Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

## Silver

1. The city publishes quarterly issues of the “One Person’s Trash...” newsletter in English and Spanish, which provides timely information on reducing, reusing, and recycling. This also promotes environmental efforts and informs residents about events carried out within the City of Norwalk and the surrounding area.

## Gold

2. The “Norwalk Now” monthly newsletter for residents and businesses also promotes recycling events, provides information on the city’s conservation efforts and is a means for community involvement in environmental programs.
3. Various events, such as SnowFest and summer concerts are hosted by the city to provide residents information about energy efficiency, natural gas, and water conservation.

## Platinum

4. The city hosts electronic waste collection, paper shredding, and used motor oil filter exchange events to encourage recycling and diversion of material to landfills various times a year.
5. The city provides assistance promoting energy and water conservation through the Energy Leader Partnership.
6. The city worked in collaboration with a local middle school to host an “I Love Trees Because...” drawing contest and provided recognition to the winners in city hall.
7. The city invites elementary school students to the National Public Works Week open house, as well as to school tours at city hall, where youth are presented with information and activities educating them on stormwater pollution prevention, recycling, energy conservation, and environmental preservation and Public Works functions.







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