

BEACON



SPOTLIGHT
AWARD

WINNER

BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of Pittsburg

Sustainability Best Practice Activities



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

City of Pittsburg

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			2014 (22%)
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities		2013	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 2013, Pittsburg participated in the Energy Star Benchmarking Program sponsored by PG&E. Energy Star benchmarking was completed for all city buildings, allowing the city to track energy reduction efforts and compare progress internally and across peer buildings in other cities. PG&E also audited all city facilities (including the senior center, library, city hall, and the water treatment plant) to quantify energy use and identify opportunities for energy savings through efficiency and conservation measures.

Gold

2. Between 2012 and 2014, the city replaced low pressure sodium city-owned streetlights with energy-efficient LEDs. This resulted in an annual reduction of 757,344 kWh.
3. Under PG&E's Time-of-Use Rates Program, Pittsburg established an Energy Efficiency Policy in city hall that provides employees with guidelines, instructions, and requirements for efficient use of the facility by turning lights and computers off and monitoring the thermostat. Through the program, the city installed real time meters in city hall and Pittsburg's water treatment plant.

Platinum

4. Since 2013, the City of Pittsburg has participated in and promoted the World Wildlife Fund's Earth Hour. Earth Hour is a global effort to "use your power" to reduce the use of energy. For one hour a year, the city powers-down, and encourages its residents to do the same. The city is also an Earth Hour City Challenge Competitor.
5. Pittsburg educates the public about affordable energy opportunities through the city's Engage Campaign. The city created a brochure outlining opportunities for the public to participate in the FIGtree and CaliforniaFIRST Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs, which encourage energy efficiency audits and retrofits in existing residential and commercial buildings.
6. In 2013, Pittsburg's Energy Action Plan (EAP) was a project through PG&E to assist cities in identifying energy efficient practices. The practices provide a goal and strategy for energy savings, GHG savings, and annual cost savings.
7. In 2011, the city partnered with the Community Energy Services Corporation's Smart Lights Program and PG&E to retrofit commercial refrigeration units (cooler motors and doors, strip curtains, florescent lights, and LED lamp bars) at twenty-four restaurants and markets.





Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

Silver

1. The City of Pittsburg uses recycled/reclaimed water in City Park/Davi, 8th Street Linear Park, Santa Fe, Columbia Linear Park, Mariner, Marina Walk, City Hall, Stoneman North Park, Delta View Golf Course, Truck Bypass, and the newly installed Living Green Gardens. The project extends over 20,000 feet of pipeline and will save over 520 acre feet (or 170 million gallons) of potable water every year.

Gold

2. Pittsburg audited the city's water and waste-water pumps and motors to identify most and least efficient equipment. Under PG&E's Time-of-Use Rates Program, Pittsburg adheres to off-peak schedules of energy intensive machinery (pumps, motors, etc.) and monitors energy use with energy management software at the Water Treatment Plant.
3. Since 2008, the city has participated in water conservation programs as outlined in the Pittsburg Municipal Code (13.18), the Model Water Efficiency Landscaping Ordinance, and the Contra Costa Water District.

Platinum

4. In 2007, the city partnered with Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) to present inspiring and informative workshops designed for homeowners interested in replacing their existing water-thirsty lawns with beautiful waste-wise landscaping. Experts provided advice and instruction on gardening design, irrigation and plants specific to the Diablo Valley climate. Participants also learned about CCWD's Lawn to Garden Rebate Program.
5. The city uses compost and mulch in agency landscaping as a water conservation measure, weed control, and beautification. The city generates its own mulch from its tree crew and gives mulch by the bag to Pittsburg citizens to encourage mulch use.
6. Since 2013, the city has participated in an energy platform system, GreenTraks that monitors energy use for all city accounts and all GHG emissions.





Green Building Activities

Silver

1. The City of Pittsburg's website has a few pages dedicated to advertising and informing the public about green building practices.

