



SOUTH BAY
ENERGY AND CLIMATE
RECOGNITION PROGRAM



South Bay Energy & Climate Recognition Program Guidelines

Overview

The South Bay Energy and Climate Recognition Program (SBECRP) recognizes cities in the South Bay for their efforts in pursuing energy efficiency initiatives and sustainability related tasks. To participate, cities must be enrolled in the Southern California Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN) and 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 the SoCalREN and is funded in part by SoCalGas.

Cities receive recognition for completing activities that promote energy efficiency, achieve energy savings targets, and make strides towards sustainability. Each specific activity or project counts for one point, and cities can earn bonus points for energy savings achieved through projects completed within a program year. To achieve points for the 2026 calendar year, cities must complete at least one activity in each of the following 3 categories by the third Monday of November – **1. Climate Action & Adaptation;** **2. Education & Engagement;** and **3. Technical Assistance and Implementation.** Activities are tracked by the SBCCOG, and documentation must be provided to receive credit for activities. Importantly, cities must be enrolled in the SoCalREN to participate.

Energy Champions

Collaboration between city and SBCCOG staff is essential to the success of the SBECRP. City staff members are referred to as Energy Champions in the program. In order to receive recognition, each city must identify a Champion. The expectation is for Energy Champions to be the point people for their city to communicate program advancement to the SBCCOG. These individuals are pillars of sustainability for their city.

Activities

One point is awarded for each completed activity. There are three categories of activities – 1. Climate Action & Adaptation; 2. Education & Engagement; and 3. Technical Assistance and Implementation. In addition, weighted points will be awarded for Energy Savings. Cities must complete at least one activity per category to receive recognition. **Documentation must be provided to receive credit for activities.** Cities may choose any combination of activities from the categories below:

1. Climate Action & Adaptation: (an expected total of 17 possible points)

- 1.1 Implement a strategy from your city's adopted Climate Action Plan, or a strategy that addresses other issues such as extreme heat and biodiversity (1 point per strategy, no max). See examples in Appendix A.
- 1.2 Implement an on-site renewable system, equipment that reduces peak demand such as battery storage, or encourage clean energy purchase to your community (1 point per activity, 3 point maximum). This activity can be achieved with SoCalREN involvement or through energy providers. Examples include promotion of renewable energy for residents, and promotion of renewable energy on city website.
- 1.3 Participate actively in a SBCCOG sustainability initiative by providing program support or implementation in the following (1 point per program milestone achievement, No max). Examples include Micromobility/implementing the Local Travel Network, installing SoCalREN Heat Pump Water Heater offering, utilizing SoCalGas energy efficient pool covers, West Basin Turf Replacement, West Basin Water Bottle Filling Station, or pursue funding to support sustainability initiatives. See examples in Appendix A.
- 1.4 Communication/Promotion of residential or commercial programs (1 point per program, no maximum) – an example is ICF Multifamily energy efficiency program.
- 1.5 Participate in California Green Business Network with SBCCOG by supporting with letter from the city, introduction to businesses, provide "green" business supplies, or promotion online (1 point per supporting activity, 2 points maximum)
- 1.6 **NEW!** Be enrolled in the Institute for Local Governments' Beacon Program (1 point maximum, point can only be awarded during one program year)

2. Education & Engagement: (an expected total of 21 possible points)

- 2.1 Attend Energy Manager Working Group (EMWG) meetings (1 point for each meeting attended; no limit to the number of points earned). Attendees may be the Energy Champion and/or another staff member. Meetings are planned for every 4 months, therefore it is anticipated that there will be a maximum of three meetings per year.
 - a. To earn an additional point, present best practices or experience at an EMWG.
- 2.2 Communicate potential and planned sustainability initiatives with SBCCOG prior to implementation (1 point for each quarter of updates given, 4 points maximum). These points can be earned by e-mailing the SBCCOG staff, filling out the [BRAG form](#) and/or sharing upcoming projects at EMWG meetings.
- 2.3 Attend a meeting, training, webinar, forum, or summit related to energy efficiency or sustainability (1 point for each attended, 3 points maximum).
 - a. To earn an additional point, share ideas or results from a meeting, training, webinar, forum, or summit related to energy efficiency or sustainability. Sharing can be done by providing a short summary of what you learned and sending it to SBCCOG team.
- 2.4 Host a presentation or community outreach event (ex. Earth Day, Bike-to-Work, etc.) relating to energy efficiency, water conservation, or sustainability (1 point for each event, 3 points maximum). SBCCOG staff may be available to assist with tabling at events.

