

BEACON



SPOTLIGHT
AWARD

WINNER

BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of Livermore

Sustainability Best Practice Activities




ILG INSTITUTE FOR
LOCAL GOVERNMENTSM
Promoting Good Government at the Local Level

City of Livermore

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

Areas of Accomplishment		SILVER LEVEL	GOLD LEVEL	PLATINUM LEVEL
	Agency GHG Reductions			
	Community GHG Reductions			
	Agency Energy Savings	2013 (8%)		
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities	2013	2017	
	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. The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) assisted the City of Livermore in the preparation of a GHG inventory for the 2005 year. The inventory had two components for both the community as a whole, and a second for municipal operations.

Gold

2. Adopted by the city council in November 2012, Livermore's Climate Action Plan outlines ways to reduce the amount of GHGs produced within the city to a level 15% below 2008 conditions by 2020.
3. The Capacity Project is a joint effort by the city, Chevron Energy Solutions, and WattzOn that helps Livermore residents, businesses, and students identify free and low-cost ways to reduce energy use and save money on utility bills.

Platinum

4. Around 7,000 existing high pressure sodium (HPS) cobra head street lights were replaced with high-efficiency LED fixtures that use less electricity and emit better quality light than the existing street lights.
5. From 2009-2012, the City of Livermore hosted the California Youth Energy Services for the summer to serve the community with free energy assessments and retrofits. These assessments, or "green house calls," assisted with recycling and waste reduction and were available to both homeowners and renters. The assessments included the installation of CFL light bulbs, efficient flow showerheads, faucet aerators and retractable clotheslines, as well as a check for toilet leaks and attic insulation level, all free of charge.
6. The city received a Beacon Award for energy-efficiency measures in municipal operations.





Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

Silver

1. The city's Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance established standards for designing, installing, and maintaining water efficient landscapes that avoid runoff and other water waste in landscape projects. This is accomplished through requirements for responsible landscape design, soil care, irrigation design and scheduling, and management, which utilize reasonable amounts of water while ensuring that aesthetic, functional, energy and environmental benefits of landscapes are achieved with design flexibility.

Gold

2. Recycled water has been produced at the Livermore Water Reclamation Plant for over 30 years. City water treatment facilities utilize the effluent filters and a ultra-violet disinfection system. The recycled water system contains over 14 miles of pipe-line, a pump station, and a 1.9-million-gallon reservoir. The city uses recycled water for irrigation and fire protection.
3. Many civic areas are connected to the landscape water conservation system via a centralized irrigation system that schedules irrigation cycles based on evaporation rates provided by a weather station. To minimize water waste, sites are frequently checked and automatically shut off when a broken pipe or large flow increase is detected.

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4. Livermore Water Resources Division actively promotes water conservation on its website. Information provided addresses water conservation for home, landscaping, commercial businesses and industry. In addition, rebates are currently offered for high efficiency washing machine purchases and lawn conversions. Additional outreach provided at community events such as farmers markets and downtown festivals.





Green Building Activities

Silver

1. In 2002, Livermore's city hall celebrated its "grand re-opening" after a major renovation that incorporated many sustainable building materials and practices to conserve natural resources. More than 75% of the original building shell was retained and more than half of demolition materials were salvaged or recycled.

Gold

2. The city adopted the Civic Green Building Ordinance in 2004 to promote sustainable construction and use of new civic buildings. The ordinance requires a minimum LEED silver rating.
3. Since 2002, the Construction and Demolition Ordinance has helped Livermore meet state mandates to divert at least 50% of solid waste from landfills through recycling and reuse.

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4. In 2010, the California adopted a statewide Green Building Code that was adopted by the City of Livermore and went into effect on January 1, 2011. The adoption of the code effectively sunsets the city's Green Building Ordinance as listed above.





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

Silver

1. The Livermore Recycles Program is a user-friendly resource developed through a partnership between the City of Livermore and Livermore Sanitation for residents and businesses to learn about Livermore's cutting edge waste reduction programs such as city-wide recycling and composting.

Gold

2. Beginning July 1, 2011, the city's Styrofoam Ordinance banned Styrofoam "to-go" containers for foodservice businesses.
3. The city opted into Alameda County's Reusable Bag Ordinance. Beginning January 1, 2013, stores in Livermore that sell packaged foods stopped providing customers with single-use plastic bags upon checkout. Consumers are encouraged to bring reusable bags from home.

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4. Rubberized Asphalt Concrete (RAC) is used on city high-volume/major arterial road paving projects and is implemented when the city receives significant grants for large projects due to the costs. RAC uses recycled tires to ass rubber to concrete mix. This practice reduces the stockpile of waste tires statewide. Studies show that RAC-paved roadways are cost-effective and decrease road noise compared to other paving methods.
5. Livermore has conducted annual electronic waste recycling events for residents and businesses and will continue to provide support as needed, as there are now frequent events held by private firms. These events enable participants to comply with state regulations that prohibit the disposal of e-waste in landfills.





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

Silver

1. Through its Recycled Product Procurement Policy, city staff purchase and use recycled materials for city operations, such as green office supplies, furniture, park benches, picnic tables, and school and park playground structures.