Gold

2. The library's electrical system, though non-solar currently, has been designed to be solar ready.
3. Pittsburg's Green Building Design Guidelines suggest that existing trees should be incorporated into the project site design, for homes without solar energy systems, green roofs or cool roofs roofing should include features to make them "solar ready." The external design of homes should feature up-to-date energy efficiency technologies, roof overhangs should be sized to block the high summer sun but allow the lower winter sun to enter windows, solar energy generation systems should be integrated into the urban fabric including but not limited to, bus shelters parking lots street lights and other public infrastructure, greater emphasis on pedestrian and bike accessibility and connectivity also known as "green space connectors."

Platinum

4. The city developed and implemented sustainable landscaping practices, such as xeriscaping, composting, and using mulch for all city buildings to reduce water consumption.
5. The City of Pittsburg's agency landscaping irrigation is censored by a John Deere Green Tech Computerized Central Irrigation System with a weather station and 4-5 repeaters. The system monitors 125 acres and communicates suggested watering schedules, flow rates and patterns, and advanced irrigation information to staff that make irrigation adjustments as needed.
6. Train appropriate city staff in Green Building Design Guidelines to facilitate approval and inspection processes.
7. Section VI of the Green Building Design Guidelines encourages green roofs to decrease the heat island effect and improve water quality.





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

Silver

1. In 2005, the city instituted a comprehensive Waste Reduction and Recycling Program in city hall that encourages a reduction in paper use via electronic payroll documents, water bills, city council agendas, online budgets, tablets, and centrally linked computer and printing locations. Each year, more waste reduction measures are added to the program.

Gold

2. The city participates in the CalRecycle Rubberized Pavement Grant Program. The program grounds recycled tires to make rubberized asphalt concrete, which was used to pave major roads. Ground reclaimed tires comprised 5-12% of the makeup of the asphalt rubber chip seal used.
3. The city adopted a partnership with local schools (K-12th grade and ESL students) for waste reduction and recycling: Eco-Education for Fun and Future. The partnership creates field trip opportunities for students at the Mt. Diablo Recycling Facility and Recycling Center & Transfer Station. Pittsburg High School students also compete in the Green Campus Challenge—Battle of the Classes.

Platinum

4. In 2009, Pittsburg adopted an Expanded Curbside Recycling Program. Pittsburg residents now have three, all wheeled garbage, recycling, and yard waste totters. It offers residents a greater choice of collection service levels, along with easier and more convenient recycling and weekly yard waste collection pick up.
5. Six facilities citywide offer opportunities to recycle motor oil. The city's webpage promotes recycled oil instead of oil replacement.
6. The city increases opportunities for e-waste and hazardous waste recycling by partnering with the Delta Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility.
7. As laid out in the General Plan's Solid Waste Policies, the Public Works Division and Neighborhood Improvement Team prepare and distribute informational handouts to the public regarding opportunities to reduce waste at homes and businesses, as well as methods of safe disposal of hazardous materials as part of a public outreach and education program.





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

Silver

1. Pittsburg's Engage Program educates the public about climate-friendly procurement opportunities.

Gold

2. The city encourages hybrid and electric car purchases in the community by providing three electric charging stations throughout the city and working with 511 Contra Costa.
3. Locally purchased Firebird 15-40wt recycled oil is used in all city vehicles.

Platinum

4. The city promotes PG&E rebates and programs and invests in Energy Star products, such as ice machines, refrigerators, microwaves, etc.
5. For maximum energy efficiency, city hall procures new computers every five years. Computer purchases meet the Gold EPEAT certification level. The DELL All-In-One Desktop PC's are donated to non-profit organizations and/or given to electronic recycling centers.
6. The city adopted energy financing programs (FigTree and CaliforniaFIRST) to facilitate purchasing and installation of renewable solar photovoltaic systems on existing residential and commercial buildings. The programs offer incentives, rebates, and financial plans to lighten the up-front monetary burden of solar panel installation.
7. The City of Pittsburg has added two hybrid cars to its fleet: a Chevrolet Volt and a Ford Escape Hybrid.





