

BEACON



SPOTLIGHT
AWARD

WINNER

BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of Watsonville

Sustainability Best Practice Activities



City of Watsonville

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			2017 (25%)
	Agency Energy Savings		2017 (17%)	2020 (24%)
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities	2018		
	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. All city facilities within Watsonville have been audited to identify energy efficiency opportunities, as well as potential for renewable energy production.

Gold

2. All city facilities have been benchmarked using the Portfolio Manager tool. This allows city staff to track energy usage and track the impacts that retrofits and behavior change campaigns are having.
3. The City of Watsonville has been working with partners in order to access technical assistance and financial incentives, including facility audits, rebates, and on-bill financing.

Platinum





Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

Silver

1. The Watsonville wastewater treatment plant produces recycled water, which is used to irrigate 2,000 acres of row crops.

Gold

2. The City of Watsonville provides detailed information to the community regarding water conservation on its website. This information includes water conservation tips, information on a Lawn Conversion Rebate Program, and information on rebates for the installation of water efficient equipment.

Platinum





Green Building Activities

Silver

1. The City of Watsonville is implementing a green building program and information about green building is found on a dedicated page of the website.

Gold

2. The City of Watsonville is part of the Hero Program, a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program, which allows community members to access loan funding to implement green building retrofits.

Platinum





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

Silver

1. The City of Watsonville provides detailed recycling and organic recycling information to the community, which is available on the website.

Gold

Platinum





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

Silver

1. As per the City of Watsonville Municipal Code (6-6.104), all city facilities must use biodegradable, compostable or recyclable food service ware. In addition: "City of Watsonville contractors, and special events promoters and vendors shall use biodegradable, compostable, or recyclable food service ware products while performing under a City of Watsonville contract or permit."

Gold

Platinum





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

Silver

1. In 2017, City of Watsonville joined the Monterey Bay Community Power (MBCP), a joint power authority working under the Community Choice Energy model. MBCP will provide the community with carbon free electricity beginning in spring 2018.

Gold

Platinum





Efficient Transportation Activities

Silver

1. The City of Watsonville provides detailed information about the numerous recreation trails on the website. This information includes a detailed trail map as well as a promotional video.

Gold

2. The City of Watsonville works with local partners, such as the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Agency, to conduct studies and implement projects designed to decrease traffic and promote active transportation.
3. The City of Watsonville is part of AMBAG, the federally designated MPO for the Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties. The City of Watsonville uses the transportation model provided by AMBAG which includes different modes of transportation (bicycling, private vehicles, public transit).

Platinum





Land Use and Community Design Activities

Silver

1. The Watsonville city council approved an expenditure plan in 2017 for seven transportation projects, which include the construction of a new bicycle lane as well as safety improvements for existing bike lanes.

Gold

2. The City of Watsonville is partnering with AMBAG to work on a Sustainable Communities Strategy, as part of SB 375.

Platinum





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

Silver

1. The City of Watsonville adopted an Urban Green Plan in 2006. Elements of this plan include providing information on sustainable landscaping best practices, an Urban Street Trees Program and a Community Gardens Program.

Gold

Platinum





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

Silver

1. The City of Watsonville provides the community with great information and exhibits on a wide variety of environmental topics, through the Nature Center.

Gold

2. The City of Watsonville works with partners to provide the community with webinars, seminars and trainings on a wide variety of sustainability topics, ranging from solar water heating, to energy auditing classes.
3. The City of Watsonville works with partners to provide the community with information and project assistance, to pursue energy efficiency opportunities.

Platinum





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