- 2.5 Conduct a presentation or workshop highlighting energy and climate best practices or accomplishments to city staff, committee, commission, council, or another agency (1 point for each event, 2 points maximum).
- 2.6 Promote energy efficiency or sustainability actions and best practices through city newsletter, website, social media, cable, or other city communication channels (1 point for each post, 3 points maximum). Promotions must be intended to share information to constituents on energy efficiency or sustainability.
 - a. **NEW!** Repost a SBCCOG sustainability social media post or collaborate on a post with SBCCOG account to earn an additional point.

3. Technical Assistance and Implementation: (an expected total of 8 possible points)

- 3.1 Coordinate with the SBCCOG to maintain energy records, energy bills, and utility data, including ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager (1 point for submitting necessary data, 1 point for AB802 compliance, no point maximum).
- 3.2 Complete energy audit, review findings, update equipment list, or participate in an Energy Use Review (1 point for each completed, no point maximum in category). These can include the following:
 - a. Facility Equipment Inventory (FEI) visit and follow-up meeting with SBCCOG. If city completed this in previous program years, submit updates for completed inventories.
 - b. Complete a Comprehensive Energy Analysis (CEA) with SoCalREN.
 - c. Participate in an Energy Use Review: a report that looks at overall energy consumption trends and identifies areas of high consumption and potential strategies for consumption reduction.
 - d. Complete other energy audit.
- 3.3 Complete an energy efficiency project including any of the recommendations made in FEI and/or CEA (1 point given for each type of upgrade: HVAC, lighting, or behavioral; no limit to the number of points earned). See examples in **Appendix A**.
 - a. Cities may also earn points for quantified energy savings achieved through projects completed during the program year. City energy savings are calculated on baseline year 2019 municipal energy use. Documentation may take the form of SoCalGas, Edison, or SoCalREN written proof.
 - 5% combined kWh/therm savings at the meter – 3 points
 - 15% combined kWh/therm savings at the meter – 6 points
 - 30% combined kWh/therm savings at the meter – 9 points
- 3.4 Participate in a SoCalGas or SoCalREN program (1 point, no maximum)
 - a. [Revolving Savings Fund](#)
 - b. [Streamlined Savings Pathway](#)
 - c. [Public Power UP Program](#)
 - d. [Pathway to Zero](#)
- 3.5 Obtain sustainability certification for a municipal building (3 point per certification, no maximum)
 - a. [LEED certification](#)
 - b. [EnergyStar Certification](#)

Tracking Award Activity

Documentation must be submitted through SBCCOG Microsoft form: [BRAG \(Boldly Recognizing Achievements and Goals\)](#). Here you will note the category, activity, and a brief explanation of how the activity relates to the program and furthers energy efficiency or sustainability. We suggest submitting the form as soon as the activity has been completed, or at least quarterly to be included on the SBCCOG's report to the Board of Directors. SBCCOG will track all activities based on the BRAG form onto the SBECRP tracker (see **Appendix B**).

Each quarter, the SBCCOG will update the tracker and provide progress reports to Energy Champions, SBCCOG Board of Directors, and City Managers. Recommendations to encourage achievement will also be included in the progress reports. Cities have until the third Monday of November annually to provide corrections or updates to the tracker. For the 2026 program year, the **deadline is November 16th, 2026**.

Recognition Levels

The four recognition levels are identified as Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum. The following table shows the number of points required for each level.

In order to receive recognition, cities must identify an Energy Champion.

Notes:

- 1 point must be earned in each category (Climate Action & Adaptation, Education & Engagement, and Technical Assistance and Implementation) to earn distinction in the program.
- To achieve the Platinum Recognition Level, cities must earn at least 35 points and must complete at least 1 energy efficiency project.

