



BEACON
SPOTLIGHT
AWARD
WINNER
BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of Brisbane







Sustainability Best Practice Activities

City of Brisbane

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

SPOTLIGHT AWARD		SILVER LEVEL	GOLD LEVEL	PLATINUM LEVEL
Areas of Accomplishment				
	Agency GHG Reductions		2015 (19%)	2018 (32%)
	Community GHG Reductions		2015 (10%)	2019 (20%)
	Agency Energy Savings		2015 (17%)	2019 (21%)
	Natural Gas Savings			2015 (24%)
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities		2015	2016
	Beacon Award		2015	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. The city of Brisbane joined ENERGY STAR as a partner and has made a fundamental commitment to measure and track the performance of the organization's facilities, improve energy performance and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Gold

2. The city promotes home energy retrofits and holding energy saving workshops.
3. The remodeling of city hall included the following energy saving measures: replaced HVAC system with California heat pump system that heats and cools water and a variable frequency drive for cooling tower pump, added a lighting system with motion sensors in offices, installed occupancy sensors in conference rooms, and installed a timing controller for common areas and computer monitors with efficient technologies.
4. The city purchased and uses a solar thermal cover for the community pool and a variable frequency drive for the circulating pump.

Platinum

5. Brisbane completed street light upgrades, replacing HPS box style street light fixtures with LEDs on Sierra Point Parkway and Marina Blvd and at the public Shared Use Parking Lot (168 fixtures) that serves the marina, harbormaster's office, shoreline trails and fishing piers.
6. As a part of Brisbane's Climate Action Plan, a take-home toolkit to do energy and water use audits is available to borrow. City staff worked with an advisory committee on assembling the toolkit. The city provides funds to discount various small appliances around the home from the local hardware store.
7. To encourage energy upgrades for buildings in the community, Brisbane adopted Open PACE in 2016. Open PACE is an alternative to Energy Upgrade California, which vets and offers several financial options to the consumer. Prior to Open PACE, Brisbane adopted HERO, a second financing program to help property owners finance energy and water upgrades to their home.





Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

Silver

1. The city partnered with a local conservation group that is recovering and restoring an earthen vee-ditch (previously mowed down to nearly bare earth every year) with native plant materials. There has been no noticeable decrease in the stormwater capacity of this facility, but there has been a substantial increase in the output of the water quality after rainflow winds its way through the planted bottom of the "vee creek". A significant corollary benefit is that the in-stream plants are now home to several species of native animals, including insects, amphibians and birds.

Gold

2. Brisbane remains among the lowest per capita water users in San Mateo County. The city continues to participate in regional water conservation programs by offering rebates to qualified customers for high-efficiency clothes washers, high-efficiency toilets and rain barrels, as well as landscape audits to the largest energy users.
3. Brisbane's water conservation program involves public education and outreach, an ordinance prohibiting water waste, as well as a water-efficient landscaping ordinance that requires large landscape plans to show use of drought-tolerant plants and water-efficient irrigation. Rainwater harvesting is encouraged in Brisbane.

Platinum

4. A rain garden and bioswale at Brisbane city hall captures runoff water from the roof and parking lot before it enters the city's storm drain system. The engineered bio-retention areas collect and treat runoff, filter it through selected vegetation and keep pollutants out of the bay. The project was funded in part by a San Mateo County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program Demonstration Project grant and features an informational sign.
5. Guidelines have been developed by the city to support the capture and reuse of rainwater in a safe and effective manner. The instructional guidelines provide residents with education and information on how to conserve potable water by collecting, storing and utilizing rainwater for outdoor applications.
6. The city participated in a very popular and successful Bay Area Water Supply & Conservation Agency Water Conservation Education Program, which presented an assembly called Earthcapades at a local elementary school about water conservation.





Green Building Activities

Silver

1. The city adopted a Green Building Ordinance, the purpose of which is to conserve natural resources, reduce construction waste, and increase energy efficiency. All commercial projects are required to meet a minimum of a LEED silver rating; single family homes and multi-family units shall achieve a “green home” rating on the New Home Green Points Checklist. A subcommittee composed of planning commission and Open Space and Ecology (citizen advisory) Committee members and city staff was formed and exists to continue to update the Green Building Ordinance relative to changes in state requirements.

Gold

2. The city has negotiated development agreements with several private developments to achieve a higher LEED standard and to commit expenditures to either on-site or off-site renewable energy.
3. The city drafted an Environmental Action Plan to achieve climate change mitigation and look ahead to adaptation policies and programs. The Open Space and Ecology Committee (OSEC) is working with staff to develop the plan. A significant component of the plan is the promotion of energy efficiency and renewable energy for residences and businesses. Other actions to reduce GHGs include: participating in Energy Upgrade California, retrofitting city hall with energy efficient technologies and installing a solar thermal heating system for the community pool.

