



Town of Truckee

Sustainability Best Practice Activities





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

Town of Truckee

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		2019 (12%)	
	Community GHG Reductions			2019 (33%)
	Agency Energy Savings		2019 (13%)	
	Natural Gas Savings	2019 (6%)		
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities	2018	2019	2020
	Beacon Vanguard Award	2019		

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 Town of Truckee implemented energy efficiency upgrades with an American Recovery and Reinvestment (AARA) grant of \$89,354 between 2010 and 2012. The projects included: retrofitting existing t12 fluorescent fixtures with 28-w T8 lamps; removing ¼ of T8 fixtures in retrofitted areas; adding daylight controls to the front lobbies; replacing standard motors with premium efficiency motors; installing variable frequency drives; installing pipe insulation on hot water piping in boiler room; implementing network thermostats for control of water-source heat pumps; and implementing occupancy based bi-level fluorescent fixtures in all stair wells.

Gold

2. The town brought on a consultant team who produced a Strategic Energy Plan, including \$300,000 worth of recommended energy efficiency actions. The town budgeted \$240,000 to implement these improvements in the 2019-2020 fiscal year.
3. Truckee is a participant in the Institute for Local Government's Beacon Program, providing access to resources for climate action planning and energy efficiency upgrades.

Platinum

4. Truckee is using data from the local utility provider Truckee Donner Public Utility District to benchmark energy use for agency buildings using the EPA Portfolio Manager.
5. The IT department uses ENERGY STAR® purchasing standards for all new computer equipment, appliances and equipment.
6. The town's building inspectors are trained to understand and enforce Title 24 Section 6, California's energy efficiency building standard.





Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

Silver

1. All of the town's newest buildings are equipped with the latest water saving technology, including low flow toilets and faucet aerators. The town collects 8,000 gallons of snow melt and rain water from roofs each year, which is used for street sweepers and vehicle washing.

Gold

2. The town's stormwater program has placed over 100 storm drain markers throughout town and organized storm drain art painting contests to promote the message of "only rain down the storm drain." The stormwater program also regularly hands out native seeds for native vegetation reestablishment as mitigation for erosion associated with ground disturbance from construction projects.
3. All irrigation systems at roundabouts have rain sensors and other city landscape will have rain sensors installed or newly replaced irrigation systems. The town maintains a minimum of three inches of mulch on any irrigated landscaping. No pesticides or synthetic fertilizers are used on maintained areas.

Platinum

4. Truckee requires all new commercial projects to implement source control measures to eliminate discharge into local water bodies. The town also inspects commercial and industrial facilities and monitors water quality to check for illicit discharges.
5. Truckee requires all projects with new impervious surfaces to implement low impact development practices, including bioretention facilities, infiltration facilities and native vegetation preservation. Larger commercial development that disturbs more than one acre must meet additional requirements to ensure development maintains pre-project flows.
6. Truckee partnered with other regional agencies to produce the Tahoe Sierra Stormwater Resource Plan, which was recently approved and certified by the State Water Resources Control Board. The plan takes a watershed-based approach to yield water quality, social and community benefits and will allow projects in the plan to receive priority funding from the state.





Green Building Activities

Silver

1. The town built its new Corp Yard to meet LEED Silver standards in 2011.

Gold

2. Truckee implemented the mPOWER Placer PACE program in 2016. After a one-year trial period, the town authorized participation in four additional PACE programs: HERO, CaliforniaFIRST, Ygrene and FigTree.
3. The town co-hosted a 2019 California Energy Code seminar on May 10th with more than 80 attendees, which discussed the mandatory changes announced with the 2019 standards.

Platinum

4. The town uses mulch to help the landscaping retain water and as a weed suppressant to refrain from using chemicals to kill weeds.
5. All of the town's irrigation controllers are equipped with rain sensors. This allows for the systems to know when to water and not to water, to help with unnecessary watering. The town has also started incorporating smart controllers that are based off weather stations. They automatically adjust the percentage of water depending on the sun exposure, weather, and temperature. They are specifically programmed for soil and plant type. However, since the town is moving more into solar, we will only be using these in areas with electrical connections and use solar controllers for any future solar developments. To reduce water loss from evaporation, the town uses drip irrigation as frequently as possible to prevent unnecessary watering.
6. When choosing plants for new developments or when adding to existing landscapes, the town prioritizes drought tolerant and native plants.





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

Silver

1. The town updated its waste and recycling services to improve diversion rates under a new franchise agreement with its waste hauler. Truckee residents will move from using colored plastic bags to wheeled carts for their recyclables and yard waste, saving up to three million plastic bags over the next 10 years. Businesses will receive recycling carts for mixed recyclables and food waste carts for organic materials. The process of transitioning to new services includes the town offering technical assistance to businesses to help them divert more waste and save money.

