

PLATINUM LEVEL AWARD WINNER

BEACON
SPOTLIGHT
AWARD
WINNER
BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of San Rafael

Sustainability Best Practices Activities



About This Document

This document tracks and shares local agency best practice activities completed and counted as part of a city or county's participation in the climate change and sustainability recognition program, the Beacon Program. The Beacon Program is a statewide program recognizing cities and counties that are working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save energy and adopt policies and programs that promote sustainability.

The Beacon Program is sponsored by the Institute for Local Government and the Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative. The Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative (SEEC) provides support to cities and counties to help them reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save energy. SEEC is an alliance between three statewide non-profit organizations and California's four Investor-Owned Utilities. It builds upon the unique resources, expertise and local agency relationships of each partner.









Supporting California local governments

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.



SPOTLIGHT AWARD

Areas of Accomplishment

		SILVER LEVEL	GOLD LEVEL	PLATINUM LEVEL
	Agency GHG Reductions		19%	
	Community GHG Reductions	13%		
	Agency Energy Savings	5%		
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities		2015	2017
	Beacon Award	2013		



Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city converted traffic signals to LEDs.	2017
Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities	Reported
Gold	1. The city converted signature downtown "twinkle lights" to LEDs. 2. The city performed energy audits of city facilities.	2017
Level	Energy Efficiency & Conservation Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. The city implemented city hall lighting retrofit. 2. The city implementing city hall heating, ventilation and air conditioning replacement. 3. The city implemented 731 LED streetlight retrofits. 4. The city implemented high efficiency lighting retrofits for city parking garages & fire stations.	2017





Water & Wastewater Systems Activity

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city audited city facilities for water use and will be implementing upgrades.	2017

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city required dual plumbing for reclaimed water in Northgate Mall renovation and in an 82-unit condominium project. 2. The city adopted a Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance in partnership with local water district. 	2017

Level	Water and Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city participated in national Mayor's Water Conservation Challenge in April 2015. 2. The city conducted water conservation pilot with local congregations in summer 2014. 3. The city conducted water conservation trainings for city staff for Earth Day 2014. 4. The city conducted community-wide behavior change toilet leak conservation 	2017





Green Building Activity

Level	Green Building Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city adopted green building ordinance - one of the most stringent in the nation.	2017

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city facilitated a collaborative process between building trades and community organizations to create a model green building ordinance which has been adopted by four Marin jurisdictions. 2. The city requires home performance audits for any residential remodel exceeding \$50,000 in valuation. 	2017

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city adopted CalGreen tier 1 for all new building projects, and mandatory plumbing fixture replacement for all remodels. 2. The city promoted Energy Upgrade CA and Smart Lights Program to residents and businesses through planning/building counter, a greening for profit business sustainability circles program the city hosted and their residential Resilient Neighborhoods Program. 	2017





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activity

Level	Waste Reduction Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city adopted a curbside residential composting program.	2017
Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Gold	1. The city has created a mandatory multi-family and commercial recycling ordinance. 2. The city adopted zero-waste resolution.	2017
Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. The city conducted a waste audit of city facilities. 2. The city facilitates a collaborative process with local businesses and community organizations to develop a model plastic bag ban ordinance and Styrofoam take-out food container ban ordinance. 3. Adopted Construction & Demolition ordinance requiring residential remodels exceeding \$10,000 in valuation to recycle or reuse 70% of the project's waste. 4. Provided funding for feasibility study for methane capture project to turn food waste into energy at Central Marin Sanitation Agency in 2011. Project was subsequently built in 2013. 5. Participate in the Climate Corps Bay Area program to host one intern annually devoted to zero waste outreach in conjunction with our waste hauler. 6. Began composting paper towels at City Hall and two other City facilities. 7. Amended our franchise agreement to include specific measures and reporting related to zero waste, recycling and composting. 8. Conducted a study to determine the best ways to revise our rate structure to incentivize more recycling and composting in the community. 9. Developed a Waste-Wise Business Spotlight, recognizing businesses that are committed to zero waste.	2017





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activity

Level	Climate-Friendly Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Adopted green purchasing criteria for photocopiers and computer hardware.	2017
Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Gold	1. Adopted a plastic water bottle prohibition among city departments. 2. Established purchasing requirements for minimum recycled content paper purchases for city departments.	2017
Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. Developed and adopted a comprehensive Environmentally Preferable Purchasing policy 2. Developed and implemented a surplus equipment donation procedure.	2017





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activity

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Participated in formation of the Marin Energy Authority - the only operating Community Choice Aggregation program in California.	2017

