



Agenda Item #: _____

Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Tell and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: David N. Carmany, City Manager

FROM: Jim Arndt, Public Works Director
Sona Kalapura, Environmental Programs Manager

DATE: July 19, 2011

SUBJECT: Consideration to Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the City of Manhattan Beach to Participate in the Institute for Local Government's Beacon Award

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt Resolution No. 6324 in order to participate in the Beacon Award recognition program.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

Program participation is voluntary, and there are no fiscal implications associated with the recommended action. Further, participating in the program may increase the City's competitiveness for future state or other grant funding.

BACKGROUND:

Manhattan Beach Sustainability Efforts

The City of Manhattan Beach strives to be a leader in environmental protection, and was one of the first cities in the South Bay region to endorse the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement in 2007. Since then, the City has expanded its sustainability efforts by hiring an Environmental Programs Manager and creating a citizen-based Environmental Task Force. City Council has adopted several recommendations from the Environmental Task Force to begin reducing greenhouse gas emissions, such as the Sustainable Building Standards and Climate Action Plan. The City also engages its community members in climate change activities and provides information on solutions that individuals and businesses can implement to reduce their impact on the environment. Successful community outreach on environmental education has been achieved through the City's leadership in the 350 International Day of Climate Action, Earth Hour, National Energy Awareness Month, and the 10-10-10 Sustainability Summit.

What is the Beacon Award Program?

The Beacon Award: Local Leadership toward Solving Climate Change program is a newly established initiative of the Institute for Local Government (ILG), recognizing and celebrating cities and counties that:

- reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy use;
- adopt policies and programs to address climate change; and

- promote sustainability in the community.

ILG is the non-profit research and education affiliate of the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties. The Beacon Award program is funded by the California utility ratepayers and administered by Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Diego Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas Company, under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.

DISCUSSION:

The Beacon Award recognizes and celebrates local leadership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save energy. The City's existing participation in the Energy Leader Partnership and U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection initiatives makes it well positioned to achieve the goals of the Beacon Award program.

The City of Manhattan Beach has already completed, or is in the process of completing, each of the eligibility requirements for the Beacon Award Program listed below (e.g. preparation of a greenhouse gas inventory and climate action plan). In order to participate in the Beacon Award, the City of Manhattan Beach needs to complete a simple application and do the following:

- Adopt a resolution authorizing the City to participate in the program;
- Designate a lead staff person as a point of contact;
- Prepare, or commit to prepare, a baseline greenhouse gas emissions inventory for agency facilities and the community as a whole;
- Prepare, or commit to prepare, a climate action plan that includes actions in each of the Best Practice Areas outlined in Attachment B;
- Demonstrate compliance with AB 939, the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989; and
- Achieve specified measurable greenhouse gas reductions and energy savings in agency facilities, and achieve measurable greenhouse gas reductions and promote energy conservation activities in the community.

The City has already made significant progress in each of the areas listed above, and is currently working on identifying measures to combat greenhouse gas emissions with its Environmental Task Force. These efforts will make it possible for the City to achieve one of the Beacon Award program levels (Silver, Gold and Platinum) for achieving specified measurable reductions. The program will also recognize participants for interim accomplishments. The tiered scale for the award level criteria can be reviewed in Attachment B.

Once a city or county is accepted as a Beacon Award participant, it will work towards achieving one or more of the three award levels at its own pace. There is no deadline or timeline for meeting award level criteria; awards will be given out on an ongoing basis. However, the City will be asked to provide periodic information about efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save energy and as well as progress in completing a greenhouse gas inventory, climate action plan and undertaking activities in the ten best practice areas. A staff point-of-contact will be needed, and the related duties can be accomplished by the City's Environmental Programs Manager.

If City Council chooses to participate in this program, the City will receive special recognition at League of California Cities and California State Association of Counties events, be highlighted on the Beacon Award website, and receive certificates and other materials to display in City facilities. The City may also receive other appropriate and visible public tributes acknowledging their accomplishments.

CONCLUSION:

Participating in the Beacon Award program will increase the City's visibility as an environmental leader within our region and statewide. It is an opportunity for the City to showcase its existing efforts to promote sustainability and save energy, even while we are working towards one of the three award levels. Staff recommends that City Council adopt Resolution No. 6324 in order to participate in the Beacon Award recognition program.

