

BEACON

SPOTLIGHT
AWARD

WINNER

BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of Foster City

Sustainability Best Practice Activities






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

City of Foster City

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			2017 (23%)
	Community GHG Reductions	2015 (8%)	2018 (12%)	2019 (20%)
	Agency Energy Savings			2015 (20%)
	Natural Gas Savings		2015 (13%)	
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities		2015	2017
	Beacon Award	2017	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. Conducts inventories of greenhouse gas emissions to guide and monitor the city's efforts to encourage emission reductions in city operations.

Gold

2. Implemented energy conservation practices in building maintenance supplies, parts and systems in city facilities.
3. Opted into Peninsula Clean Energy's 100% Renewable Energy / 100% Carbon-Free Plan for all municipal facilities.

Platinum

4. Converted city lighting systems to energy efficient electronic ballasts in city lighting systems.
5. Implemented energy efficiency upgrades to some city facilities, including \$1,422,738 of heating, ventilation and air conditioning improvements identified in the San Mateo County Energy Watch Energy Efficiency Audit.
6. Installed Light Emitting Diode (LED) streetlights on all public streets.
7. Converted all traffic and pedestrian signals to LED's. Resolution 98-01 Authorizing the Replacement of Red Incandescent Traffic Lamps with Red Light Emitting Diode (LED) Signal Faces, 1/5/1998.
8. Installed solar powered speed safety signs and LED Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) near Bowditch Middle School and Edgewater Shopping Center.
9. Gilead Sciences Sustainability Plan.
10. Engaged in a study, with the County of San Mateo regarding the feasibility of Community Choice Aggregation for San Mateo County jurisdictions.
11. Hosted a BayREN (Bay Area Regional Energy Network) community workshop on energy efficiency financing in April 2016.
12. Joined Energy Upgrade California Program to encourage energy efficiency retrofits by Foster City property owners.





Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

Silver

1. Installed low-flow toilets and state of the art irrigation systems and controllers.

Gold

2. Installed water fixtures in city buildings that work on a sensor system to conserve water. (Resolution 3284).
3. Replaced turf grass in selected parks with synthetic turf which does not require irrigation. (Resolution 2011-11, Resolution 2006-12, Resolution 2003-113, Resolution 2014-3, Resolution 2012-04, Resolution 2009-05, Resolution 2008-113, Resolution 2016-52).

Platinum

4. Planted drought tolerant landscaping at city facilities and in parks. (Resolution 2017-8).
5. The city is working with the City of San Mateo to implement a 20-year Master Plan to construct improvements at the Wastewater Treatment Plant to repair and replace aging infrastructure, address future growth and capacity issues, and address existing and future regulatory requirements.
5. Developed a Recycled Water Facilities Feasibility Plan (Resolution 3291).
7. Created a 2015 Urban Water Management Plan and Updated Water Shortage Contingency Plan.
8. Implemented conservation-based water rates to encourage water conservation in the community.
9. Declared a Water Shortage Emergency and Implemented Drought-Related Water Conservation Measures (Resolution 3260, Resolution 3275).
10. Established Water Sustainability Fund to fund a variety of water conservation rebates for residential and commercial Estero Municipal Improvement District (EMID) customers, including, but not limited to those for low-flow toilets, high-efficiency clothes washers and lawn replacement as incentives for water conservation.
11. Provides "home water audit" kits and educational assemblies for local schools.
12. Offers free "waterwise" informational resources for water customers.
13. Adopted the Revised Chapter 8.80, Outdoor Water Conservation in Landscaping, of Title 8, Water and Sewer Service of the EMID Code.





Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

Platinum

14. Through San Mateo County Water Pollution Prevention Program, the city offers residential rebates on rain barrels.
15. With the San Mateo County Water Pollution Prevention Program, the city offers coupons and program information through Foster City Television, literature distribution and social media sites about pollution prevention programs (car wash, nail salons, etc.).
16. Adopted Ordinance 132, Amending Sections 8.60.050 C, Nonessential Uses—Water Conservation, and Section 8.60.060 D, Nonessential Uses—Water Rationing, of Chapter 8.60, Water Conservation and Rationing, of Title 8, Water and Sewer Service, of the District Code to Add Mandatory Outdoor Water Use Restrictions as Required by the State Water Resources Control Board During the Existing Declared Water Shortage Emergency.
17. Adopted Ordinance 133, Amending Chapter 8.80 — Outdoor Water Conservation in Landscaping, of Title 8, Water and Sewer Service of the Estero Municipal Improvement District.
18. Adopted Ordinance 134, Amending Sections 8.60.050, Nonessential Uses—Water Conservation, and Section 8.60.060, Nonessential Uses—Water Rationing, of Chapter 8.60, Water Conservation and Rationing, of Title 8, Water and Sewer Service, of the Emid Code to Add Mandatory Potable Water Use Restrictions Consistent with Executive Order B-37-16.