Gold

2. As the town has remodeled its offices, it has donated 6.3 tons of old office furniture and supplies (90% of all materials) to local non-profit organizations.
3. Truckee's updated special events policy requires all events to have recycling and large events with food to have composting. Large events with food are also required to have waste station monitors to ensure that the waste streams are not contaminated.

Platinum

4. Truckee has a recycling-oriented website, Keep Truckee Green, which provides residents with a recycling guide and other information about solid waste services. Through the site, the Solid Waste Division sends out monthly newsletters with tips and event announcements.
5. Truckee provides drop-off bins for batteries and foil-lined wrappers for proper disposal and recycling.
6. The town works with the Tahoe Truckee Unified School District and the Sierra Watershed Education Partnership to provide educational opportunities to students. Recent projects include smart sort bins at the schools, "trashion" shows, and an anti-straw campaign.
7. All business are required to recycle using recycling carts for mixed recyclables. Food waste generating businesses are required to divert organic materials to food waste carts. The town offers technical assistance to help businesses divert waste and save money.





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

Silver

1. Truckee's Green Procurement and Sustainable Practices Policy requires the town to purchase recycled content and environmentally preferred products. Procurement practices include using paper with a minimum of 30% post-consumer recycled content, re-refined antifreeze and lubricating and hydraulic oils and products made from recycled tire rubber and bio solids.

Gold

2. Truckee runs a reusable to-go box program with three participating restaurants. Customers buying a meal to-go can purchase a reusable green box to avoid using a single-use container. Customers can continue trading in their used green box for a clean one with their next to-go meal from participating restaurants.
3. The town has a set of 75+ reusable plates, bowls, cups and silverware that it loans to organizations hosting events in the community. The set helps reduce the use of single-use foodware in Truckee.

Platinum

4. The town provides restaurants in Truckee with information regarding climate- friendly procurement opportunities through the Keep Truckee Green website and emails.
5. Resolution 2017-25 states a local preference policy to any purchase or contract for the Town of Truckee for supplies, equipment, service, professional services and public construction contracts. This policy increases efficient transportation methods thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
6. The town hosts fix-it clinics in partnership with the Truckee Roundhouse during which residents can bring broken household items to the makerspace and have them repaired for free by handy volunteers. These events have prevented at least 60 household items from going to the landfill.





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

Silver

1. The town replaced streetlights along Brockway Road with solar-powered streetlights in early 2018. Due to the distance between the lights, each one would have required its own electric meter and service connection at a cost of approximately \$12,000 each. The solar-powered lights eliminate this cost while improving visibility for pedestrians.

Gold

2. The town is releasing an RFP to install 320 kW of solar energy generation of town facilities by the end of 2020.
3. A solar installation will be added to the town's new corporation yard facility, with a production capacity between 20,000 and 25,000 kilowatts per year. The town council approved a capital improvement project budget of \$1.5 million for FY 19/20 for installation of this project.

Platinum

4. The town included an item in the modified FY20/21 budget to procure renewable diesel for all diesel burning fleet vehicles.
5. In 2017 Town of Truckee staff members participated in the creation of the Tahoe-Basin EV Readiness Plan to expand the use of electric vehicles throughout the Tahoe-Truckee Region.
6. The town oversaw the installation of 6 EV chargers in Truckee's Railyard Project parking lot available to the public.





Efficient Transportation Activities

Silver

1. In 2015, the town completed the Truckee Trails and Bikeways Master Plan, which includes goals and policies to guide expansions and maintenance to pedestrian and bike infrastructure. Additionally, the town partnered with Zagster and the Truckee Tahoe Airport District to bring a community bike sharing program to the area.

Gold

2. In 2017, Truckee conducted a Long-Range Transit Plan that outlines establishing new neighborhood routes, providing extended hours and days of service, and expanding dial-a-ride services. Since 2015, Truckee has offered free seasonal shuttles to Truckee Thursday events, the July 4th parade, and during the winter holiday week. These shuttles have an annual shuttle ridership of 13,200 one-way passenger trips, reducing vehicles on the roadways and associated emissions while improving public health and enhancing the visitor experience.
3. The town implemented 9-80 work schedules to reduce employee trips to town hall and an incentive program for employees using alternative transportation.