Platinum

4. The city has promoted compliance with Title 24 Energy Codes for buildings. The city has sponsored training for local contractors regarding residential envelope requirements provided through BayREN, and has plans to offer the training for commercial facilities as well.
5. The city is participating in a PG&E program to audit municipal buildings through Enovity. City hall, the community pool, Mission Blue Community Center, and the harbor master’s office will be retro-commissioned based on the audit results.
6. The City of Brisbane has initiated the investigation of residential and commercial energy conservation ordinances for Brisbane and other agencies in San Mateo County with C/CAG. The Regionally Integrated Climate Action Planning Suite (RICAPS) working group is facilitating and coordinating the information gathering.





Green Building Activities

Platinum

7. Brisbane participates in the Peninsula SunShares Program, which offers community members the opportunity to purchase and install solar PV panels at a lower cost due to economies of scale. The program has also included a discounted price on select electric vehicles.
8. The city implemented a Residential Rooftop Solar Permit Streamlining Policy and issued 15 permits under the policy in the last fiscal year.
9. The city adopted a new Water Conservation in Landscaping Ordinance, exceeding the statewide Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance requirements, which applies to new development and substantial rehabilitation projects.





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

Silver

1. Brisbane's construction and demolition ordinance requires 100% of inert solids and 50% of debris to be diverted from landfills. Construction and remodeling requires 50% diversion of all construction and demolition debris. Salvage and recovery requirements for a demolition project are as follows: prior to demolition an applicant shall make the structure planned for demolition available for salvage and recovery.

Gold

2. The City of Brisbane renegotiated its franchise agreement with South San Francisco Scavenger (SSFS) in 2014. As a result, SSFS implemented a Residential Food Scraps Collection Program in January 2015. Food waste bins were provided to all residents to collect scraps before placement in the green compost collection bin before scheduled pick-up. Green waste bins are picked up weekly, as compared to every two week before the program was put in place.
3. The city council adopted a plastic bag ban and a polystyrene ban, both modeled after and administered by the County of San Mateo's Environmental Health Department.

Platinum

4. City council and upper and middle management staff utilize iPads to view agenda packages rather than printed copies. The Open Space and Ecology Committee (OSEC) has opted to make their meeting packet electronic. During OSEC meetings, Power Point software and monitors are utilized to view materials.
5. Residents may recycle batteries, light bulbs and plastic bags at a waste collection site at city hall.
6. City of Brisbane initiated composting/food scraps collection at city hall, including paper towels in restrooms in November of 2015. Staff continues to educate users on proper items to compost.
7. The city's Public Works Department uses up to 70% refined (recycled) oil for machinery and vehicles. All oil changes are completed on a once yearly basis.
8. The City of Brisbane set up a public collection receptacle for plastic bags, which are recycled by the city's waste franchise company.





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

Silver

1. Brisbane adopted an Integrated Pest Management Policy, which does not allow the purchase or use of herbicides or pesticides on any municipal landscaped areas.

Gold

2. City staff computers are refurbished rather than replaced. Copy paper, packaging materials and mailing envelopes are recycled. Building plan checks are performed digitally rather than on paper. The city makes large documents of community interest available for digital download and prints copies upon request only.
3. The city hall remodel included programmable lighting system for common areas and motion sensors for offices and conference rooms, a new low energy HVAC system with cooling tower and water source heat pumps, countertops made of 85% recycled materials including glass, and public restrooms with paper saving hand dryers.

Platinum

4. The Vehicle Replacement Program encourages the replacement of Public Works' fleet vehicles will be replaced with hybrid or electric vehicles when possible. The city recently purchased an E-Z-GO two-person electric vehicle and still utilizes a GEM electric vehicle for public works operation and maintenance activities and short trips not requiring a significant amount of tools or equipment. The city installed an electric vehicle charging station at Brisbane Village and city hall and made the installation of an EV charging station at the Brisbane Marina possible through an agreement with a private party.
5. City staff, in partnership with the Climate Action Plan subcommittee, held a Learn and Lunch to educate staff about climate issues and the importance of the climate action plan adopted by the city and the climate-friendly purchasing guide. The training assists employees in making green choices when purchasing items for the city, and the climate action plan contains tips on how to lower ones carbon footprint at work and at home.
6. The Department of Public Works replaced a Crown Victoria sedan with a Prius fleet vehicle in April 2016.





