

BEACON  
SPOTLIGHT  
AWARD  
WINNER  
BEST PRACTICE  
ACTIVITIES



# City of Dublin

## Sustainability Best Practice Activities



**ILG** INSTITUTE FOR  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT<sup>SM</sup>  
*Promoting Good Government at the Local Level*









# City of Dublin

California communities are leading the fight against climate change. From small projects to large-scale programs, cities and counties are making great strides to create healthy, sustainable and economically prosperous communities. Participants in ILG's Beacon Program serve as leaders in this effort, making measureable contributions to reducing energy and greenhouse gas emissions, and sharing their sustainability best practices.

This document represents a collection of activities your agency has completed in 10 areas of sustainability. While local governments have a wide range of choices available to address climate change, these activities represent the unique opportunities and values in your community. These voluntary actions are essential to achieving California's goals to save energy, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and create more sustainable communities.

## SPOTLIGHT AWARD

SPOTLIGHT AWARD		SILVER LEVEL	GOLD LEVEL	PLATINUM LEVEL
Areas of Accomplishment				
	Agency GHG Reductions			
	Community GHG Reductions			
	Agency Energy Savings			2014 (31%)
	Natural Gas Savings		2014 (12%)	
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities			2014
	Beacon Award			

Cities and counties throughout the Golden State should be proud of the accomplishments made through the hard work, innovation and collective community action. The Institute for Local Government applauds your achievements and thanks you for your continued participation in the Beacon Program.

The Beacon Program is sponsored by the Institute for Local Government and the Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative (SEEC). SEEC is an alliance between three statewide non-profit organizations and California's four Investor-Owned Utilities. The Beacon Program is funded by 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.





# Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities

## Silver

1. In 2011, the city conducted a comprehensive energy audit of all of its municipal operations, looking for energy improvement opportunities that would cut energy consumption to support its greenhouse gas reduction goals, and at the same time save the city money. The audit was completed in 2011, and resulted in the city creating its first Energy Action Plan.

## Gold

2. The city retrofitted over 3,100 light fixtures from high-pressure sodium cobra head lamps have to energy-efficient LED streetlights.
3. The city retrofitted all interior lighting with more energy-efficient bulbs and ballasts at all three fire stations, the civic center, the library, the senior center and Shannon Community Center. These retrofits have had an immediate effect in reducing electrical consumption of the city's facilities. In addition, motion sensors have been added, and more efficient lighting technologies have been incorporated where feasible.

## Platinum

4. The city upgraded the HVAC systems at the civic center and library. Variable frequency drive motors were installed, so that air flows into the facilities as needed instead of at a constant rate.
5. The City of Dublin partnered with Rising Sun Energy Center to promote energy conservation and sustainable living via a youth employment program, known as California Youth Energy Services (CYES). In 2013, 208 Dublin residents received a green house call. In 2013, energy specialists installed the following equipment in Dublin homes: 3,144 compact fluorescent lamps, 17 CFL torchiere lamps, 94 power strips, 63 retractable clotheslines, 39.5 feet of water heater pipe insulation. The installation of these measures resulted in an annual reduction of 73,059 kWh and 428 therms.
6. The City of Dublin and Energy Upgrade California launched the Dublin Energy Challenge, a city-wide initiative encouraging residents to monitor and evaluate energy usage using PG&E SmartMeter data. From October 23, 2013, through January 31, 2014, Dublin residents who want to eliminate energy waste in their homes can sign up for the free Home Energy Analyzer. The city hosted a free workshop featuring a giveaway of energy-efficient products to kick off the challenge.





# Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

## Silver

1. The majority of city parks and facilities have weather based irrigation controllers. Additionally, the city is working on upgrading street medians to weather based irrigation and anticipate that the majority will be converted to weather based systems in the next year.

## Gold

2. The city utilizes recycled water at a majority of its parks and medians. There are a total of 18 parks in the city, all but five of the parks are irrigated with recycled water. The water used to irrigate city parks is approximately 85% recycled water and 15% potable water. The city recently converted several medians from potable water to recycled water. The water used to irrigate medians is approximately 60% recycled water and 40% potable water.
3. In 2013, city facilities were retrofitted with low flow toilets and sinks.

