



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** December 7, 2010  
**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers  
**FROM:** City Administrator's Office  
**SUBJECT:** Beacon Award Application For Sustainability Programs

### RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara in Support of the City's Participation in the Institute for Local Government's Beacon Award Program to Recognize Achievements from Citywide Sustainability Programs.

### DISCUSSION:

The Institute for Local Government (ILG) has initiated the Beacon Award Program to recognize cities and counties for achievements in environmental programs. ILG is a non-profit affiliate organization of the League of California Cities and California State Association of Counties.

The Beacon Award Program recognizes cities and counties for saving energy, conserving resources, promoting sustainability, and reducing emissions within municipal operations and the community. Program applications are accepted on an ongoing basis and there is no timeline to complete initiatives to receive an award.

To be eligible to participate in the program, cities must agree to take the following steps:

- Preparation or commitment to prepare a baseline greenhouse gas inventory for agency facilities and the community as a whole;
- Preparation or commitment to prepare a climate action plan;
- Compliance with AB 939, the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, that required waste diversion of 50% or greater; and

The City of Santa Barbara has met or intends to meet these criteria. To receive an award, the City must achieve specified greenhouse gas emissions reductions, energy savings and best practice activities in the following areas:

- Energy efficiency and conservation,
- Water and wastewater systems,
- Green building,

- Waste reduction and recycling,
- Green purchasing,
- Renewable energy and low-carbon fuels,
- Efficient transportation,
- Land use and community design,
- Open space, and
- Promoting community and individual action.

The program will recognize communities with Silver, Gold, or Platinum Awards as minimum requirements are achieved for each award level. For example, a city is eligible for a Silver Beacon Award when it demonstrates a 5% reduction in energy use and greenhouse gas emissions for municipal operations, a 5% reduction in community greenhouse gas emissions, and completion of one activity in each of the ten best practice areas listed above. Participating cities select their own base year to measure reductions in energy use and emissions, allowing individual jurisdictions to maintain different goals and tracking systems.

Since the City has already completed many of the best practices, it is anticipated that the City of Santa Barbara would be considered favorably for a Beacon Award. The award would recognize the efforts of numerous City staff who have implemented sustainability efforts citywide.

The Sustainability Council Committee reviewed the Beacon Award in November 2010 and unanimously recommended that Council adopt a resolution to support the City submitting an application for its environmental programs.

**PREPARED BY:** Nina Johnson, Assistant to the City Administrator

**SUBMITTED BY:** Jim Armstrong, City Administrator

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office