



BEACON
SPOTLIGHT
AWARD
WINNER
BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of Arvin

Sustainability Best Practice Activities



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

City of Arvin

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			2019 (20%)
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities	2019	2020	
	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. In Spring 2017, the City of Arvin completed its energy assessment and began converting city facility lighting to LEDs. The city started first at city hall and the Police Department, then expanded to all city buildings including the Veteran’s Hall, Adobe Complex, and Community Center. In 2018, the Maintenance and Infrastructure Building was converted to include parking lot lights. All of Arvin’s city facilities have been converted to LED. Additionally, Arvin’s buildings were analyzed for insulation and power reduction technologies.

Gold

2. In 2019, the city completed the installation of ten Level 2 electric vehicle (EV) chargers for public use located behind the Veteran’s Hall and is encouraging the introduction of EV ride-share programs. By collaborating and supporting programs, such as Mio Car and Green Commuter in Arvin, the goal is to bring electric vehicle use to disadvantaged residents at a low cost. In addition to advancing public charging, Arvin has leveraged grant funds to install four Level 2 charging stations at city hall to provide both fleet and workplace charging.
3. In 2018, Arvin converted its transit building to solar, installing enough panels on the transit roof to aggregate power to the Community Development building and reduce the energy consumption of both buildings with one solar project. Arvin is pursuing additional opportunities to add a solar parking structure in the city hall/transit parking lot. These could provide a renewable source of power for Arvin’s planned electric buses and to aggregate power for city facilities.

Platinum





Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

Silver

1. In 2017, the city was awarded an Urban Forestry grant to plant 303 trees in local parks and streets. Environmental co-benefits include storm water capture, flood reduction, the absorption of carbon and greenhouse gases, and reducing the heat island effect.

Gold

2. In 2017, the City of Arvin was awarded a Best Practices Pilot Program from the Strategic Growth Council to develop a water element as a stand-alone element in its general plan. The water element contains new concepts and is a more in-depth review for the conservation and recycling of water, as part of a climate adaptation plan that is sustainable and can be replicated.
3. In 2019, the City of Arvin completed the Sycamore Drainage Project to mitigate ongoing flood prone areas by constructing new storm drains and inlets to direct water to a percolation sump to recharge ground water. This project recharges the underlying groundwater basin through the retention basin.

Platinum





Green Building Activities

Silver

1. Arvin's Housing Element Update incorporates green building practices, such as on-site solar, water conservation and environmentally friendly materials as part of new residential development.

Gold

2. Arvin adopted 2016 California Green Building Standard Codes to improve public health safety and welfare by enhancing the design and construction of buildings. Encourage sustainable construction practices in the following areas: planning and design, energy efficiency, water efficiency and conservation, material conservation resource efficiency, and environmental quality.
3. The City of Arvin requires a minimum of 10% green landscaping for new commercial industry and manufacturing business development. The city is currently investigating energy efficiency projects that would be available to both local businesses and residents through grant programs. Arvin is exploring the option for free and low cost solar to its disadvantaged residents. The city also provides residents information about free energy assessments and efficiency upgrade available to residents from local utility companies.

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Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

Silver

1. In collaboration with Mountainside Disposal, the City of Arvin implements multiple recycling programs for residents and businesses, hosts bulky waste recycling events twice a year, and promotes recycling by supporting a recycling competition with the Arvin Union School District. The bi-annual bilingual mailer to all residents, schools and businesses in the City of Arvin shares information about all the recycling opportunities in the city and Kern County.

Gold

2. Arvin Union School District is the only school district in the state to place in the “Keep California Beautiful” K-12 recycling challenge for five consecutive years.
3. The city creates and distributes information about hazardous waste recycling on the city website.

Platinum





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

Silver

1. Recently awarded a regional award of merit by the Kern Council of Governments for innovative transportation in its implementation of zero emissions buses, Arvin plans to roll a fleet of three new electric buses for transit operation in 2019.

