

BEACON

SPOTLIGHT
AWARD

WINNER

BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of Salinas

Sustainability Best Practice Activities



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

City of Salinas

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			2020 (22%)
	Agency Energy Savings			
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities	2020		
	Beacon Vanguard 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, the Salinas city council approved a proposal for a citywide energy efficiency program.

Gold

2. In 2016, the City of Salinas completed solar construction on solar arrays that power dozens of city-owned facilities, which together are projected to generate 94 million kWh of power of 25 years.
3. The city completed retrofits of all streetlights to LED.

Platinum





Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

Silver

1. The City of Salinas implements a Sewage and Drainage Master Plan.

Gold

2. The city works with the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA) to provide a level of flood control protection that meets the needs of the community.
3. New development is required to provide stormwater retention/detention facilities to regulate runoff and siltation and meet local, state and federal regulations.

Platinum





Green Building Activities

Silver

1. The city has adopted the CALGreen Building Standards Code, Part 11, 2019 edition as the Green Building Standards Code for the City of Salinas.

Gold

Platinum





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

Silver

1. The city offers free waste assessments for businesses, agencies, and schools to learn how to reduce trash costs and save money.

Gold

2. The city holds several community neighborhood and household cleanup events each year.
3. In 2017, Salinas city council adopted a reusable bag ordinance.

Platinum





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

Silver

1. The city developed a campaign to promote local businesses and products, including a “buy local”/”made in Salinas” website and mobile app.

Gold

Platinum





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

Silver

1. The city is a participant of the HERO program.

Gold

2. The city supports GRID Alternatives, a non-profit that installs solar panels in low-income communities, with CDBG funding.
3. The Alisal Vibrancy Plan calls for the increased use of renewable energy in public facilities and in residential and commercial construction.

Platinum





Efficient Transportation Activities

Silver

1. The City of Salinas' General Plan calls for the city to provide and maintain a pedestrian-friendly atmosphere by encouraging "pedestrian zones" with increased landscaping, use of traffic-calming techniques on local streets, adequate separation from automobile traffic and the inclusion of amenities, such as lighted crosswalks and increased lighting along sidewalks.

Gold

2. Salinas has adopted a Bikeways Plan and a Pedestrian Plan.
3. The city has approved the Downtown Complete Streets project for construction. The project will make the corridor on West Alisal Street from Blanco to Front Streets a more safe, efficient and complete streets.

Platinum





Land Use and Community Design Activities

Silver

1. The city's General Plan requires a balance of housing types and designs to avoid both monotony and visual chaos.

Gold

2. Salinas has a Neighborhood Vibrancy--Urban Greening Program, which drives and tracks progress toward a community vision for the future of Salinas' neighborhoods.
3. In 2015, the city completed its Housing Element, which was praised by the state as a model for other cities in California and won a 2016 Award of Excellence by the California Chapter American Planning Association.

Platinum





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

Silver

1. The city's General Plan has an Open Space designation that provides lands for the preservation of natural resources, hillsides, and creeks, as well as open space for the protection of public health and safety, including floodways and stormwater retention areas.

Gold

2. The City of Salinas has a "Future Growth Area" that directs future growth away from the most productive agricultural areas in the south and west of the city. In addition, growth within the future growth area is designed to provide compact development, minimizing the amount of agricultural land that will be needed to meet future growth in the community.
3. The city implements a Street Tree Program, which provides for the planting, maintenance, and improvement of street trees within the community. New development is charged a city street tree fee or is required to plant trees as part of the building permit process.

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Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

Silver

1. The city holds an annual event called Ciclovía Salinas, which is the only fully youth-led Ciclovía event in the country, since its founding in Bogotá in 1978. Ciclovía provides a safe and inclusive environment where families can enjoy accessible recreation, adopt healthier habits and counteract major health issues by interacting with volunteers and positively impacting economic development in Salinas.

Gold

2. Salinas has a Neighborhood Services Program, which was developed to assist residents in strengthening the social fabric of their neighborhoods and aid the city council in connecting with their neighborhoods.
3. The city engages their residents through Neighborhood Beautification Grants, which incentivize them to create neighborhood service projects. The projects must promote healthier, safer and cleaner neighborhoods, as well as improve neighborhood appearance.

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