## Platinum

4. City council adopted a resolution which created a new Water Resources Element of its General Plan. The Water Resources Element was written to guide the city's efforts to promote and encourage water conservation by existing and future business, residential, and public users, to plan for additional use of recycled water and to guide efforts to manage the city's stormwater system.
5. As part of its solid waste contract with its hauler, the city requires that 10% of all organic waste collected be returned to the city for use as compost and mulch for public facilities and given to residents for use at their homes.
6. The City of Dublin conducts an annual creek-cleanup event in September, wherein members of the community are invited to participate in the event and remove litter and debris from the city creeks and waterways. Residents spend approximately three hours walking the creek corridors picking up trash, improving water quality and keeping Dublin clean and beautiful.





# Green Building Activities

## Silver

1. The city installed recycled content park benches and playground surfacing in its parks.

## Gold

2. The city passed a Green Building Ordinance requiring residential projects over 20 units to reach 50 points on the GreenPoint Rated system. In 2013, the city issued 689 units and finalized 1,124 units – all units finalized received more than 50 points.
3. The city adopted a Bay-Friendly Landscaping Policy requiring new large civic projects to meet a certain level of points on the bay-friendly landscaping checklist. bay-friendly landscaping is an integrated solution that fosters soil health, conserves water, reduces waste and reduces emissions.

## Platinum

4. The city encouraged green building practices during the renovation of its Public Safety Complex in 2014. This renovation of the 15,000 square foot project included energy monitoring systems for both the electrical and mechanical work as well as a full building commissioning to optimize the systems. In addition, an energy efficient film was put on all glass in the building.
5. The Dublin Civic Center is a certified Alameda County green business. There are a myriad of requirements to be a green business. Among other things, the Dublin city hall has low flow toilets and faucet aerators, HVAC control system, window film, energy efficient lighting, LED exit lights, a solar carport in the parking lot and green waste bins for food waste.
6. The city council adopted a resolution, which required all new civic buildings over \$3 million be built to achieve silver certification under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System. The Shannon Community Center, which was the first completed in February 2009, includes numerous energy-efficient measures. The Shannon Community Center was awarded LEED certification in 2014.







# Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

## Silver

1. The city continues to work with its waste hauler to promote the commercial organics collection program, which includes food waste, within the business sector. There are currently over 100 establishments participating in the commercial food waste/organics program. In 2013, a total of 2,182 tons of organic material was collected in the commercial sector. An additional 5,100 tons of organic waste was collected from the residential sector.

## Gold

2. The city adopted a Construction and Demolition Debris Ordinance requiring that 100% of asphalt and concrete be recycled and a minimum of 50% of all other construction and demolition materials be recycled.
3. For the past three years the city has worked with the Dublin Unified School District (DUSD) on a waste diversion contest. The DUSD has increased their diversion rate from 44% in 2011 to 65% in 2014.

## Platinum

4. In order to reduce waste in its own operations, the city has taken a number of actions to ensure that it uses resources wisely. For example, the city has created a new agenda process that is entirely electronic. Additionally, memos are produced through e-copy.
5. The city's waste hauler, Amador Valley Industries, employs a variety of tactics to reduce waste from the commercial sector, which include audits, tiered rates, free recycling and discounting organics collection by 50% for businesses. As a result of the rate structure, businesses that reduce their trash also reduce their garbage bill which has resulted in increased participation in the city's recycling programs.
6. All city facilities have organic collection bins to promote the capture of food waste and paper towels for composting.







# Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

## Silver

1. In 2010, the city approved an administrative policy that banned the city's purchase and use of single-use plastic bottles and Styrofoam products at city sponsored activities, including city events and meetings.