Gold

2. The City of Arvin routinely purchases recycled paper and products and implements a mandatory recycling program in all city facilities.
3. Arvin has purchased four Ford Fusion hybrid Police Department vehicles, as well as a Toyota Prius hybrid for city council and city staff for workshops and meeting travel in the San Joaquin Valley.

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Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

Silver

1. In 2018, Arvin applied for and was awarded the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Low and No Emissions Grant and is in the process of replacing three diesel transit buses to electric as part of its fleet electrification plan. Arvin is on target to exceed the state climate change initiatives with the goal of electrifying all of its transit fleet to 100% electric before 2025.

Gold

2. Arvin has submitted a grant application to add a solar parking structure in the city hall/transit parking lot. If awarded, this project will provide a renewable source of power for Arvin's planned electric buses and to aggregate power for city facilities. If awarded, this project will produce between 115kW-254kW, depending on the award amount, as the city proposed scaled options for flexibility.
3. The city is partnering with nonprofit GRID Alternatives, who will provide no-cost solar installations to low-income Arvin residents and lead a rooftop solar consumer protection workshop for community members.

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Efficient Transportation Activities

Silver

1. In 2019, Arvin participated in developing the Kern County Electric Vehicle Blueprint as part of an advisory group to support the development of EV charging stations throughout Kern County. The city grant writer actively participates in advisory groups throughout the state as well as Air Resources Board workshops with the goal of benefiting DAC communities throughout California.

Gold

2. The City of Arvin is currently drafting a Safe Routes to School Active Transportation Plan. This plan involved a significant public outreach effort and is expected to be in draft version by August 2019. The plan proposes multiple solutions to increase the use of pedestrian and bicycle transportation, as well as green streetscape recommendations that support increased active transportation and reduce the heat island effect.
3. In 2018, the city was awarded an Urban Greening Grant to develop a tree-lined, dual purpose bicycle and pedestrian path to encourage active transportation, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and make Arvin a more livable, breathable community.

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Land Use and Community Design Activities

Silver

1. The city established a greenhouse gas inventory baseline.

Gold

2. Arvin's Circulation Element of the General Plan was updated in 2018, which includes a focus on clean and active transportation.
3. The city updated the zoning ordinance to reflect the principles of sustainable communities planning, increase energy efficiency, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The update also incorporates design guidelines for residential, commercial and industrial development that employ sound architectural principles, facilitate active living, and enhance neighborhood livability and include standards for pedestrian and bicycle accommodation and accessibility.

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Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

Silver

1. The city council adopted a Climate Action Plan in 2013, which set targets to reduce the city's emissions to 15% below 2005 levels by 2020, with resulting total emissions reductions of 837 metric tons CO₂ per year.

Gold

2. The city partnered with the Tree Foundation of Kern to provide free shade trees to residents as well as education about the care and benefit from trees.
3. Arvin's newest park, Garden in the Sun Park, hosts a multitude of events including local farmers markets and is regularly a place for recreation. This is largely seen as the heart of Arvin's new downtown, offering greenspace nestled between a proposed community college and retail shops.

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Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

Silver

1. Arvin conducted a community pedestrian and bicycle safety training to improve walkability and bikeability.

Gold

2. Arvin's Safe Routes to School Plan included an intensive community-based planning process for creating a safer, more comfortable and aesthetically pleasing environment that promotes smart infill development with mixed use and walkable places.
3. City staff propose to make Arvin a more livable, breathable community by implementing and inviting future best practices projects. Arvin's goals include 100% achievement in the state's climate change initiatives before 2025 and a transition to 100% renewable energy by 2040 for municipal energy usage. The city supports the concept of building a community microgrid project for both municipal and residential use. The combination of multiple greening projects, active transportation infrastructure, fleet electrification, energy efficiency and conversion to renewable energy will have a significant positive, long term impact on quality of life for all of Arvin's residents and future generations.

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