RECOGNITION LEVEL	POINTS REQUIRED
Platinum	35+
Gold	25-34
Silver	15-24
Bronze	5-14

Recognition Event

The SBCCOG and the SoCalREN will recognize cities at an annual ceremony hosted in December. Cities earning distinction in the program will receive an award. In addition, recognition may take place at EMWG meetings, City Council meetings, and SBCCOG Board meetings. Cities will receive increasing recognition with each level. At a minimum, recognition will include a certificate, and acknowledgement on the SBCCOG website and social media.

Contact

Questions, corrections, and updates can be directed to shawn@southbaycities.org

Program Evaluation

The SBCCOG and SoCalREN will review the SBECR Program annually. The review will include city input. Any revisions will be incorporated into the next program cycle.

Summary of Activities & Corresponding Points

Category	Activities Progress	Min	Max
Climate Action & Adaptation	1.1. Implement a strategy from your City's adopted Climate Action Plan	1	unlimited
	1.2. Implemented an on-site renewable system or encourage clean energy purchase to your community	1	3
	1.3. Participated in a sustainability SBCCOG initiative or pursued funding	1	unlimited
	1.4. Communicated/promoted residential or commercial programs	1	unlimited
	1.5. Participated in the California Green Business Network with SBCCOG	1	2
	1.6. Enrolled in the Beacon Program	1	1
	total possible for this section	6	9+
Education & Engagement	2.1. Attended Energy Manager Working Group meetings	1	unlimited
	2.2. Communicated potential & planned sustainability initiatives	1	4
	2.3. Attended meetings, trainings, webinars, forums, or summits	1	3
	2.4. Hosted a community event related to energy efficiency, water conservation, or sustainability	1	3
	2.5. Conducted a sustainability presentation or workshop for city staff, committee, or commission	1	2
	2.6. Promoted energy or sustainability work with SBCCOG on website, newsletter, or social media	1	3
	total possible for this section	6	16+
Technical Assistance	3.1. Coordinated to maintain energy records/utility data	1	unlimited
	3.2. Completed energy audit or review with SBCCOG/SoCalREN	1	unlimited
	3.3. Completed an energy efficiency project	1	unlimited
	3.3.a. 5% combined kWh/therms savings	3	3
	3.3.b. 15% combined kWh/therms savings	6	6
	3.3.c. 30% combined kWh/therms savings	9	9
	3.4. Participated in a SoCalGas or SoCalREN program	1	unlimited
	3.5. Obtained building sustainability certification	3	unlimited
total possible for this section	7	7+	



NEW! Partner Award

Cities earning a distinction in the energy and climate awards are now able to earn a special **Partner Award** from our participating partners at the Water Replenishment District and West Basin Municipal Water District by participating in their programs.

To earn this distinction, separate from the energy and climate awards, cities must earn a point from both the Outreach and Programming sections from both Partners. Note: These activities will be separate from the points in the energy award categories.

Partner	Outreach	Programming
Water Replenishment District (WRD)	<p>Promote groundwater stewardship to residents through city communication channels. Materials stored in this media kit* provide information to protect groundwater resources and contamination prevention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 1 article in an e-blast/newsletter • 3 other promotions (can be a mix of social media posts, mailers, WRD materials shared at events) 	<p>Coordinate with SBCCOG and WRD to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host an eco gardener class at your city; OR • Promote annual student art contest and calendar; OR • Have city staff, elected officials, students or volunteers tour a WRD facility, such as the Albert Robles Center for Water Recycling and Environmental Learning in Pico Rivera, Leo J. Vander Lans Advanced Water Treatment Facility in Long Beach, or the Robert W. Goldworthy Desalter in Torrance; OR • Invite a WRD representative to present on a major project, such as the Brackish Groundwater Reclamation Program, to a city meeting.
West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin)	<p>Promote West Basin’s Public Agency & Business Grass Rebate Program and upcoming irrigation ban for non-functional grass. Information on AB1572 and the upcoming potable watering ban on non-functional grass will help cities, businesses, and homeowner associations comply with the law. Media kit* resources can be deployed through city communication channels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 e-blast • 1 social media post tagging West Basin • Information on website • Collateral distribution at 1 community event 	<p>Coordinate with SBCCOG and West Basin to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host a city council, chamber of commerce, or business association presentation; OR • Coordinate with West Basin to host a free landscape class; OR • Coordinate with West Basin to take/host a tour of a West Basin facility for city staff, elected officials, students or volunteers.