Gold

2. The city Purchasing Division has participated in the Cartridges for Kids Program for over 5 years. The program pays cash for recyclable items, such as most laser toners, inkjet toners, cell phones, PDAs, old lap tops, digital cameras and GPS systems. Proceeds from the program benefit the Special Needs Department of Granada High School in Livermore. Items are collected and picked up once a month. Participation in the program helps protect the environment by keeping these items out of landfills while supporting local educational programs.
3. The city Purchasing Division partners with Public Purchase, a web-based eProcurement service. The eProcurement systems allow for automatic notification and transmittal of bid requests to vendors. This program allows most purchasing activities to be handled entirely on-line, from bid announcements, requests for quotes submittals (under \$50,000) and award of contracts, thereby significantly reducing paper.

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Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

Silver

1. The city operates seven hybrid vehicles and has installed charging stations at both city hall and the maintenance service center for electric city trucks and employees with electric cars.

Gold

2. In 2004, a 75-kilowatt photovoltaic system (PV) was installed on the roof of city hall, generating 13.5% of the facility's annual electricity needs and lowering power bills. The system has since been expanded to 100 kilowatts through the Energy Efficiency and Community Block Grant.
3. A ground-mount solar PV power generation system is being installed behind the library. The PV system will be secured by fencing on 4.52 acres and enhanced with environmentally appropriate landscaping. The entire PV array comprises three systems totaling 1.2 MWs to supply electricity to city hall, the Police Department, and the library, and supplements the city's existing system at city hall. The PV system is designed to reduce future electrical bills at the three facilities by approximately 90%. This will lead to a reduction in GHG emissions by approximately 2 million pounds per year, equivalent to taking 175 cars off the road each year.

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Efficient Transportation Activities

Silver

1. On January 28, 2013, the city council unanimously approved the city's Complete Streets Policy. This policy was developed to provide guidance for residents, decision makers, staff, and various partners to ensure that multimodal elements are incorporated into all transportation improvement projects.

Gold

2. The city collaborates with regional agencies, such as the Alameda Transportation Commission, the Tri-Valley Transportation Council, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Association of Bay Area Governments, and the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority. Projects include the Bike and Trail Master Plan, the rapid bus system, and regional transit oriented development planning.
3. Livermore's award-winning Street-Level Imagery Project enables staff to inspect city streets via photo files from any computer on the city's network. In addition to saving staff time on visits, this innovative system reduces city vehicle workload, fuel consumption, and emissions.

Platinum





Land Use and Community Design Activities

Silver

1. In 2011, the city's Development Code received the Richard H. Driehaus Charitable Lead Trust Form-Based Codes Award. In selecting the code, the jurors singled out these aspects for comment: the code is a valuable model of how to code a medium-sized town with existing walkable and sprawl neighborhoods; the code is focused on providing a complete form-based regulation for higher density residential areas that are or have the potential to be walkable and will provide a successful model for other areas within the city; and the document is organized to incorporate a form-based code into a larger development code overhaul such that the sprawl areas of the city remain under Euclidean zoning while the form-based code is designed for walkable areas of the city and designed to expand to all walkable areas, as the city is ready.

Gold

2. The Bay-friendly Landscaping Ordinance requires city projects to incorporate Bay-friendly landscaping practices. Bay-friendly landscaping is a whole systems' approach to the design, construction, and maintenance of the landscape in order to support the integrity of the San Francisco Bay watershed. Some key components include reducing waste and using recycled content materials, nurturing healthy soils while reducing fertilizer use, and conserving water and energy.
3. The Tree Preservation Ordinance establishes the policies, regulations, and standards for the protection of trees on any parcel of land within the city.

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Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

Silver

1. Livermore is completely surrounded by an urban growth boundary (UGB). The boundary is intended to protect existing agriculture uses and natural resources outside the city from future urban development.

Gold

2. In April 2012, the Arbor Day Foundation recognized the City of Livermore as a Tree City USA community for our commitment to urban forestry. The City of Livermore has earned this national designation for the past 19 years, and was commended for making planting and caring for trees a priority.
3. The city has two farmers' markets, one year-round and another during the summer, where residents can buy locally grown and organic produce, enjoy live music, and taste local Livermore wine.

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4. The city is active in the Spare the Air Program and the Tri-Valley Resources Subcommittee of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. Since 2002, on declared Spare the Air Days, city maintenance crews have been minimizing or eliminating turf mowing, paving work, and the use of two-cycle engines.





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

Silver

1. The “Live More, Save More – Sustainable Livermore” website is a user-friendly resource for the community to learn about sustainability efforts in the city and how they can get involved to help build a sustainable community.

Gold

2. Since 2005, the Green Resource Center within the City Hall Permit Center has offered comprehensive public resources and staff assistance regarding green planning/building, recycling, reuse, and conservation.
3. The city holds an annual community compost giveaway for all city residents. Residents are able to collect up to two bags of compost at no cost. The compost material is created from food scraps, food-soiled paper, and yard trimmings that Livermore residents put in their organics cart. Approximately 680 households participated at the 2017 event, which is almost a 15% increase compared to the previous year’s event. A total of 24 tons of compost was brought back to the Livermore community to close the composting loop.

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1400 K Street, Suite 205
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-658-8208
www.ca-ilg.org