Attachments:

Attachment A - Resolution No. 6324

Attachment B – Beacon Award Best Practice Areas and Award Levels

cc: Liza Tamura, City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 6324

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT PARTICIPATION IN THE INSTITUTE
FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S BEACON AWARD PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the City of Manhattan Beach is undertaking policies, programs and activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save energy; and,

WHEREAS, these policies, programs and activities conserve natural resources, save energy and money, and promote sustainable land use and transportation planning in the community; and,

WHEREAS, cities and counties statewide are leading by example by adopting innovative sustainability programs and policies, including working with community residents, business groups and others; and,

WHEREAS, the City's Environmental Task Force is charged with a mission of uniting the community in a comprehensive effort to promote sustainable living in the City of Manhattan Beach; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Manhattan Beach wishes to expand these activities, share its experiences with other communities, and be recognized for its accomplishments; and,

WHEREAS, the Beacon Award: Local Leadership Toward Solving Climate Change is a voluntary program of the Institute for Local Government, the non-profit research and education affiliate of the California State Association of Counties and the League of California Cities; and,

WHEREAS, the Beacon Award recognizes and celebrates achievements of cities and counties that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save energy; and,

WHEREAS, participating in the Beacon Award is an opportunity for the City of Manhattan Beach to be recognized for its efforts to promote sustainability, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save energy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIFORNIA, DOES HEREBY DECLARE, FIND, DETERMINE AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1.

1. That the above recitations are true and correct.

2. That the City of Manhattan Beach agrees to participate in the Beacon Award Program.

3. That the City of Manhattan Beach will work towards achieving the Silver, Gold and/or Platinum Beacon Award levels.

SECTION 2. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this resolution and thenceforth and thereafter the same shall be in full force and effect.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 19th day of July, 2011.

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Mayor, City of Manhattan Beach, California

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Attachment B

Beacon Award Best Practice Areas and Award Levels

The ten Best Practice Areas referenced are from ILG’s California Climate Action Network’s Best Practices Framework which offers suggestions for action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in each of the areas, for both City facilities and the community at large. The ten Best Practice Areas are:

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| 1. Energy Efficiency & Conservation | 7. Efficient Transportation |
| 2. Water & Wastewater Systems | 8. Land Use & Community Design |
| 3. Green Building | 9. Open Space & Offsetting Carbon Emission |
| 4. Waste Reduction & Recycling | 10. Promoting Community & Individual Action |
| 5. Climate-Friendly Purchasing | |
| 6. Renewable Energy & Low-Carbon Fuels | |

Participating cities and counties will be recognized with Silver, Gold and Platinum Beacon Award for achieving specified measureable reductions. The program will also recognize participants for interim accomplishments. Awards are achieved through the tiered scale of criteria below:

<i>Silver Beacon Award</i>	
Agency Facilities & Operations	
GHG Reduction:	5 percent in agency facilities & operations
Energy Savings:	5 percent in agency facilities & operations from energy efficiency retrofits
Community	
GHG Reduction:	5 percent in the community as a whole
Energy Savings:	1 activity that promotes energy efficiency in the community
Best Practice Areas:	One activity in each of the ten Best Practice Areas
<i>Gold Beacon Award</i>	
Agency Facilities & Operations	
GHG Reduction:	10 percent in agency facilities & operations
Energy Savings:	10 percent in agency facilities & operations from energy efficiency retrofits
Community	
GHG Reduction:	10 percent in the community as a whole
Energy Savings:	2 activities that promote energy efficiency in the community
Best Practice Areas:	2 activities in each of the ten Best Practice Areas
<i>Platinum Beacon Award</i>	
Agency Facilities & Operations	
GHG Reduction:	20 percent in agency facilities & operations
Energy Savings:	20percent in agency facilities & operations from energy efficiency retrofits
Community	
GHG Reduction:	20 percent in the community as a whole
Energy Savings:	4 activities that promote energy efficiency in the community
Best Practice Areas:	3 activities in each of the ten Best Practice Areas