## Gold

2. The city's Green Purchasing Policy establishes the minimum percentage of recycled content for a variety of materials, which include copy paper (minimum 30% recycled content), paper towels (minimum 40% recycled content) and toilet paper (minimum 20% recycled content).
3. The city adopted a Green Fleet Policy, went into effect on July 1, 2012. Among other things, this policy requires a 20% increase in miles per gallon of cars that are purchased. Pursuant to the Green Fleet Policy, the city is required to make every effort to obtain the "cleanest" vehicles possible as measured by the then-existing emissions certification standards and those published by the manufacturers.

## Platinum

4. It is the city's practice to provide employees with reusable items, such as bags and coffee cups. Additionally, the city's FY 14-15 budget includes funds to purchase reusable items for new employees, including reusable bags, water bottles and coffee mugs.
5. As part of its agreement with its solid waste hauler, the city requires that all collection vehicles purchased to conduct operations within the city be clean-air natural gas vehicles. This significantly reduces the impact of collection services on the air quality of the community.
6. Encourage local businesses to make conscious purchasing decisions, buy local and purchase items that include recycled content materials through the City of Dublin's Green Shamrock Program.





# Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

## Silver

1. In 2013, seven PV electricity-producing (solar) installations were constructed as part of the city's Energy Action Plan at the following locations: civic center; library; Shannon Community Center; senior center; and all three fire stations. These installations will generate more than 700 kW of solar energy at all sites combined.

## Gold

2. The collection service vehicles used by the city's waste hauler (Amador Valley Industries) are fueled by compressed natural gas. This is a requirement of the collection service agreement with the hauler.
3. The City of Dublin reduced its building permit fee related to the installation of PV systems installed as an incentive for property owners to install solar electricity generating capacity from their homes. The city tracks solar panel installations. Since January 2011, 327 residences and five businesses have installed solar panels. The total size of the systems installed in Dublin since 2011 is 8,540 kW.

## Platinum

4. In 2012, the city replaced the existing charging stations at the library, which were an outdated technology and were inoperable. There has been a significant increase in use of the charging stations from 2012 to 2013. In 2012, there were an average of 150 users per month; for the first eight months of fiscal year 2014, the average number of users per month has been approximately 350.
5. The city purchased one hybrid vehicle and plans on purchasing additional vehicles in the future.
6. The city has partnered with Figtree Energy Resource Company and CaliforniaFIRST to offer Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and water conservation upgrades.
7. In collaboration with the surrounding communities of Livermore and Pleasanton, the city established the Solar Cities program, which included a series of workshops to provide residents with information about how to convert their home to solar and connect them to solar vendors.





# Efficient Transportation Activities

## Silver

1. During the morning, mid-day and evening rush hours, Dublin Boulevard, Hacienda Drive and Tassajara Road are under special traffic signal coordination timing plans. These timing plans give priority to the heaviest traffic movements during this time in order to reduce vehicle emissions from idling vehicles and reduce travel times.

## Gold

2. In May 2013, the city introduced an enhanced bicycle lane design that incorporates green color to designate the bike lane. The green bike lanes were installed along Golden Gate Drive and provided dedicated bike lanes to bicyclists traveling to the West Dublin BART station. This is the first green bike lane project in Alameda County.
3. The city works with the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) to provide improved transit opportunities in the community.

## Platinum

4. The city adopted a Bikeways Master Plan in 2007. The plan maps out the future for the City of Dublin regarding bikeways capital improvement projects, education and enforcement of traffic safety for bicyclists.
5. The West Dublin/Pleasanton BART station opened in February 2011. Consistent with the transit oriented district of the Downtown Dublin Specific Plan, the area adjacent to the BART station is intended to be a high-density mixed-use area, capitalizing on regional transit linkages provided by the BART line and supported by nearby freeways.
6. The city implemented a Commute Alternative program, which provides financial benefits to employees for each day they find an alternative mean in getting to work.
7. The City of Dublin has a number of strong support programs in place for bicycling and walking, including education and encouragement programs and enforcement programs.





# Land Use and Community Design Activities

## Silver

1. The Community Design and Sustainability Element of the General Plan guides public and private development to create a city that is diverse, functional and aesthetically appealing. The element focuses on goals and policies that apply to Dublin's built environment: architecture, landscaping, public art and transportation systems. It also outlines the desired components of a sustainable neighborhood, such as a connected street pattern and land use plan, green infrastructure and buildings and a linked open space network.