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

Silver

1. Per AB 2188, the city adopted an ordinance to set fixed solar permit fees for residential permits and will provide expedited solar permitting review to promote adoption of rooftop photovoltaic systems.

Gold

2. Brisbane installed solar thermal heating for the community swimming pool to lower conventional energy use. Solar thermal heating provides in the range of 10 to 20% of the energy needed to heat the pool, depending on the weather.
3. In 2014, Brisbane renegotiated its franchise agreement with its solid waste provider. With demand from neighboring cities to provide food scraps collection and diversion, Brisbane was able to negotiate a food scrap pickup service. SSFS installed and commissioned an anaerobic digester to process green waste including food scraps. Methane gas created from the process is used to fuel approximately half of its fleet vehicles. Also, Brisbane's franchise agreement with Recology for servicing the northeast zone of the city includes the ability to purchase compressed natural gas fuel at a reduced rate.

Platinum

4. Brisbane is an active participant in Peninsula SunShares, a bulk solar purchase program, which utilizes economies of scale to bring down the cost of installing rooftop solar panels on residences. Brisbane has the sixth highest signup rate for consultations in San Mateo County.
5. City of Brisbane staff received grant funds amounting to \$40,000 from the BAAQMD for a public DC Fast charger for electric vehicles.
6. A resolution was adopted to join the Joint Powers Authority to establish the Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE) Authority in San Mateo County. Brisbane supported PCE with community outreach and education.
7. City staff coordinated with Envision Solar to hold a demonstration of the EV Arc solar electric vehicle charger at city hall. Community members with electric vehicles were able to charge at no cost for one hour each.





Efficient Transportation Activities

Silver

1. Brisbane subsidizes/pays into a shuttle consortium with other businesses in the Crocker Industrial Park to participate in the Peninsula Congestion Relief Alliance Shuttle service to transport residents and workers to and from the Brisbane Caltrain stop and the nearest BART station. Brisbane distributes shuttle pass cards to employees and residents of Brisbane upon request.

Gold

2. The city adopted a Safe Pedestrian Routes to Schools Plan to improve pedestrian routes and make them safer for children to walk to school and bus stops, as well as pedestrians walking to markets, the library, community centers, the community park and various other parks and ball fields and the community pool. The city has been providing robust education and enforcement regarding parked vehicles that block the sidewalk.
3. The city coordinated with Zipcar to bring service into town. Brisbane improved a bus stop with a new concrete sidewalk and shelter at Bayshore Blvd and Geneva Avenue in partnership with Daly City and SamTrans and completed installation of Class 2 bike lane facilities along the length of Bayshore Boulevard (approximately 2.5 miles).

Platinum

4. Brisbane installed rapid reflective flashing beacons for two crosswalks at intersections; one adjacent to the elementary school, and one close to and on the middle school routes at an uncontrolled crossing in the downtown business district. Providing improved safety measures at these street crossings will encourage more walking and bicycling for short trips and reduce reliance on automobiles.
5. City staff marketed the Commuter Challenge by Commute.org to encourage the use of public transportation and active modes of transportation.
6. City council proclaimed May as Bicycle Month. As a result, the city provided two energizer stations, which served approximately 1,100 commuters on bike. Brisbane participated in Bike to Shop Day and staff solicited local businesses to participate by offering a discount to community members that arrived on bicycle.





Land Use and Community Design Activities

Silver

1. Approximately 75% of the city's remaining developable land lies within the Brisbane Baylands, a primarily vacant 600 acre brownfield site. The city envisions the Baylands as a model sustainable development, with areas of compact transit-oriented development, as well as substantial open space. A committee of staff, elected officials and three different citizen advisory groups' representatives, with the assistance of a consultant, finalized a Sustainability Framework for development of the Brisbane Baylands based on the One Planet Communities principles.

Gold

2. Brisbane's Complete Streets Committee prepared a Safe Pedestrian Routes to Schools Plan, adopted by council, that addresses residents' concerns about walkability in residential Brisbane, particularly for parents and children walking to school. The plan includes infrastructure improvements, reduced speed limits around schools, education, collaboration with the schools and with parents and enforcement.
3. City staff, with the Complete Streets Safety Committee and the planning commission, prepared and reviewed a proposed General Plan Amendment to the Circulation Element, consisting of relevant complete streets goals and policies, and programs to be adopted by city council.

