

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INSTITUTE
FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS BEACON AWARD
PROGRAM
STAFF PRESENTER: DELL TREDINNICK
UTILITIES DEPARTMENT
AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

ISSUE(S)

Should the City of Santa Rosa participate in the Institute for Local Governments Beacon Award Program?



COUNCIL GOALS/STRATEGIES

This supports and reflects the adopted City Council Goal #3; Provide Leadership for Environmental Initiatives.

BACKGROUND

The Institute for Local Government, (ILG) is the non-profit research arm of the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties. ILG in conjunction with the Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative, (SEEC), sponsors a Beacon Award through its California Climate Action Network Program. The Beacon Award recognizes and celebrates California cities and counties that:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy use
- Adopt policies and programs to address climate change
- Promote Sustainability

The Beacon Award Program is funded by the California utility rate payers and administered by Pacific Gas and Electric Company under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.

The Beacon Award recognizes several different levels of achievement designated by Silver, Gold and Platinum categories.

Cities and Counties will be honored with Silver, Gold and Platinum Beacon Awards for achieving specific measurable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and energy savings in agency facilities and by achieving measurable greenhouse gas reductions and promoting energy conservation in the community.

The City of Santa Rosa has long been actively pursuing these reductions in both its internal operations and promoting best practices within the community. Some prime examples of this include the adoption of both voluntary, then green building standards long before these enhanced practices were required by law. Our steadily growing portfolio of solar energy projects has offset our traditional energy demands, aided the local solar businesses, reduced our GHG emissions and help stabilize rates. Our Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Policy (EPP) has helped leverage the \$27+ million dollars we spend annually on goods and services to make our operation more environmentally friendly by reducing waste, stimulating recycled products and helping green the marketplace for all.

The City of Santa Rosa has met or exceeded the base level criteria for the Beacon Award in many areas. The Beacon Award promotes a course we are already on and reflects the action we have already taken or are taking and will validate it among the other Cities and Counties in California.

ANALYSIS

1. The City of Santa Rosa has completed the essential aspects to qualify for the Beacon Award with the development and adoption of the Santa Rosa Community Climate Action Plan, (CCAP) on June 5, 2012. The CCAP is being augmented by the Municipal Climate Action Plan, (MCAP), which addresses the emissions and efficiencies from City operations.
2. The completion and adoption of the MCAP will allow us to qualify for a higher level of award than the base level achieved by adopting and implementing the CCAP. The specific award level for which we may already be eligible will be determined in the near future. This designation depends on the determination of base year and the quantification metrics used by ILG.
3. The MCAP has been funded by American Resource Recovery Act, (ARRA) and it provides an organized list of options which promote energy efficiency, reduce costs, reduce GHG emissions from City operations, and support the intent of City Council Goal # 3.
4. The preparation, adoption and implementation of both the CCAP and MCAP have been established and will be established independently of the Beacon Award. The Beacon Award Program will not require any new expense or significant staff time. Participation in this program is an opportunity to underscore and promote our actions within the community of California cities and counties.

5. Participation in the ILG Beacon Award program provides a formal mechanism to share successes and best practices in the complex arena of climate protection. It promotes coordination among local governments in setting the foundation for effective measures to be implemented efficiently and have greater impact.

RECOMMENDATION

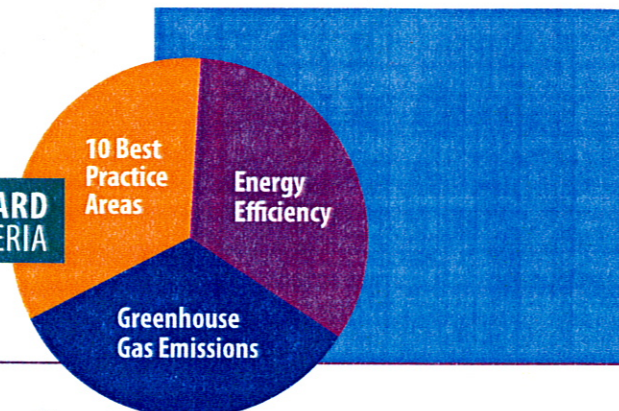
It is recommended that the Council, by resolution, authorize the City of Santa Rosa to participate in the ILG Beacon Award process and the various levels of achievement.

Author: Dell Tredinnick, Utilities Project Development Manager

Attachments: Beacon Award Criteria
ILG Beacon Award Best Practices

Participants receive recognition when they complete the award level criteria.

BEACON AWARD CRITERIA



Silver Beacon Award

Agency facilities and operations	
Greenhouse gas reduction	5% in agency facilities and operations
Electricity and natural gas savings	5% in agency facilities and operations from energy efficiency retrofits
Community	
Greenhouse gas reduction	5% in the community as a whole
Energy efficiency	One activity that promotes energy efficiency in the community
Best Practice Areas	One activity in each of the 10 Best Practice Areas

Gold Beacon Award

Agency facilities and operations	
Greenhouse gas reduction	10% in agency facilities and operations
Electricity and natural gas savings	10% in agency facilities and operations from energy
Community	
Greenhouse gas reduction	10% in the community as a whole
Energy efficiency	Two activities that promote energy efficiency in the community
Best Practice Areas	Two activities in each of the 10 Best Practice Areas

Platinum Beacon Award

Agency facilities and operations	
Greenhouse gas reduction	20% in agency facilities and operations
Electricity and natural gas savings	20% in agency facilities and operations from energy efficiency retrofits
Community	
Greenhouse gas reduction	20% in the community as a whole
Energy efficiency	Four activities that promote energy efficiency in the community
Best Practice Areas	Three activities in each of the 10 Best Practice Areas

For more about Best Practice Areas, see www.ca-ilg.org/ClimatePractices.

INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS BEACON AWARD

TEN BEST PRACTICES AREAS:

1. ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION
2. WATER AND WASTE WATER SYSTEMS
3. GREEN BUILDING
4. WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING
5. CLIMATE-FRIENDLY PURCHASING
6. RENEWABLE ENERGY AND LOW-CARBON FUELS
7. EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION
8. LAND USE AND COMMUNITY DESIGN
9. OPEN SPACE AND OFFSETTING CARBON EMISSIONS
10. PROMOTING COMMUNITY AND INDIVIDUAL ACTION