## Gold

2. In June 2009, the city adopted a multi-modal map, which is a comprehensive tool to relay transportation opportunities within a specific location. The function of the multi-modal map is to show the various methods of transportation within the city, including pedestrian, vehicle, and bicycle trips as well as connections to other cities.
3. Dublin adopted a Complete Streets Policy in 2012. Subsequently in 2013, the city updated its General Plan to include complete streets language in the Circulation Element.

## Platinum

4. City council adopted the Downtown Dublin Specific Plan (DDSP), which replaced and combined five existing specific plans. The DDSP allows a total of 2,500 residential units, of which 1,900 units are within the transit oriented district of the DDSP adjacent to the BART station.
5. The city promotes high density residential development in the transit oriented districts of the city.
6. Emerald Vista is a master-planned community that shows a successful transformation from the deteriorating Arroyo Vista Public Housing site of 150 units into a vibrant, mixed-use, mixed income community with 378 new residential units comprised of senior housing, family apartments, for-sale townhomes and for-sale single-family homes.
7. As part of the Dublin's 10-year strategic planning process, the city council developed a list of five strategies, which would provide a focused framework for the city's allocation of resources over the next 10 years. One of the five strategies is to create a community that supports environmental sustainability and provides an open space network that ensures environmental protection and provides public access where appropriate.





# Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

## Silver

1. The City of Dublin applied to become a Tree City USA in 2013. The city has met all of the various requirements and obtained status as a Tree City USA.

## Gold

2. The Dublin city council adopted an ordinance on February 18, 2014 adding a new section to the municipal code pertaining to street trees.
3. In July 2010, the first phase of Fallon Sports Park opened. Phase one encompasses 28 acres of the 60-acre site. Park amenities include two baseball fields; two softball fields; two synthetic turf fields; four tennis courts; four basketball courts; BMX track; and pathway and trails. Fallon Sports Park includes drought tolerant and native vegetation throughout the park.

## Platinum

4. The city has worked and partnered with Pacific Coast farmers' markets to provide residents with options to purchase food which is locally grown, which helps to promote retention of agricultural uses within the region.
5. The city's Park Master Plan requires five acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents. The purpose of this requirement is to ensure that everyone within the community has access to parks and open space.
6. The city has placed great emphasis in maintaining its park infrastructure in a sustainable manner. These efforts include using materials within our parks made of recycled content materials, such as park benches and playground surfaces. Additionally, efficient "smart" irrigation controllers have been installed to ensure that water isn't wasted. The city has been a leader in the use and expansion of recycled water with more than 72% of its water consumption throughout the city coming from recycled water.





# Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

## Silver

1. This year was the 30th year of Dublin Pride Week. Dublin Pride Week is an annual event that seeks to promote a positive image for the City of Dublin. The primary objective for Dublin Pride Week is to seek ways to engage individuals and/or groups in action based activities to help improve the community. The cornerstone of Dublin Pride Week is Volunteer Day. Approximately 525 volunteers donated their time and energy to community cleanup and beautification projects on Volunteer Day.

## Gold

2. Environmental services staff coordinates a creek clean-up event each fall.
3. The city hosted a water-wise workshop on Saturday, May 3, 2014. Forty residents attended the workshop and learned what they could do in their home and garden to conserve water.

## Platinum

4. In November 2012 and January 2013, environmental services staff distributed approximately 1,500 reusable shopping bags at six reusable bag give-away events. The goal of the events was to educate residents on the Reusable Bag Ordinance, which took effect on January 1, 2013.
5. Each year the city hosts a household hazardous waste collection event to properly dispose of such waste.
6. In 2010, the city council created a green initiatives taskforce, which came together to create a green plan for the city. The plan contains actions that the city should take to reduce waste, improve air quality, conserve energy and water, and address certain transportation and land use issues.
7. In the fall of 2012, city staff accompanied PG&E on business visits. The purpose of the visits was to promote the various rebates available to commercial businesses and to encourage the businesses to conduct an energy audit.









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