

BEACON

SPOTLIGHT
AWARD

WINNER

BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of American Canyon

Sustainability Best Practice Activities



City of American Canyon

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		2016 (10%)	
	Community GHG Reductions	2016 (8%)		
	Agency Energy Savings			2016 (34%)
	Natural Gas Savings	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities	2016		
	Beacon Award	2016		

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 American Canyon adopted an Energy Efficiency Climate Action Plan (EECAP) in 2013. The EECAP provides feasible strategies to cost-effectively reduce energy use and energy-related GHG emissions both in municipal operations and in the community. Successful implementation of the plan will reduce utility bills, reduce water usage, increase home and building values and support local jobs. The EECAP has a 2005 baseline and 2010 update for GHG emissions.

Gold

2. The City of American Canyon has supported Energy Upgrade California Napa County since 2012. The statewide program provides up to \$4000 back in rebates for home improvement projects that save energy. Homeowners can receive additional support through an energy efficiency loan to pay for the cost of the upgrades not covered by the rebates.
3. Retrofits of street lighting to LED units (EECAP M-4). The city began retrofitting street lights since 2011. The city has completed 250 lights in 12/27/2011. Utilizing a block grant from EECBG, the city completed the project that reduces consumption by more than 50%. The city plans to retrofit 400 more lights in 2017 and is working with PG&E on the project.

Platinum

4. The city joined Marin Clean Energy (MCE) in November of 2015. MCE provides renewable energy without replacing PG&E's infrastructure, maintenance, or billing systems. On September 1, 2016, all of American Canyon will be automatically enrolled into their light green program. The users will be utilizing 52% renewable energy, and have an opportunity to go 100% renewable with MCE's Deep Green Program.





Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

Silver

1. Starting May 2015, the city imposed restrictions on specific water-wasting behaviors, such as landscape irrigation, pool filling, and outdoor washing. These new restrictions apply to all water customers residing in American Canyon. The new water regulations aim to help the city reach its 20% reduction goal from 2013 levels.

Gold

2. Since 2015, the city website provides water-saving resources and information about local businesses that can assist with water conservation. For example, general plumbing sells low-flow toilets and American Canyon car wash, which cleans and re-uses its wash water, offers discounted prices for residents during certain hours of the week.
3. Since 2013, the city offers a Cash for Grass program to encourage residents to replace lawns with hardscape and drip irrigated water-wise plants. The program pays \$1.00 per square foot of turf grass that is replaced with drip-irrigated, low-water use plants or permeable hardscape. Residential and commercial customers can participate. In the ten-month period ending May, 2016, (July-May) temporary/part time city staff processed 307 applications for participation in the Cash for Grass Program, removing 204 thousand square feet of turf and permanently saving 5.1 million gallons of water. There is no sign that interest in the program is waning, with more than 150 applications in the works in 2016.

Platinum

4. Since 2000, the city had a Toilet Retrofit program, which is now renamed as the Toilet Rebate program. The program offers a \$100 rebate for replacement of a standard-flush toilet with a high-efficiency toilet (HET). A 1.28 gallon/flush HET uses about 80% less water per flush than a standard flush toilet. The program has been in effect since 2000 and from the time frame of July 2015 to June 2016, the city has rebated 168 toilets.





Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

Platinum

5. Since 2013, the city has provided free water-saving devices to residents at city hall. Some of these high-efficiency devices are shower timers, kitchen and bathroom faucet aerators, six-position water miser hose nozzles, and adjustable massage showerheads. The city understands that reducing water consumption is a collective effort and hopes to help residents as much as possible.
6. Since October 2009, city has implemented a Zero Water Footprint (ZWF) policy, which requires that new development be configured so that there is no loss in reliability or increase in water rates for existing customers due to a requested increase in water demand. New developments need to mitigate all new water demands, either through conservation savings elsewhere in the water service area or assisting the city in purchasing new water supplies.
7. Since 2008, the city has worked with PG&E to encourage residents to convert their conventional washing machines to high-efficiency washers that use less water and energy. Conventional washing machines use more than 40 gallons of water per load, while new high-efficiency models use less than 18 gallons. This is a savings of more than 50% in water and energy. High-efficiency washers also require less detergent, are gentler on your clothes, and remove more moisture resulting in shorter drying times that use less electricity. In partnership with PG&E, the city offers a cash rebate of \$200 on Energy Star models or \$50 on a CEE Tier 3 clothes washer. In addition to the cash rebates, the average household will save 6,450 gallons of water, between \$80 - \$100 on electricity costs, and \$54 on detergent every year.
8. The waste water treatment plant completed an energy retrofit project that partnered with PG&E. The project received a \$147,000 incentive rebate and \$250,000 zero interest loan from PG&E in 2013. The project improved the UV system, aeration control system, and aeration basin. Power consumption in summer months reduced from 6800 kw/h to 5600 kw/h.
9. The city adopted a new Urban Water Master plan on May 17, 2016. The plan increases the annual recycled water supply from 1750 AFY (acre-feet/year) to 2819 AFY. The plan will be implemented in phases and will take 20 years to complete.





Green Building Activities

Silver

1. The city has three certified LEED facilities: the Double Tree Hotel that was certified LEED Gold in 2008, American Canyon High School was certified LEED Gold in 2011, and the Kendall Jackson distribution wine warehouse that was certified LEED Gold in 2012. The Double Tree hotel, previously known as the GAIA Hotel and Spa, was constructed with low-VOC paints, recycled carpets, and energy-saving air conditioners and heaters that use 15% less energy. Kendall Jackson's wine warehouse invested over \$250,000 in energy efficiency upgrades. The project includes a thermally efficient cool roof system, dual-pane glass windows, and high efficiency lighting, that results in the building using 38% less energy than standard warehouses. American Canyon High School installed 4,000 solar panels to the building's roof and campus grounds to provide more than 1.1 million kilowatt-hours each year. Working with PG&E to switch to solar power, the project could save the campus up to \$17 million over the next 25 years. Additionally, the system will keep more than 780,000 pounds of carbon dioxide from being emitted into the air each year.

Gold

2. Since 2015, the city has required new construction and demolition projects to divert at least 50% or more of their project waste. Working with Recology of Napa County, the city requires applicants to provide a Construction Waste Management Plan prior to building permit issuance. A worksheet is issued to the applicant and will be reviewed prior to the final inspection.
3. The City of American Canyon has employed water efficient irrigation systems, drought tolerant plants, and removed turf to conserve water in its public parks. The result is a conservation of 29 million gallons of water per year. Additionally, all new commercial and industrial developments are required to install smart water efficient irrigation systems at the design permit or use permit stage. This public works requirement has been in place since the Zero Water Footprint policy came into effect in 2007. On Earth Day of 2016, the city calculated the amount of water savings because of the recycled water, native plants, and turf reduction programs.

Platinum





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

Silver

1. On January 1, 2016, the city's Single-Use Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance went into effect. The use of single-use plastic bags will not be permitted at most retail stores. Retailers will be required to charge customers at least 10 cents per bag to encourage customers to use reusable bags. In anticipation for the ordinance, the city distributed 3,200 re-usable bags free of charge to residents at city hall and other public events.

Gold

2. Since 2014, the city provides bins for the collection of used batteries, compact florescent lights, and used ink cartridges. At city hall, residents may deposit these used items and they will be transported to the corp yard, which in turns works with Recology to recycle them responsibly.
3. Since 2014, the city works with the Lion's Club to help recycle and reuse used eye glasses. At city hall, residents may deposit used eye glasses which are picked up by the Lion's Club to be sent to those who are in need. Throughout the year, Lions, Leos, and other volunteers collect used eyeglasses and deliver them to regional Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centers. From there, volunteers clean, sort by prescription strength, and package the eye glasses. Recycled glasses are distributed to people in need in low and middle income communities where they will have the greatest impact.