Green Building Activities

Silver

1. Adopted statewide CalGreen Building Standards for new construction. (Ordinance 585).

Gold

2. Added Chapter 15.45 to Ordinance 595, Small Residential Rooftop Solar Systems, of Title 15, Buildings and Construction, to Provide an Expedited, Streamlined Permitting Process for Small Residential Rooftop Solar Systems.
3. Authorized Expenditure of Funds for Residential Solar Panel Rebate Program (Resolution 2016-55).

Platinum

4. All city facilities participate in compost service.
5. Administers programs to meet and sustain a minimum 50% diversion rate mandated by the state, promoting residential and commercial recycling efforts.
6. Purchases "in-unit" recycling containers for residents of multi-family dwellings. (Resolution 2017-34).
7. Provides residential collection of batteries and cell phones in addition to providing a collection point at city hall.
8. Sponsors community electronics recycling, paper shredding and compost give-away events.
9. Passed an ordinance requiring a minimum of 50 percent of the debris generated from certain construction and demolition projects be diverted from landfills to recycling facilities. (Updated Code effective 1/1/2017 increased construction and demolition requirements from 50% to 65%).





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

Silver

1. Resurfaced streets using cold-in-place recycling of asphalt which reuses materials as well as reduces costs and reduces truck trips during construction.

Gold

2. Provides curbside collection service to all customers that includes the option for compost collection and single-stream (no sorting) recycling.
3. Recycles in all city facilities, including items like used lamps and ballasts from city lighting systems and used printer cartridges. (Resolution 2016-26, Resolution 2017-7).

Platinum

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Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

Silver

1. Participating in Regional Renewable Energy Procurement for purchase of solar.

Gold

2. Prioritizes purchase of fuel efficient and alternate fuel vehicles for city fleet where appropriate.
3. Participation in Peninsula SunShares Residential Solar and Electric Vehicle Bulk Procurement Program. (Resolution 2016-31).

Platinum

4. Ensures that janitorial supplies used in city facilities are environmentally friendly (low pH diluted cleaning concentrates and renewable resource paper products).
5. Through Foster City Lagoon Management Plan, the city directs the use of environmentally-friendly products and processes, rather than chemical treatment, to manage lagoon water quality whenever possible.





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

Silver

1. Installed solar panels at the Library/Community Center. (Resolution 2014-77).

Gold

2. Increased the percentage of hybrids and electric vehicles in the city fleet and reviewing other fuel-efficient alternatives as vehicles are replaced.
3. Replaced some traditional vehicles with electric options for parks maintenance operations.

Platinum

4. Coordinated bulk solar procurement opportunity for residential community in combination with other jurisdictions.
5. Entered into Agreement with Vote Solar for Implementation of a Regional Community Residential Solar Bulk Purchase Program. (Resolution 2014-89).
6. Reduced speed limits on most city streets to allow for use of Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (NEV) for intra-city transportation.
7. Implemented Minute Order 1017 directing staff to take the necessary steps to reduce the speed limit.





Efficient Transportation Activities

Silver

1. Adopted a Complete Streets Policies and Program. (Resolution 2012-63).

Gold

2. Supports Safe Routes to School. (Resolution 2002-35).
3. Facilitates electric car-charging for city hall employees.

Platinum

4. Approved the scope of work for the Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Intersection Evaluation Study, authorizing staff to issue the request for proposal for professional services and authorizing staff to implement the installation of bike sharrow symbols/legends as street pavements are rehabilitated.
5. Authorized an agreement, in the amount of \$158,110 for professional traffic engineering and transportation planning services for the Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Intersection Evaluation Study.
6. Converted to a system by which water meters can be read remotely, eliminating the need to routinely access on-site meters around the city by automobile.
7. Maintains vehicle fleet in peak condition in order to maximize performance and minimize carbon emissions.
8. Implemented an alternative schedule for most agency employees, reducing employee commuter trips from a traditional schedule.
10. Implemented the option for certain employees to telecommute from home, keeping cars off the roadways while maintaining a productive workforce.
11. Participates in annual Great Race for Clean Air, sponsored by the Spare the Air Team at the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.
12. Works with the Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance and employers to ensure that trip-reducing alternatives are available, introduced to employees, and publicized on a regular basis.
13. Maintains a central website to promote all alternate commuting options available to Foster City commuters.





