

# Gateway Cities

## 2023 ENERGY ACTION AWARDS



### Which Cities will achieve Gold in 2023?

**2022**  
*Bell Gardens*  
*Long Beach*  
*Maywood*  
*Paramount*  
*Pico Rivera*  
*Signal Hill*

**2021**  
*Paramount*  
*Lynwood*  
*Long Beach*

- **Competition closes:**  
**Wednesday,**  
**November 15th**
- **Awards presented:**  
**Tuesday,**  
**December 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**EWG Meeting**

The Gateway Cities Energy Action Awards (GCEAA) are designed to recognize cities for your actions to improve energy efficiency and sustainability and to provide motivation to continue your progress going forward.

In 2021, our first year, three cities earned Gold and in 2022 that number doubled to six cities! Maybe that number will double again with twelve cities earning Gold in 2023 – good luck to you all!

### AWARD TIMELINE

The 2023 GCEAA framework was introduced at the March 14th Energy Working Group (EWG). Cities will have until Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> to continue to compete for points to progress to higher levels. Award presentations will take place at the December 12<sup>th</sup> EWG meeting. Cities that attended and provided city updates at the March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting have already earned up to two additional points for that meeting as well!

### WHAT'S CHANGED? AWARD MODEL AND POINTS

Again, the GCEAA continues to keep it simple by carrying over six activity points earned in previous years. In the past, cities were recognized for twice as many activities that were completed in past years, with each activity counting for one point regardless of when the activity was completed. This year we changed the model to encourage cities to make more progress in 2023, with eighteen activities that require action this year and only six rolling over from the past.

#### Six activities from previous years will carry over to 2023:

Cities that have not yet completed any of these six activities may still gain a point if they complete the activity in 2023.

1. Enrollment in SoCalREN
2. Enrollment in the Beacon Program
3. Completing a Climate Action Plan (CAP)

4. Completing an Energy Action Plan (EAP) or Energy Resilience Action Plan (ERAP)
5. Requesting or completing a Comprehensive Energy Analysis
6. Streamlining your City's Electric Vehicle Charging Station Permit Process

The following three activities will begin anew in 2023, and could add up to 9 points:

1. Attend each 2022 quarterly EWG meeting. (**NEW: Up to 4 points** for **December 2022** and March, June & September 2023 EWG meetings)
2. Provide a **City Update** at each EWG meeting (**Up to 4 points**)  
At the end of each EWG meeting, each city is invited to provide a very brief update on any effort the city is working on to become more energy efficient or sustainable.
3. Serve as an Energy Working Group Presenter or Panelist in 2023 (1 point)

Each city has the possibility of earning up to nine points for these three activities. Fourteen cities already had a head start due to their participation at the December 2022 GCEAA awards meeting, **and many cities have the opportunity to rise one level just by participating in the next two EWG meetings in June and September for four additional points.**

There are six activities that are now required to be completed in 2023 for up to 6 points:

In past years, cities were able to carry over points for awards and activities that had been completed during that year, or in any previous years. Cities are now required to complete these activities during 2023 to encourage cities to continue to strive for greater energy efficiency and sustainability every year.

1. Receive a Categorical Beacon Award
2. Receive an Overall Vanguard Beacon Award
3. Receive a [Beacon Leadership & Innovation Award](#) (open to cities whether or not they are enrolled in the Beacon Program)
4. Complete at least one Energy Efficiency Project in 2023
5. Attend a SoCalREN, SoCal Gas or Climate Resilience Educational Webinar
6. Energy, Equity & Empowerment: This activity is broadly based on your city's efforts to partner and engage with community-based organizations and community groups in your actions to become more energy efficient and sustainable. A one-page description of your efforts must be submitted by November 1<sup>st</sup> on the attached form (Attachment A).

There are three new opportunities to earn up to 3 points:

1. **NEW:** Apply for an Energy or Climate Sustainable Grant
2. **NEW:** Secure the award of an Energy or Climate Sustainable Grant
3. **NEW:** Collaborate with other City/Cities for Energy Efficiency and Sustainability

### THREE AWARD LEVELS

Three award levels will again be available: Gold, Silver and Bronze. The following table shows how activity points are clustered, and which cities have reached that level as of April, 2023.

LEVEL	ACTIVITIES	CITIES
Gold	14 - 24 completed	None yet
Silver	11 - 13 completed	None yet
Bronze	6 - 10 completed	Artesia (8) Bell (7) Bell Gardens (9) Lakewood (6) Long Beach (8) Maywood (9) Montebello (7) Paramount (8) Pico Rivera (6) Whittier (5)
In Progress	0 - 5 completed	Avalon (2) Bellflower (1) Cerritos (5) Commerce (0) Compton (0) Cudahy (2) Downey (4) Hawaiian Gardens (0) Huntington Park (5) Industry (2) La Mirada (4) Lynwood (3) Norwalk (5) Santa Fe Springs (3) Signal Hill (3) South Gate (2) Vernon (0)

- \* The cities highlighted in green gained one to four additional points for attending the December Energy Working Group GCEAA Award meeting (1 pt.), attending the March Energy Working Group meeting (1 pt.) and up to 2 pts. For giving a brief City Update at each of those meetings. There are still two opportunities to earn up to 4 more points by attending the June and September Energy Working Group meetings and providing a brief City Update at those meetings.