Platinum

4. The city has encouraged paper reduction through the following activities: reduced margins and logos on agency templates, letterheads and memos, used "eCopy" copy machines, laserfiche as document maintenance software.
5. In 2014, the city established a policy to use electronic devices for city council and planning commission agendas and notes at meetings. The members of the council and commission were loaned Apple iPads that city staff would transfer staff reports and agenda packets. This greatly reduced paper printing and reduced vehicle miles traveled, as they were previously distributed by a staff member to the commission and council members' homes.
6. After the city changed its logo in 2014, the city was left with printed materials from the previous logo. These were cut and converted to scratch pads for city staff to use as scratch paper.





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

Silver

1. The City of American Canyon adopted an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing and Practices (EPPP) policy 12/15/2015. The city, when feasible, has committed to take efforts to reduce the amount and toxicity of solid waste they generate, recycle materials recoverable from their operations, and maximize the procurement of recycled, energy efficient and non-toxic products where practical and feasible to do so.

Gold

2. In 2015, the city approved an ordinance to promote local businesses. The city recognizes that strategies to promote the use of local vendors and services providers help create a sustainable economy and preserve local businesses. The use of local businesses helps retain local dollars within the community and strengthen employment. It also reduces travel time and vehicle miles travelled. When comparing the prices offered by bidders, local businesses shall be given a 5% local preference for purchases of quantitative comparisons.

Platinum





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

Silver

1. Effective October 2015, the city has an eligibility checklist for expedited solar photovoltaic permitting for one and two family dwellings. If all criteria are met, then permit application may go through expedited solar permitting process. The city issued 34 residential solar permits in 2013, 70 in 2014, and 119 in 2015. With a total of 274 residential photovoltaic systems, the city avoided 171.4 MTCO₂ of emissions.

Gold

2. The city has installed two electric vehicle charging stations at the public park-and-ride. The site at 300 Crawford was completed with the Napa Valley Transit Authority (NVTA), formerly known as NCPTA, and for the time being, the charging stations are free to all users. The site also features two metal mesh bicycle storage cages for secure bike parking.
3. The City of American Canyon adopted three PACE programs, California First, HERO, and YGreene. California First and YGreene allows non-residential properties to utilize property taxes for renewable energy efforts. The city adopted California First in 10/16/2012 and California Home Finance Authority / YGreene in 12/1/2015. The city plans to work with Open Pace in August of 2016 to incorporate Open Pace to increase competition amongst PACE programs.

Platinum





Efficient Transportation Activities

Silver

1. In August 2012, the city adopted a Bicycle Plan, which was prepared in accordance with the California Bicycle Transportation Act as a part of the Napa Countywide Bicycle Plan. The plan includes proposed bicycle and pedestrian trails and on-street bicycle facilities to complete the partial network already in place.

Gold

2. The city has a dedicated Priority Development Area (PDA) along Highway 29. The six mile stretch of highway is being studied to bring mixed use development and complete streets to the area. Some of the new developments with the project are plans to decrease the traffic speed from 55 mph to 30 mph. The reduction will bring a more pedestrian and bicycle friendly environment to the 250 acre stretch of land and enable our local bus system to provide bus stops along this stretch of roadway. Improving pedestrian, bicycle, and transit use will reduce VMT and improve public health by reducing auto use as a primary travel mode.

Platinum





Land Use and Community Design Activities

Silver

1. As part of the general plan, the 2015-2023 housing element (updated in March of 2015) has an inventory of potential infill development sites. There is also a map that shows the vacant and underutilized residential sites available to the public. The city also has an internal spreadsheet of underutilized and vacant parcels within the Broadway PDA.

Gold

2. The city requires bicycle racks for commercial development to encourage multi-modal use of transportation. These regulations are intended to achieve the following: to provide parking and loading facilities in proportion to the needs generated by various types of land uses, to provide accessible, attractive, secure, properly lit and well maintained off-street parking and loading facilities, and to reduce traffic congestion and hazards.
3. The city's Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO) has been in effect since January 2010. The Department of Water Resources developed the MWELO, which the city adopted. The ordinance has specific requirements relating to the design, installation, maintenance, and performance of new and rehabilitated landscapes. American Canyon is also the first city in California that prohibits turf in the front yards of new homes.