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

Silver

1. The City of Pittsburg owns its own power company (Island Energy/Pittsburg Power Company) that offers the highest incentive/installed watt in the Bay Area. This incentive program has facilitated the creation of 75,985 kWh/year since 2010.

Gold

2. Through Contra Costa's Energy Upgrade California, the City of Pittsburg's Environmental Affairs Division hosted "how to" workshops for residential solar.
3. Future Build is a partnership with the city and several other groups that provides at-risk youth with 16+ weeks of pre-apprenticeship training that leads to re-engagement in the workforce and post-secondary educational opportunities. Trainings are offered in several industry trades, including solar theory and solar power construction. Participants complete a plethora of projects, including community benefit projects. A recent project included the construction of an off-grid solar trailer, which produces 1 kW of electricity for use in teaching the benefits of solar at local schools.

Platinum

4. In November 2010, Pittsburg's Development Review Design Guidelines were amended to include "Green Building Design Guidelines." The new guidelines include provisions to increase renewable/alternative energy use through the installation of solar panels, wind turbines, and cool roofs on new homes.
5. The city cleared the path for a 20-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic power generation facility. The system is located in the city and expected to begin supplying energy to the wholesale electric grid sometime between 2014 and 2015.
6. In conjunction with the impending eBART station, the city secured a sizeable OBAG grant (nearly \$1,000,000) for a unique kiss-n-ride lot. The lot would be situated very near the eBART station, equipped with bike lockers, and fairly small in size in order to promote active transportation to and from eBART.





Efficient Transportation Activities

Silver

1. Specific Plan roadway improvements were developed with the objective of reducing vehicle miles traveled while safely accommodating potential future development and regional traffic increases.

Gold

2. The city participates in 511 Contra Costa, which reduces the need for a motor vehicle by providing trip planning services for commuters and residents who need help planning bike routes, managing public transit options, or finding the best rideshare program.
3. The city implemented an Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) stoplight analysis and programming to synchronize signals to improve traffic flow, increase miles per gallon achieved, and reduce vehicle idling, fossil fuel use, and GHG emission.

Platinum

4. In order to mitigate the transportation impacts caused by new development, Pittsburg joined the cities of Antioch, Brentwood, and the eastern portion of Contra Costa County to implement a Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee. This fee is paid by developing property owners and goes toward constructing transportation improvements such as the construction of additional lanes, improved median barriers, wider medians, and HOV and mixed flow lanes.
5. Pittsburg has one rideshare lot on Bliss Avenue. This lot, and others like it in East Contra Costa County, was funded through a Transportation for Clean Air (TFCA) Grant shared by several East Contra Costa cities. Eligible TFCA grant expenditures range from purchasing clean air vehicles to ridesharing programs, to bicycle racks, lanes, and lockers.
6. In the East County Action Plan for Routes and Regional Significance, Pittsburg has set goals called MTSOs (Multi-modal Transportation Service Objectives) to improve vehicle, transit, bike and pedestrian transportation.
7. Pittsburg adopted a Complete Streets Program in January 2013.
8. Bicycle racks, showers, and bathrooms have been installed at City Hall to promote bicycle use by city employees and visitors.
9. The city works with the Downtown Bike Shop to advertise and support "Bike to Work Day" every May.





Land Use and Community Design Activities

Silver

1. Under Section 6.3.2 of Pittsburg's Specific Plan, design standards promote safe and efficient pedestrian and bicycle access through the application of ten-foot sidewalks, pathways, landscaped buffer and shade zones between streets and pedestrians, ten-foot wide mid-block cross walks, sidewalk cafes to catch driver awareness, bulb outs, and special paving.

Gold

2. Pittsburg's Community-Wide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan is detailed in the Specific Plan and General Plan and is included in the Contra Costa Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Under this plan, bike maps and design standards maximize the potential for residents to walk or bicycle within and between neighborhoods.
3. Section 13.1.4 of Pittsburg's General Plan supports the construction of multi-family housing in close proximity to transit, arterials, shopping and public services.

