

South Bay Cities Council of Government

February 9, 2026

TO: SBCCOG Steering Committee
FROM: Jacki Bacharach, Executive Director
SUBJECT: South Bay Energy and Climate Recognition Program

BACKGROUND

The South Bay Energy and Climate Recognition (SBECR) program recognizes cities in South Bay for their efforts in pursuing energy efficiency initiatives and sustainability related tasks. To participate, cities must demonstrate commitment to energy efficiency, climate action, and adaptation and promote those objectives. This program is provided through the partnership between the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) and SoCalREN and is funded in part by SoCalGas.

The SBECR program launched on January 1st, 2023, and has completed three program cycles. During each program year, the SBCCOG recognizes cities at an annual ceremony hosted in December. Cities earning distinction in the program receive an award. Cities receive increasing recognition at each level achieved and are given a certificate, as well as acknowledgement on the SBCCOG website and social media.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

For the fourth program cycle in 2026, SBCCOG staff has updated the Program Guidelines to provide additional opportunity for city achievements, while also encouraging further participation in sustainability efforts [see Attachment 1]. Similar to prior years, cities must complete at least one activity in each of the following three categories by the third Monday of November: 1. Climate Action & Adaptation; 2. Education & Engagement; and 3. Technical Assistance and Implementation.

PROJECT COMPONENTS

To meet project objectives, the following revisions are being added to the guidelines for the 2026 cycle:

Increase point maximums on activities

Point limits for the following activities will increase:

- Attend a meeting, training, webinar, forum, or summit related to energy efficiency or sustainability (increased from 2 to 3 point maximum)

- Promote energy efficiency or sustainability actions and best practices through city newsletter, website, social media, cable, or other city communication channels (increased from 2 to 3 point maximum)
- Coordinate with the SBCCOG to maintain energy records, energy bills, and utility data, including ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager (removed point maximum)
- Complete energy audit or review (removed point maximum)

Adding new activities

The following activities will be added to the guidelines:

- Be enrolled in the Institute for Local Governments' Beacon Program (point can only be awarded during one program year).
- Repost a SBCCOG sustainability social media post or collaborate on a post with SBCCOG account.

Increase point requirements for recognition levels

Recognition level point thresholds will be revised as follows:

- Platinum: 35+ (previously 30+)
- Gold: 25-34 (previously 21-29)
- Silver: 15-24 (previously 12-20)
- Bronze: 5-14 (previously 3-11)

NEW Partner Award

New this year, cities earning a distinction in the energy and climate awards would now be able to earn a special Partner award from the SBCCOG's participating partners including Water Replenishment District and West Basin Municipal Water District by completing activities that support their agency's sustainability initiatives. To earn this distinction, separate from the energy and climate awards, cities must complete outreach and programming activities from both Partners [see Attachment 1]. Note: These activities will be separate from the points in the energy award categories.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and File

ATTACHMENTS

[Recognition Program Guidelines](#)

Memo prepared by Shawn Fujioka