Platinum

4. The City of Brisbane obtained Priority Development Area (PDA) status from the ABAG for 574 acres of bi-county Baylands property. PDA status is generally conferred on infill development opportunity areas that are primed for a pedestrian and bicycle-friendly environment served by transit.
5. A study was completed on turf replacement for city-owned non-recreational facilities. Consultant Callandar and Associates developed landscape models that consisted of drought tolerant and native plants, which was presented to city council.
6. The city adopted and updated the complete streets component of the Circulation Element of the General Plan, outlining long-term "Green Streets" and alternative transportation policies.
7. The city funded and hired a consultant to complete a Parkside at Brisbane Village Precise Plan to create a local area plan with community input, accommodating a minimum of 228 new infill, transit-oriented housing units in central Brisbane.





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

Silver

1. In addition to significant aquatic and open space resources at the Baylands, the city has acquired approximately 48 acres of land on San Bruno Mountain to protect as open space per the adopted Open Space Plan. This property is within the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), and provides habitat for endangered butterfly species and host plants.

Gold

2. Brisbane has established a vegetation management program to control the encroachment of invasive plants and sustain the native habitat value of the city's open space on San Bruno Mountain adjacent to San Bruno Mountain State and County Park. A vegetation management plan is developed each year by a community advisory committee, and the restoration work is then carried out by contractors.
3. Brisbane continues to maintain and expand its extensive array of open space and outdoor facilities in the form of parks, athletic fields (soccer and softball), tennis courts, basketball courts, a community pool, a skatepark, walking and biking paths along the bay shore and paths and trails adjacent to San Bruno Mountain.

Platinum

4. The City of Brisbane, together with San Mateo County and the City of South San Francisco, has applied for Priority Conservation Area status for the San Bruno Mountain area/habitat from the Association of Bay Area Governments and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. Brisbane's portion of the application seeks to include a number of areas adjacent or related to San Bruno Mountain that host native plants and habitat for endangered species, including the several endangered butterflies whose habitat exists on these properties. Several of the areas have the additional benefit of serving as recreation opportunities.
5. A city citizen advisory committee recommended the expansion of the existing community garden to the city council. The garden is at full capacity and more spaces are in demand, as indicated by a waitlist of about 30 residents.
6. Each year, city staff coordinates three habitat restoration events. The events are completed in partnership with the local non-profit, San Bruno Mountain Watch, and focus on removal of non-native invasive species in endangered butterfly habitats and get local community members involved in the restoration effort.





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

Silver

1. The Open Space and Ecology Citizen's Advisory Committee has a booth at the annual Community Festival. A variety of materials are prepared by a subcommittee and staff that reflect current environmental issues, and promote green rebates and incentives. In addition to these handouts, there are featured activities at the booth. Past examples of handouts include CaliforniaFIRST energy saving financing and rebate programs, PG&E rebates, BAWSCA rebates, how to be sustainable during the holidays, an invasive plant species brochure, reuse and recycling guides, and how to lower your carbon footprint. Activity examples include DIY Christmas decorations, calculate your carbon footprint, carbon footprint piñata, and carbon sequestration in your yard.

Gold

2. In spring 2012, the City of Brisbane launched a year-round weekly farmers market in partnership with the West Coast Farmers Market Association. The close-knit residential community and large business community have been enjoying local organic produce, fresh food and other related products while minimizing Brisbane's carbon footprint.
3. The Open Space and Ecology Committee has written sustainability articles in the Brisbane city newsletter and there is a sustainability page on the city website.

Platinum

4. The city allows/permits raising of fowl and beekeeping and has a thriving community garden and community orchard. Chapter 6.14 of the Municipal Code allows up to a total of four fowl, birds, rabbits or rodents on one property, unless special permits are obtained. Bees are kept on city property adjacent to the local community garden, and are maintained by community members.
5. Habitat Restoration Day events are held each year. Earth Day and Habitat Restoration Day both target local areas that need trash clean-up or invasive species removal. During Lagoon Clean-up Day, trash is cleaned up from around the Brisbane lagoon. Each event is well attended by the community.
6. City council adopted a resolution to symbolically ban fracking and join the Coalition Californians Against Fracking and signed on to a letter to Governor Brown encouraging banning fracking in California.





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

Platinum

7. City staff participated in the CDP (formerly known as the Carbon Disclosure Project) survey to disclose carbon emissions and actions against climate change. CDP is a global non-profit based in London. Participating in the survey allowed the city to gain insight on global action towards climate change and potential measures for consideration, as well as to further promote actions the city has taken.
8. Each week the Open Space and Ecology Committee and staff prepare “climate facts” to post on the city website and city social media sites. The purpose of the climate facts is to call attention to the city’s climate action plan and important climate change issues.





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