### TRACKING AWARD ACTIVITY

Award activities are tracked by city on the attached tracking tool devoted solely to tracking points earned toward the GCEAA (Attachment B). Updated points and levels will be reported out at the end of each month. As mentioned previously, cities will have an opportunity to complete additional actions for the 2023 awards through November 15<sup>th</sup> after which cities will be notified of their highest level achieved.

## AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Presentation of awards will take place at the December EWG meeting and will also include recognition at the COG Board meeting. Special recognition will be given for cities that achieve Gold status. In addition to receiving the award recognition, the COG's Executive Director attended the City Council meetings of all Gold cities to present the awards which will be available again in 2023. There are also plans to produce another GCEAA video in 2023 which will be shared widely.

## QUESTIONS, CORRECTIONS, UPDATES

Questions, corrections and updates to activities may be directed to Sumi Gant at (562) 397-7849 or by email to [sumi@sumiregantconsulting.com](mailto:sumi@sumiregantconsulting.com).

Questions about the Beacon awards program may be directed to Nikita Sinha at [nsinha@ca-ilg.org](mailto:nsinha@ca-ilg.org)

Questions about the SoCalREN may be directed to Elaina Lee at [elee@energycoalition.org](mailto:elee@energycoalition.org).

Attachment A

**ENERGY, EQUITY & EMPOWERMENT (2 points)**

**Due by Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

City planning often requires engaging with the public, and grant opportunities increasingly require that cities partner authentically with their communities to compete for funding. Cities are invited to submit one project or program that primarily occurs in 2023 that demonstrates your city's efforts to collaborate authentically with your community to increase energy efficiency, sustainability and/or climate resilience.

The project or program should demonstrate inclusive public engagement practices that advance equity and empowerment by collaborating with community-based organizations (CBOs) and community groups to improve the city's energy efficiency, sustainability and/or climate resilience, whether a physical project or a planning effort.

**Submissions should be limited to one page (two max),** and should demonstrate how the project or program addresses three categories:

ENERGY EFFICIENCY, SUSTAINABILITY AND/OR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

- Describe how the project or program increases the city's energy efficiency, sustainability and/or climate resilience. What need was this project or program developed to address?
- Please describe the overall benefits of the project or program in terms of cost and measurable outcomes or savings?

EQUITY

- Describe the community groups and/or CBOs that you engaged with in delivering this project or program, and how your engagement practices advanced equity within your city's communities.
- Please describe the inclusive public engagement practices that your city used that were incorporated into the project or program.

EMPOWERMENT

- Describe the benefits that this equitable engagement had on the project or program outcomes.
- Please describe how this effort empowered the community to partner authentically with the city to better address their priorities.

Deadline to submit: Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.


# Gateway Cities

2023

# ENERGY ACTION AWARDS

CITY PROGRESS AS OF MAY 15T, 2023

Deadline to submit is November 15, 2023

Energy Activities	Artesia	Avalon	Bell	Bellflower	Bell Gardens	Cerritos	Commerce	Compton	Cudahy	Downey	Hawaiian Gardens	Huntington Park	Industry	La Mirada	Lakewood	Long Beach	Lynwood	Maywood	Montebello	Norwalk	Paramount	Pico Rivera	Santa Fe Springs	Signal Hill	South Gate	Vernon	Whittier	
No. Cities Completed	8	2	7	1	9	5	0	0	2	4	0	5	2	4	6	8	3	9	7	5	8	6	3	3	2	0	7	
<b>2021 - 2023 CONTINUING CARRYOVER ACTIVITIES</b>																												
Enrolled in SoCalREN	20																											
Enrolled in Beacon	14																											
Climate Action Plan (CAP)	3																											
Energy Action Plan (EAP)/Energy Resilience Action Plan (ERAP)	5																											
Requested or Completed Comprehensive Energy Analysis	13																											
Adopted EV Electric Vehicle Charging Station Permit/Streamlining	5																											
<b>RENEWED 2023 ACTIVITIES</b>																												
EWG Participant (1-4 pls.)	27																											
EWG City Updates (1-4 pls.)	24																											
EWG Presenter/Panelist	2																											
Received Categorical Beacon Award	0																											
Received Overall Beacon Award	0																											
Beacon Leadership & Innovation Award (open to cities not enrolled)	0																											
Completed an Energy Efficiency Project in 2023	0																											
Attend a SoCalREN Educational Training Webinars	0																											
Engagement, Equity & Empowerment	0																											
Applying for an Energy or Sustainable Grant	0																											
Awarded an Energy or Sustainable Grant	0																											
Collaborate with Other City/Cities for EE and Sustainability	0																											
Collaborate with Other City/Cities for EE and Sustainability	3																											
<b>Gold Level (14 - 24 activities)</b>																												
<b>Silver Level (11 - 13 activities)</b>																												
<b>Bronze Level (6 - 10 activities)</b>																												
<b>In Progress (0 - 5 activities)</b>																												
																												
Count /	27																											
HIGHER LEVEL [4]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ADDED POINTS [10]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

LEGEND	
Gold	14 - 24 Activities
Silver	10 - 13 Activities
Bronze	6 - 9 Activities
In Progress	0 - 5 Activities

0 cities
0 cities
10 cities
17 cities