*The items in the media kit are the only media items that will earn your city points for the partner awards — you may not design your own posts/articles/etc. The media kit items may be updated throughout the program to reflect new WRD or West Basins programs.

Appendix A: Project Examples

Potential activities include, but are not limited to, the following. If your city has completed another activity that is not listed, please submit it to the SBCCOG for consideration by **the third Monday of November annually**. To the best of their ability, cities should submit projects for approval quarterly, but no later than the third Monday of November.

Climate Action Planning, Adaptation, & Biodiversity

- Install public alternative fuel/electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure
- Upgrade pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian infrastructure
- Install renewable fuel sources including solar panels, wind turbines, etc.
- Establish/maintain a local farmers market or community garden
- Implement “green infrastructure” or landscaping to improve natural storm water function (ex. Contour planting, terracing, and afforestation for erosion control)
- Replace traditional asphalt with permeable road surfaces
- Install native landscaping/turf replacement

Municipal Energy Saving

- Upgrade HVAC units to more energy efficient models to remove phased-out refrigerants (FEI Recommendation)
- Upgrade pumps, motors, and other energy intensive machinery where feasible
- Replace natural gas fueled appliances and equipment, such as boilers, stoves, water heaters, with high efficiency units
- Upgrade lighting to install motion sensors, photocells, and multi-level switches to control room lighting systems (FEI Recommendation)
- Replace incandescent lights with more energy efficient lighting, such as compact fluorescent lights, overhead fluorescent lights, or light-emitting diodes (LEDs) (FEI Recommendation)
- Replace incandescent and mercury vapor street, parking lot, park, traffic, crosswalk, and other outdoor lights with energy efficient alternatives, such as light-emitting diodes (LEDs)
- Use “de-lamping” techniques to reduce lighting levels at parks, sports fields, and parking lots, where appropriate for the location and use, considering security and decorative lighting issues
- Encourage behavioral changes such as turning off lights and unplugging appliances when not in use (install signage, communicate benefits) (FEI Recommendation)
- Install cool roof systems on existing and new municipal buildings
- Install smart meters on municipal buildings

Appendix B: SBECR Tracker

This tracker will be updated with city progress and shared with cities at the end of each quarter. Recommendations on potential activities to be completed will be provided at this time as well.

Activities Progress															
Climate Action & Adaptation	Implemented a strategy from your City's adopted Climate Action Plan (no max)														
	Implemented an on-site renewable system or encourage clean energy purchase in community ***														
	Participated in a sustainability SBCCOG initiative or pursued funding (no max)														
	Promoted /Communicated residential or commercial programs (no max)														
	Participated in the California Green Business Network with SBCCOG**														
Education & Engagement	Enrolled in the Beacon Program*														
	Attended Energy Manager Working Group meeting (no max)														
	Communicated potential and planned sustainability initiatives with SBCCOG****														
	Attended an energy or sustainability training, webinar, forum, or summit***														
	Hosted a community event related to energy efficiency, water conservation, or sustainability***														
Technical Assistance	Conducted a sustainability presentation or workshop for city staff, committee, or commission**														
	Promoted energy or sustainability work with SBCCOG on website, newsletter, or social media***														
	Coordinated to maintain energy records/utility data (no max)														
	Completed energy audit or review with SBCCOG/SoCalREN (no max)														
	Completed an energy efficiency project (no max) 5% combined kWh/therms savings (3pt) 15% combined kWh/therms savings (6pt) 30% combined kWh/therms savings (9pt)														
Participated in a SoCalGas or SoCalREN program (no max)															
Obtained building sustainability certification (no max)															
POINT TOTALS Platinum: 35+ Gold: 25-34 Silver: 15-24 Bronze: 5-14 Red text= City has not yet completed one activity per category	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Carson	El Segundo	Gardena	Hawthorne	Hermosa Beach	Inglewood	Lawndale	Lomita	Manhattan Beach	Palos Verdes Estates	Rancho Palos Verdes	Redondo Beach	Rolling Hills	Rolling Hills Estates	
	Torrance														

*Updated as of 2/25/26