Platinum

4. Since 2013, the city provides resources about bay friendly landscaping and gardening as well as less toxic pest control methods. Choosing less toxic products reduces the impact on the city's waste water treatment system. Working with Rescape California, the city provides tips on creating Bay-friendly rated landscapes that reduces landscaping labor by 30% to 70% and uses as much as 50% less water than conventional landscapes.
5. Since 2010, the city's zoning code allows multi-family resident development as a by-right use. This provision reduces the permit processing time immensely. By encouraging multi-family resident development, the city aims to provide a complete community and a variety of housing stock.





Land Use and Community Design Activities

Platinum

6. In February of 2016, the city adopted an affordable housing nexus fee program to support affordable housing in our community. On a daily basis, many people commute into Napa County to work because of the high cost of housing. Providing affordable housing will reduce vehicle miles traveled and improve lives by reducing commute times.
7. In 2013, the city adopted an ordinance to combat predatory loan practices by prohibiting payday loan and similar businesses that lead to the cycle of poverty and debt. The city also found that pawnshops, along with precious metal exchanges and check cashing services are places that are known to possess large amounts of cash and therefore, invite opportunities for crime attempts, such as robberies of the facilities or customers. Prohibiting these businesses enhances the safety and economic prosperity of the city.
8. In 2015, the city adopted an ordinance that prohibits large format smoke shops, vape shops, and other tobacco-related businesses. A lifetime of tobacco addiction begins when youth is introduced to tobacco products. Preventing these businesses from gaining a foothold in the community will improve community health by reducing the incidence of tobacco marketing promotions and advertising to American Canyon youth.





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

Silver

1. The City of American Canyon's first farmers market began on May 1, 2016. This market serves as a hub for fresh and diverse local produce as well as an opportunity for building identity and community. A USDA grant will fund the farmers market's first two seasons, each lasting from May to October. EBT cards will be accepted.

Gold

2. In 2016, the city participates in the Napa County Local Food Advisory Council, comprising representatives from agriculture, public and private institutions, health, community advocates, and city councils. The city council advises the agricultural commissioner regarding the development of a sustainable food system and helps set priorities and implement initiatives to improve the environmental, economic, and social sustainability of food production in the county.
3. The city council adopted an initiative in 2008 to adopt an urban limit line around the city. This urban limit line was negotiated with Napa County to be consistent with the county's general plan and agricultural protection ordinances. The boundary helps preserve agriculture and open spaces, prevent urban sprawl, and implements the planned development of the city. The urban limit line also fosters sustainable growth and maintains a balance between housing and jobs.

Platinum





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

Silver

1. In 2015, the city partnered with Mid City Nursery and UC Master Gardeners of Napa County to provide free workshops about water conservation, drought tolerant garden alternatives, and the Cash for Grass program. The workshops also provided examples of attractive yards that removed all or part of their turf.

Gold

2. The city has distributed give-away items, such as re-usable bags, to encourage environmental responsibility. These items were given away at the community yard sale (6/4/2016), the first farmers market (5/21), and many other events previously. Along with the bags are brochures with information on city functions and water-saving devices.
3. Since 2015, the city has established a citizen's academy that teaches neighborhood leaders how city government works. The mission of the program is to help develop future community leaders and build a better community by creating well-informed and engaged residents. Classes will help participants understand key roles and functions in the city and how they interact to form a strong and effective government. This is a free program for American Canyon community members age 18 and older.

Platinum

4. Since 2015 the city partnered with Napa County in providing bay-friendly garden tours that showed low-impact landscapes, including drought-tolerant gardens with habitat, heritage oaks, and spectacular views. The tours also gives tips on rain barrels, grey-water systems and other water conservation tips.





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