Efficient Transportation Activities

Platinum

14. Promotes employer-operated shuttles to and from the San Mateo Caltrain Station and the Millbrae Intermodal Station from three areas: Lincoln Centre, North Foster City, and Mariners Island.
15. Required a shuttle agreement as part of the 100 Grand Apartments development agreement, completed in 2016. As such, the Commute.org Mariner's Island Shuttle route was adjusted to include 100 Grand Apartments.
16. Operates a Senior Express Shuttle to transport residents age 55 and older to events and activities in the region.
17. Offered carpooling subsidy through private-public partnership.
18. Approved an agreement with Scoop Technologies for \$60,000 to provide subsidized carpool matching services available to Foster City commuters. (Resolution 2016-68).
19. Approved an extended agreement with Scoop Technologies for \$30,000 to provide subsidized carpool matching services available to Foster City commuters. (Resolution 2017-17).





Land Use and Community Design Activities

Silver

1. Joined CaliforniaFIRST, HERO and Figtree to enable Foster City property owners to access Property-Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing. (Resolution 2010-23, Resolution 2014-90, Resolution 2014-91, Resolution 2016-01).

Gold

2. Consented to inclusion of properties within the city's jurisdiction in the California Home Finance Authority Community Facilities District No. 2014-1 (Clean Energy) to finance renewable energy improvements, energy efficiency and water conservation improvements and electric vehicle charging infrastructure and approving associate membership in the joint exercise of powers authority related thereto. (Resolution 2016-02).
3. Consented to inclusion of properties within the city's jurisdiction in the California Home Finance Authority Program to finance renewable energy generation, energy and water efficiency improvements and electric vehicle charging infrastructure and approving associate membership in the joint exercise of powers authority related thereto. (Resolution 2016-03).

Platinum

4. Requires that bicycle racks be installed at all new commercial/office developments in town. Bicycle racks are also on all shuttles.
5. Maintains a bicycle/pedestrian path along the bay front—a leg of the Bay Trail that connects with trails maintained in neighboring cities and allows for an easy commute by bicycle between Foster City and a number of Peninsula cities.
6. Authorized an agreement for professional services for preparation of an EIR for the Levee Protection Planning and Improvements Project. (Resolution 2015-90).
7. Adopted a Climate Action Plan. (Resolution 2016-15).
8. Adopted a statement of findings under the California Quality Act, a statement of overriding considerations, and a mitigation monitoring and reporting program under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Foster City Levee Protection Planning and Improvements Project. (Resolution 2017-28).
9. Conducted extensive public outreach for Levee Protection Planning and Improvements Project (CIP 301-657) Adapting to Sea Level Rise.





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

Silver

1. Adopted regulations prohibiting the installation or replacement of wood burning appliances unless conditions are met to protect air quality. (Ordinance 486).

Gold

2. Adopted Resolution 2014-87 awarding an agreement for construction of Werder Park and Destination Park Improvement projects, adding 6.5 acres of community park space to the Foster City parks system.
3. Maintains storm water system in compliance with National Pollution Discharge Elimination System requirements, reducing pollution of Bay waters.

Platinum

4. With Audubon Society, created new seasonal wetlands for bird habitat as part of lagoon dredging project.





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

Silver

1. Maintains a "Go Green" webpage to provide education resources to the community.

Gold

2. Created Green Footprint video series.
3. Developed Sustainable Foster City website to highlight environmental sustainability, economic development and social engagement programs, initiatives and accomplishments.

Platinum

4. Supported efforts of all governments to develop policies and programs to reduce global warming. (Resolution 2006-71).
5. Adopted the San Mateo County Energy Strategy (previously adopted Resolution 2007-57, supporting the development of the strategy). (Resolution 2009-17).
6. Participates in the Joint Venture Silicon Valley Network Climate Protection Taskforce, Sustainable Silicon Valley and ICLEI-Local Governments For Sustainability, USA in order to pursue regional climate protection alternatives.





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