



BEACON  
SPOTLIGHT  
AWARD  
WINNER  
BEST PRACTICE  
ACTIVITIES



# City of Concord

Sustainability Best Practice Activities




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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			
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities		2017	
	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. Replaced 8,419 street lights with induction lamp technology to provide energy efficient lighting throughout the city in 2012.

## Gold

2. Partnered with Rising Sun Energy Center to host California Youth Energy Service (CYES) in 2008, 2016, 2017. The energy specialist performed 294 residential assessments in Concord in 2016. The assessments led to the installation of energy and water saving devices which resulted in changes that are the equivalent of three residential homes electricity use for one year in greenhouse gas emission reductions in perpetuity.
3. Adopted a Weatherization Ordinance requiring every residential property seller to provide a time-of-sale residential weatherization disclosure form to all potential buyers to encourage voluntary weatherization prior to sale.

## Platinum

4. Conducted a wall to wall inventory of all city-owned equipment in 2016 to reduce and remove all non-essential equipment. In 2017, the city donated 66 laptops to a local leadership group, East Bay Leadership Council.
5. Installed occupancy sensors that temporarily shut down lighting and air conditioning in unoccupied rooms at city buildings.
6. Configured all desktop computers to turn the monitor off at 30 minutes and put the desktop to sleep in 30 minutes.





# Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

## Silver

1. Created and information bulletin for water-conserving plumbing fixtures.

## Gold

2. Partnered with the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District to install a purple pipe system throughout a portion of the city. The system provided 35.1 million gallons for recycled water in 2016.
3. Partnered with Central Contra Costa Sanitary District to provide a residential recycled water fill station to hand water lawns, landscaping and gardens using recycled water.

## Platinum

4. Adopted water efficient landscape regulations.
5. Required to purchase water-saving products when practicable.
6. Replaced lawn area at local parks with drought tolerant landscaping.





# Green Building Activities

## Silver

1. Adopted a policy that recommends all building and renovations undertaken by the city follow green building practices for design, construction and operation where appropriate, as described in the LEED rating system.

## Gold

2. Adopted a Construction and Demolition Ordinance requiring a minimum of 50% of construction waste to be diverted from the landfill.
3. Specified use of asphalt concrete, aggregate base or Portland cement concrete for road construction projects to be recycled, reusable or reground when practical.

## Platinum





# Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

## Silver

1. The city provides battery recycling bins for residents located at five municipal facilities throughout the city. The batteries are collected and recycled.

## Gold

2. The city works with Concord Disposal Service Recycling Team to conduct educational outreach for multifamily and commercial sites.
3. The City of Concord achieved a 74.6% trash load reduction in 2016 from 2009 baseline.

## Platinum

4. The city successfully worked with contractors and building permit applicants to comply with the required diversion, recycling and tracking practices from the city for certain construction projects. The latest diversion letter from October 2016 for Construction and Demolition Materials noted a diversion rate of 90%.
5. The city required businesses that generate more than eight cubic yards of organics to recycle organic waste (green waste, landscaping/prunings, non-hazardous wood waste, food waste) by April 2016. By January 1, 2017 businesses that generate four cubic yards or organic waste per week must arrange for organic waste and recycling services.
6. The city set up an information area with recycling information for e-waste recycling, used battery drop off and hazardous waste drop off in the city permit center.





# Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

## Silver

1. Approved an Environmental Purchasing Policy.

## Gold

2. Adopted a policy that city will consider when replacing vehicles to select less polluting alternatives to diesel, such as compressed natural gas, bio-based fuels, hybrids, electric batteries and fuel cells as available.
3. The city phased out the use of chlorofluorocarbon-containing refrigerants, solvents and other products.

## Platinum

4. Policy requires the city to purchase recycled content transportation products including, signs, cones, parking stops, delineators and barricades.
5. The city requires janitorial contractors and the city to supply industrial and institutional cleaning products that meet Green Seal certification standards for environmental preferability and performance to the maximum extent practicable.
6. Certified as a Bay Area Green Business by the Association of Bay Area Governments: Fleet Management Department, Parks Division, Printing Services, Civic Center.





# Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

## Silver

1. Approved a community choice aggregation program, Marin Clean Energy, which is anticipated to roll out in May 2018.

## Gold

2. The city installed a 191.5 kW photovoltaic system to offset the majority of the electrical consumption at the Concord community pool. The installation yielded a large electrical reduction due to the 24/7 operations of the pool circulation pump.
3. The city now accepts rooftop applications through the Solar FasTrac website to streamline the solar permitting process.

## Platinum

4. The city participates in the East Bay SunShares Program, a bulk solar and electric vehicle purchasing program available to residents and businesses in 2016.
5. The city adopted a site-wide development standard for the Concord Naval Weapons Station to design building to maximize the potential for roof-mounted photovoltaic cells.





# Efficient Transportation Activities

## Silver

1. Adopted a Bicycle, Pedestrian and Safe Routes to Transit Plan.

## Gold

2. Established a Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee.
3. Incorporated a "Complete Streets" Policy in the city's General Plan.

## Platinum

4. Adopted an initiative for the Concord Naval Weapons Station to manage traffic impacts through transportation demand management measures.
5. Updated the development code to allow the parking in-lieu fee to be used for bicycle, pedestrian and public transportation improvements.
6. Installed ten city-owned electric vehicle charging stations to accommodate ten EVs and one compressed natural gas vehicle.





# Land Use and Community Design Activities

## Silver

1. Adopted a Climate Action Plan for the Concord Naval Weapons Station, a 12,800 acre property.

## Gold

2. Established a Transit Station Overlay District within a 1/2 mile of Concord's two Bay Area Rapid Transit district stations. Permit increased density and decreased parking requirements.
3. Adopted a Downtown Specific Plan to streamline the environmental review process for new development downtown.

## Platinum

4. Adopted an initiative for the Concord Naval Weapons Station requiring open space and development to be balanced.
5. Imposed minimum and maximum parking requirements.
6. Imposed minimum and maximum density requirements.





# Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

## Silver

1. Approved as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation since 1981.

## Gold

2. Leased land and provided the water and electricity for a community garden, which is managed by a local non-profit organization.
3. Adopted a Tree Preservation & Protection Ordinance.

## Platinum

4. Approved a Hillside Protection Ordinance to minimize the impacts of hillside and ridgeline development.
5. The Bay Friendly Landscaping & Gardening Coalition has certified the Public Works Department and is helping them take part in balanced and sustainable maintenance practices.
6. Hosted a farmer's market twice a week at Todos Santos Plaza to promote and support the purchases of locally grown produce.





# Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

## Silver

1. The city includes a “sustainable tip of the month” in its newsletter.

## Gold

2. The city co-hosted a countywide environmental gathering at the Concord Hilton with Sustainable Contra Costa, a regional environmental nonprofit.
3. The city has hosted Bike to Work Day energizer stations since 2012. In 2017, the city increased the number of stations offered.

## Platinum







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