Platinum

4. In 2016, the town purchased a zero emission electric motorcycle and electric utility vehicle for the Police Department. In fiscal year 2018-19, the town planned the purchase of one electric vehicle for the town fleet and installation of three charging stations at town hall for fleet, employee, and public use.
5. The town has installed roundabouts at intersections to improve traffic flow and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
6. The town imposes a mitigation fee for particulate matter emissions on large development projects that is based on vehicle miles traveled (VMT) generated from the project. The fees go to future emissions reduction programs.
7. On July 1, 2019, the town implemented free passenger fares on the Truckee public transit system. As of April 30, 2019, the fixed route service has experienced a 25% increase in overall ridership with a 16% ridership increase seen on the dial-a-ride service.





Land Use and Community Design Activities

Silver

1. The 2025 General Plan includes goals and policies that promote mixed-used, infill, and pedestrian-oriented development, especially in the downtown corridor to reduce vehicle miles traveled. The current General Plan update process will continue to expand on these priorities.

Gold

2. General Plan goals are carried out through the Development Code, which includes a: “focus on more compact development to promote walkability, preservation of natural resources, creation of public space, and shared infrastructure.”
3. The Railyard Master Plan lays out plans for development at the eastern end of downtown Truckee—one of the primary locations for infill in town. The first goal in the plan is: “encourage vibrant and economically sustainable mixed-use redevelopment that offers diverse retail, entertainment, employment and housing opportunities.”

Platinum

4. Truckee received a grant to conduct a vulnerability assessment and develop adaptation policies that will help inform climate and safety components in the upcoming General Plan update.
5. Town of Truckee has one CivicSpark fellow developing capacity on climate issues including the integration of climate action into the upcoming General Plan update process.
6. The town gives an annual trails and bikeways update to Town Council on status of existing trails and any plans for expansion.





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

Silver

1. The town partners with local agencies, including the Truckee Tahoe Airport District and the Truckee Donner Recreation and Park District to protect natural lands. The Town of Truckee has been especially involved in preserving the Truckee River corridor and Donner Lake by regulating development and incentivizing habitat restoration.

Gold

2. The 2025 General Plan includes the following goal: “protect areas of significant wildlife habitat and sensitive biological resources.” The town implements this goal in projects across town with regional stakeholders. For example, the town has partnered with the Truckee River Watershed Council to restore and maintain a wetland for public benefit on the town-owned McIver Dairy parcel.
3. The town’s Development Code has regulations regarding tree preservation including requiring site designs to maximize tree retention, receive a zoning clearance for tree removal and mitigate approved tree removal.

Platinum

4. The town is finalizing a climate action plan that includes strategies to reduce carbon emissions through open space. Specific goals and policies designed to reduce carbon emissions in climate action plan will be incorporated into Truckee’s general plan.
5. In 2018 the Truckee Town Council voted to approve a site use plan that included protection of the McIver Dairy open space restoration meadow. The site plan continued to support public access by relocating sledding to the eastern portion of the site, among other low-impact site improvements.
6. The Truckee 2025 General plan includes policies that 1) acquire and preserve open space lands in Truckee, and purchase development rights for the purpose of open space preservation 2) support efforts to establish and sustain a long-term funding source for open space acquisition and maintenance in Truckee 3) preserve open space that, to the greatest possible extent, occurs in large blocks and is contiguous and connected 4) develop a transfer of development credit program to protect important open spaces. These policies will continue to be upheld in the current general plan update project.





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

Silver

1. The town has gone through an initial outreach effort to engage local agencies in cooperation and partnership on sustainability efforts. The town council collaborated with local stakeholders in passing 100% clean energy goals. All of these engagement efforts will continue and expand as the town embarks on a General Plan update.

Gold

2. The town has hosted three fix-it clinics in partnership with the Truckee Roundhouse during which residents can bring broken household items to the makerspace and have them repaired for free by handy volunteers. These events have prevented at least 60 household items from going to the landfill.
3. Keep Truckee Green, the town's solid waste division, has begun an ambassadors program in which community members will help educate residents and visitors about recycling and composting in Truckee.

Platinum

4. Keep Truckee Green conducts extensive outreach efforts on topics related to solid waste, recycling, water conservation, and storm water pollution at events in the Truckee area. At these events, the town distributes motor oil kits to improve motor oil recycling and reduce water pollution.
5. The town's sustainability committee created a "sustainability snapshot," an annual update of the environmental actions the town has taken for the year, and presented the information to town council.
6. The Town of Truckee hosted upwards of 18 public engagements which included workshops, stakeholder meetings, joint council and planning commissions, and pop-up events for all General Plan topics, including housing and climate. This outreach has informed the 2040 General Plan process, and allowed community members to provide feedback and insight on future growth plans for the town.





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