Platinum

4. Section 18.53.010 of the Pittsburg Municipal Code states that the purposes of the mixed use district are to:
a) promote use of mass transit facilities by placing high concentrations of residents and employees in proximity to transit stations and routes, b) minimize prominence of the automobile and enhance the pedestrian space through design standards that encourage visible and usable public open spaces and that orient commercial structures toward the pedestrian and street and c) ensure that new development, redevelopment, rehabilitation of structures and establishment of new uses within one-half mile of existing and future transit stations occur in a manner that is consistent with the General Plan.
5. Sidewalks are required for all new developments (except on hillsides) in Pittsburg, thus promoting safe walking.
6. Pittsburg's General Plan's Land Use Framework Guiding Principles promote infill development in order to minimize encroachment into the hillsides, reverse and prevent blight, promote economic development, and efficiently provide services. The plan encourages use and revitalization of vacant and underutilized sites.





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

Silver

1. For 21 years, Pittsburg has been a Tree City USA community.

Gold

2. Through the East Contra Costa Habitat Conservation Plan (ECCHCP), Pittsburg partners with other cities to protect natural lands in and adjacent to its community by replacing the process of project-by-project permitting for development of wildlife habitat. Developers simply pay a mitigation fee to develop in those areas. The fees are used to conserve priority wildlife habitat in another defined area.
3. Every Saturday from May to October, the City Of Pittsburg hosts a farmer's market featuring locally grown food and locally made crafts. The events encourage Pittsburg citizens to walk and bike instead of drive.

Platinum

4. Pittsburg currently provides recreational and public health opportunities at 23 city parks that offer everything from ball fields, to courts, pools, restrooms, and BBQ grills. The locations and number of parks in Pittsburg increase the livability and foster a community infrastructure across the city.
5. Pittsburg's Living Green Gardens includes a turf demonstration area showcasing several types of lawns potentially used in residential landscaping. The lawns are each separately metered, displaying their differences in water need and irrigation frequency.
6. As part of the Highway 4 Widening Project, the City of Pittsburg installed a Habitat Mitigation Element, or a habitat corridor. The corridor is a long stretch of trees and vegetation that runs all the way to the city's border and is monitored by a certified biologist.





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

Silver

1. The city supports efforts by the Rising Sun Energy Center, a nonprofit organization that provides no-cost energy efficiency home visits (green house calls) to local residents through the California Youth Energy Services (CYES) Program.

Gold

2. Under the East Bay Energy Watch Program, Pittsburg launched a small business outreach campaign that provided one-stop shopping for energy efficiency upgrades, making it easier for business owners to install energy improvements to their buildings and operations. During the 2010-2012 program cycle, over 250 businesses were audited; 115 non-residential customers were served.
3. Since April 2012, the city's Fleet Maintenance Operations Department, Grounds and Parks Department, Big-O-Tires , Steeltown Coffee & Tea, Mechanics Bank, Hospital Systems, Inc., PetSport USA, Inc., Bishop Wisecarver Corp., Mt. Diablo Recycling, and the Office of Supervisor Federal Glover are part of Pittsburg's Certified Green Businesses under Contra Costa County's Green Business Program.

Platinum

4. Pittsburg's environmental affairs Facebook page (LivinGreen) employs modern social media to connect with people of all ages to spread Pittsburg's environmental news and updates.
5. Pittsburg's climate action webpage puts eco-friendly transportation at the citizens of Pittsburg's fingertips with links to Transit and Trails, Bay Area Bikes, Pittsburg's Bike Map, Bike Mapper, BART, Tri-Delta Transit, and Carpool Rewards.
6. Pittsburg supports and advertises Spare the Air Days through its website, staff, and Facebook page.
7. As a spin-off of the Plastic Bag Regulation passed in September 2013, the city partnered with three of its junior high schools, providing 1,000 reusable bags to each institution for a total of 3,000 bags. In return, science teachers included a lesson in their curriculum to teach about the banes of plastic in the environment.
8. In honor of Earth Day, the City of Pittsburg hosts the Green Footprint Festival at Small World Park.





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