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Installed four EV charging stations in public garages. 2. Require pre-wiring and pre-plumbing for PV and solar hot water installations in new buildings. 	2017

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Facilitating a commercial food waste-to-energy project, partnering with our local wastewater treatment facility and waste franchisee. 2. Initiated a Solar SEED Fund program in the North Bay with Strategic Energy Innovations, and became Lead Agency for a group solar purchasing program, enabling San Rafael and twelve other public agencies in three North Bay counties. 3. Supported and promoted San Rafael Airport's project with Marin Clean Energy to develop one megawatt of solar on site through a feed-in tariff program. 	2017





Efficient Transportation Activity

Level	Efficient Transportation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Adopted a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, with significant implementation through the Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program (one of four communities in the nation).	2017

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Adopted the Canal Neighborhood Transportation Plan for a dense, low-income neighborhood. Adopted the Canal Waterfront Design Plan for waterfront bicycle and pedestrian mobility. 	2017

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Adopted bicycle parking requirements based on the CalGreen code. Supported and developed projects with Safe Routes to School for bicycle and pedestrian access to several schools in San Rafael. 2011-2015. Instituted an Employee Commute Program in 2013. Installed six new EV charging stations in San Rafael parking garages. Amended ordinances to require all new parking lots with 25 spaces or more to pre-wire for EV charging stations. Worked with San Rafael Chamber of Commerce Leadership Institute and Transportation Authority of Marin to develop an employer guide to encourage more efficient commutes. 	2017





Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Adopted a Qualified Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Strategy.	2017

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Gold	1. Adopted a Sustainability Element to the General Plan. 2. Preparing station area plans for two planned SMART commuter rail stations.	2017

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. Worked with community and SMART to develop Station Area Plans for new SMART Train stations in San Rafael. 2. Secured grant funding to conduct traffic improvements around the downtown Transit Center to enable SMART train access and to widen the Grand Avenue Bridge to allow better pedestrian and bike access to downtown. 3. Adopted a Housing Element Update that states: "Foster land use patterns and densities which support lifestyles which rely less on carbon-based transportation."	2017





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Silver	1. Promoting local purchasing, including local organic food, through the Resilient Neighborhoods Program.	2017

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Gold	1. San Rafael continues to be a Tree City USA community. 2. San Rafael continues to host a weekly farmers market downtown from April-September.	2017

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. San Rafael has a Wildland Urban Interface ordinance and provides resources to residents to remove fire-prone trees and shrubs including free chipper days. 2. Partnered with local restaurant Terrapin Crossroads in a public-private partnership to renovate and re-open a defunct park on the Canal . 3. Conducted a tree inventory in the Gerstle Park Neighborhood of San Rafael.	2017





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Silver	1. Sponsoring the Resilient Businesses Program to take Natural Capitalism's small business program to 36 local businesses to "green" their operations.	2017

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Gold	1. Sponsoring the Resilient Neighborhoods Program to take Low Carbon Diet program to 100 household. 2. Sponsoring the EcoFair Marin to disseminate practical sustainability options to residents in a festival setting.	2017

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. San Rafael continues to host quarterly CAP implementation forums that are open to the public and recently began real-time Spanish translation to include members of our Spanish-speaking community. In addition, in 2014 San Rafael began actively engaging youth and now has high school students from the Marin School of Environmental Leadership regularly attend meetings. 2. Worked with Marin School of Environmental Leadership to develop sustainability curriculum and support students in their efforts through implementing Resilient Neighborhoods at the school in 2014 and 2015, and coordinating LEAD projects related to the environment. 3. San Rafael City Council Liaison to Sustainability and the staff Sustainability Coordinator participate in regular Chamber and other local agency workshops as presenters, hosts, and promoters such as the Chamber Green Briefs sustainability workshops, Greening for Profit sustainability circles, as well as statewide SEEC workshops. 4. Developed a Green Initiatives Facebook page in 2013, which continually engages with community members and partner agencies to promote conservation and efficiency, as well as all things sustainable. 5. San Rafael Sustainability Coordinator is Chair of the Marin Climate and Energy Partnership and sits on the Chamber of Commerce's Green Business Committee. 6. Provides one annual intern for the Resilient Neighborhood program to encourage homeowners in San Rafael to reduce their carbon emissions through a variety of actions tailored to individual circumstances.	2017





INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTSM

Promoting Good Government at the Local Level

© 2015 by Institute for Local Government
1400 K Street, Suite 205
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-658-8208
www.ca-ilg.org

