



City of Sonora

"Queen of the Southern Mines"

94 North Washington Street
Sonora, California 95370


Area Code 209

Administrator 532-6115
Administration 532-4541
Finance 532-4541
Building/Planning . . 532-3508
Police 532-8143
Fire 532-7432
Public Works 532-2922
Cemetery 532-4492
Opera Hall 532-7725
Special Programs . . 532-7725
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Memorandum

DATE: June 4, 2018

TO: Honorable Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Timothy A. Miller, City Administrator 

SUBJECT: Participation in the Institute for Local Government's Beacon Program.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the attached Resolution No. 06-04-2018-B supporting the City's participation in the Institute for Local Government's Beacon Program.

Summary & Discussion

The Beacon Program is a statewide program that provides support and recognition to California cities and counties that are working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save energy and adopt policies and programs that promote sustainability.

The Beacon Program provides a framework for local governments to share best practices that create healthier, more efficient vibrant communities. The program honors voluntary efforts by local governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save energy and adopt policies that promote sustainability.

The Beacon Program is sponsored by the Institute for Local Government and the Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative. The Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative (SEEC) is a new alliance to help cities and counties reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save energy. SEEC is a collaboration between three statewide non-profit organizations and California's four Investor Owned Utilities.

In order to participate in the Beacon Program, cities and counties must complete a simple application and do the following:

- Adopt a resolution by the governing body committing the agency 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 (previously completed inventories using a commonly accepted methodology will be accepted);
- Prepare, or commit to prepare, a climate action plan that includes actions in each of the Best Practice Areas (previously completed plans using a commonly accepted methodology will be accepted);
- Work to 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 Institute for Local Government provides resources and technical support to assist participants in their journey through the Beacon Program. Through our partnerships within the SEEC collaborative, we are able to help participants obtain and record achievements in five areas of accomplishment.

- Reducing agency greenhouse gas emissions
- Reducing community greenhouse gas emissions
- Electricity savings in agencies facilities
- Natural gas savings in agency facilities
- Sustainability best practices
 - Energy Efficiency & Conservation
 - Water & Wastewater Systems
 - Green Building
 - Waste Reduction & Recycling
 - Climate-Friendly Purchasing
 - Renewable Energy & Low-Carbon Fuels
 - Efficient Transportation
 - Land Use & Community Design
 - Open Space & Offsetting Carbon Emission
 - Promoting Community & Individual Action

Within each area, a participant can earn Beacon Spotlight Awards-silver, gold and platinum- based on level of achievement. To win a full Beacon Award, participants are required to demonstrate achievement in all five areas.

Awards will be given out each Fall/Winter in conjunction with the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties Conferences. Participants will be asked to provide information about their 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 in the Spring, with a final deadline for award designation in May.

Background

Participating in the Beacon Award program will increase the City's visibility within our region and statewide. It is an opportunity for the county/city to showcase its existing efforts to promote sustainability and save energy, even while we are working towards one of the three award levels.

Fiscal Impacts

Program participation is voluntary. Participating in the program may increase the City's competitiveness for future state or other grant funding. The program is designed to piggyback on existing efforts which would translate to little or no fiscal impact.

Action Required

Adopt the attached Resolution "Approving participation in the Institute for Local Government's recognition program, the Beacon Program.

RESOLUTION NO. 06-04-2018-B

A resolution of the City of Sonora approving participation in the Institute for Local Government's recognition program, the Beacon Program

WHEREAS, the City of Sonora 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 of Sonora wishes to share its experiences with other communities, and be recognized for its accomplishments; and

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

WHEREAS, participating in the Beacon Program is an opportunity for the City of Sonora to be recognized for its efforts to promote sustainability, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save energy; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the City of Sonora agrees to participate in the Beacon Program; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the City of Sonora will work towards achieving the Silver, Gold and/or Platinum Beacon Award levels.

PASSED AND ADOPTED as a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Sonora at a regular meeting held on the 4th day of June 2018, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Date: _____

Jim Garaventa
Mayor Pro-Tem

Attestation:

Date: _____

Marijane Cassinetta
City Clerk