

BEACON

SPOTLIGHT  
AWARD

WINNER

BEST PRACTICE  
ACTIVITIES



# City of East Palo Alto

## Sustainability Best Practice Activities



INSTITUTE FOR  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT<sup>SM</sup>

Promoting Good Government at the Local Level



# City of East Palo Alto

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	2019		
	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. East Palo Alto city staff works with Stanford University students to evaluate risks, challenges, and benefits for a variety of energy, water, and other sustainability initiatives.

## Gold

2. In 2016, the City of East Palo Alto joined Peninsula Clean Energy to help give residents and businesses access to cleaner energy at lower rates.

## Platinum





# Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

## Silver

1. The City of East Palo Alto worked closely with the City of Palo Alto to secure some of its water shares (approximately 500,000 gallons of water per day) to ensure a quality water supply for its residents.

## Gold

2. The city recently rehabilitated the Gloria Well, a critical component in the city's goal of developing its own water management system.

## Platinum





# Green Building Activities

## Silver

1. The city recently secured a \$20 million Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) grant to renovate and expand a housing project that includes energy efficient building, electric bus service, new sidewalks and bikeways, and other sustainability features.

## Gold

2. In 2007, the City of East Palo Alto celebrated its first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified building. The city's 32,000 square foot YMCA building uses 30% less energy than state standards require and incorporates sustainable building materials, low volatile organic compound coatings, and water conservation measures.

## Platinum





# Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

## Silver

1. In the fall of 2017, the city added 1.5 staff positions to work on waste reduction initiatives.

## Gold

2. In 2019, East Palo Alto is hosting its first annual citywide “little pickup” in which 15 volunteers helped remove 5,700 gallons of litter.
3. In 2019, the city will have completed its retrofit project to install a trash capture device at the O’Connor Street Pump Station.

## Platinum







# Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

## Silver

1. The City of East Palo Alto purchases paper products that contain post-consumer recycled content.

## Gold

## Platinum





# Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

## Silver

1. The City of East Palo Alto is partnering with GRID Alternatives to offer rooftop solar energy systems to low-income residents at no cost.

## Gold

## Platinum





# Efficient Transportation Activities

## Silver

1. The city completed construction of a new pedestrian bridge over Highway 101 at University Avenue, which now connects the west side of town to the city's major shopping area.

## Gold

2. In 2017, the city council adopted a Bicycle Master Plan.

## Platinum





# Land Use and Community Design Activities

## Silver

1. The city partnered with a local non-profit organization to create a first-of-its-kind Safe Parking Program for residents living in recreational vehicles (RVs). The program offers designated spaces for up to 20 local RV dwellers to park overnight, gain access to portable showers, laundry services, and other social services designed for persons without permanent housing.

## Gold

2. The city adopted an Affordable Housing Strategy in October 2018, which sets the goal of facilitating 500 new affordable housing apartments within the next five years.
3. With funding from the Strategic Growth Council, the City of East Palo Alto updated its General Plan in 2016, which includes strategies to increase housing units by 30%.

## Platinum





# Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

## Silver

1. The city permitted an electric vehicle charging station at the city's major retail center.

## Gold

2. The city adopted its Climate Action Plan in 2011.
3. Due to the city's lack of public parks, East Palo Alto adopted a Park-in-Lieu Ordinance, which requires housing developers of more than five units to either provide a park or pay an in-lieu fee that the city can use to support additional parks and open space.

## Platinum





# Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

## Silver

1. Due to the huge interest in development within city limits, the City of East Palo Alto has implemented a pre-application process that all developers must go through before engaging in community meetings and before the official process and any land use decisions begin.

## Gold

2. The city hosts water-saving tips on its website.

## Platinum







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1400 K Street, Suite 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-658-8208  
[www.ca-ilg.org](http://www.ca-ilg.org)

