BEACON
SPOTLIGHT AWARD
WINNER
BEST PRACTICE ACTIVITIES

City of Foster City
Sustainability Best Practices Activities

ILG INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT℠
Promoting Good Government at the Local Level

About This Document

This document tracks and shares local agency best practice activities completed and counted as part of a city or county's participation in the climate change and sustainability recognition program, the Beacon Program: Local Leadership toward Solving Climate Change. The Beacon Program is a statewide program recognizing cities and counties that are working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save energy and adopt policies and programs that promote sustainability.

The Beacon Program is sponsored by the Institute for Local Government and the Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative. The Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative (SEEC) provides support to cities and counties to help them reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save energy. SEEC is an alliance between three statewide non-profit organizations and California's four Investor-Owned Utilities. It builds upon the unique resources, expertise and local agency relationships of each partner.

The Beacon Program is funded by California utility customers 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.

SPOTLIGHT AWARD
Areas of Accomplishment

	SILVER LEVEL	GOLD LEVEL	PLATINUM LEVEL
Agency GHG Reductions			
Community GHG Reductions	8% Reduction		
Agency Energy Savings			20% Savings
Natural Gas Savings		13% Reduction	
Sustainability Best Practice Activities		3 in each of 10 categories	

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Replaced all traffic and pedestrian signals with Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology. • Resolution 98-01 Authorizing the replacement of red incandescent traffic lamps with red light emitting diode (LED) signal faces, 1/5/1998 • Resolution 2003-42 Authorizing the Replacement of Signal Faces for Pedestrian and Yellow Signal Head Light Emitting Diode Project, 5/5/2003	**2015**

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities	Reported
Gold	1. Implemented Energy Watch energy efficiency audit recommendations for city buildings, resulting in a projected annual savings of $60,623 in energy cost. • Resolution 2014-30 Awarding Contract for Energy Efficiency Upgrades, approved 4/7/2014. 2. Replaced all 260 high pressure sodium street lights with LED lights. PG&E projected that 142,000 kWh will be saved annually in energy through this retrofit, resulting in 81,448 pounds of avoided greenhouse gas emissions annually. • Resolution 2012-97 Authorizing Replacement of HPS Streetlights with LED, 11/19/2012 • Press Release on LED Streetlights, 1/14/2013	**2015**

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency & Conservation Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. Participates in the San Francisco Community Power Demand Response Program, reducing city-wide electricity use on peak demand days. 2. Worked with a major employer, Gilead Sciences, to develop the Gilead Sciences Sustainability Plan. 3. Joined Energy Upgrade California program to encourage energy efficiency retrofits by Foster City property owners. Provided a link from the city's "GoGreen" webpage. 4. Converted to energy efficient electronic ballasts in city lighting systems.	**2015**

Water & Wastewater Systems Activity

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city/EMID has reduced its water consumption by installing low-flow toilets in its facilities and installing state of the art irrigation systems and controllers in many of its parks. Drought tolerant plantings and select hardscape elements are used to reduce water requirements around facilities and parks. The city has installed artificial turf in seven city parks.	2015

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Gold	1. Between 2008 and 2013, EMID conducted a meter-replacement program to replace all touch-read meters (over 8,200) with "FlexNet" automated meters. The new meters are capable of reporting unusual consumption patterns instantaneously. EMID staff identifies and investigates potential water leaks weekly. 2. The city/EMID adopted Conservation-Based Water Rates, which are tiered so that higher water usage is billed at a higher rate. Residential usage is set at a per-household baseline. Commercial irrigation usage is based on landscape audits such that existing planting materials are maintained, but not overwatered. Usage in excess of "water budgets" is subject to a penalty equal to a percentage of the water cost for that excess.	2015

Level	Water and Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. The city/EMID offers free informational resources including "home water audit" kits and instruction for all fifth grade students and a free guide to waterwise gardening on CD-ROM for all residents. 2. The EMID Board approved a program to encourage multi-family residential units to segregate domestic and irrigation meters. The program includes waiving meter installation fees, in addition to offering a below market-rate three-year loan of up to $50,000 to assist homeowners associations and apartment owners. 3. The city/EMID established a Water Sustainability Fund to fund a variety of water conservation rebates for residential and commercial EMID customers, including, but not limited to those for low-flow toilets, high-efficiency clothes washers and lawn replacement as incentives for water conservation. 4. The city/EMID requires individual water sub-meters for each dwelling unit in new multi-family developments.	2015

Green Building Activity

Level	Green Building Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city created a dedicated "GoGreen" page on the city's website to help residents find green building information and resources.	**2015**

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Gold	1. The city has utilized alternate materials such as decomposed granite walkways instead of asphalt at two new parks to use more natural material sand reduce greenhouse gas emissions. 2. The city has required LEED Silver or equivalent standards for individual projects, including gilead sciences, Pilgrim Triton Master Plan and Chess/Hatch Offices.	**2015**

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. Resurfaced streets using cold-in-place recycling of asphalt.	**2015**

Waste Reduction and Recycling Activity

Level	Waste Reduction Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Provides curbside CartSMART refuse collection, including batteries and cell phones.	**2015**

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Gold	1. Sponsors community events for electronics recycling, paper shredding 2. Adopted Ordinance 523 requiring a minimum of 50 percent of the debris generated from certain construction and demolition projects be diverted from landfills.	**2015**

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. Adopted Ordinance 571 banning single-use carry-out plastic bags. 2. Adopted Ordinance 567 banning polystyrene disposable food containers. 3. Purchases "in-unit" recycling containers for residents of multi-family dwellings. 4. Sponsors community compost give-away events.	**2015**

Climate-friendly Purchasing Activity

Level	Climate-Friendly Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Through the Foster City Lagoon Management Plan, directs the use of environmentally-friendly, products and processes, rather than chemical treatment to manage lagoon water quality whenever possible.	**2015**

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Gold	1. Prioritizes purchase of fuel efficient and alternate fuel vehicles for city fleet where appropriate. 2. Ensures that janitorial supplies used in city facilities are environmentally friendly, low pH diluted cleaning concentrates and renewable resource paper products.	**2015**

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. Replaced towel dispensers in city facilities with motion activated dispensers to reduce the volume of paper towels used. 2. Provides city council and planning commission agendas and reports on-line to reduce the amount of paper used to make copies.	**2015**

Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activity

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Installed solar voltaic panels at the public library. • Resolution 2014-77 Awarding Contract	**2015**

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Gold	1. Installed electric vehicle charging station for city employees and city vehicles. 2. Eliminated permit fees for installation of solar panels. • See Item S-2-A-I in the Master Fee Schedule	**2015**

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Platinum	1. Reduced speed limits on city streets to allow neighborhood electric vehicles (NEVs). • Minute Order 1017 Directing staff to take the necessary steps to reduce the speed limit, dated 1/4/2007 • Resolution 2007-24 Adopting the recommended speed limits, adopted 3/19/2007 2. Increased the percentage of hybrids and electric vehicles in the city fleet, including nine hybrid city vehicles. 3. Replaced some traditional vehicles with electric options for parks maintenance operations. 4. Participating in a bulk solar purchase program, Peninsula SunShares.	**2015**

Efficient Transportation Activity

Level	Efficient Transportation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Funded/subsidized public transit passes. Currently $15/month matching with city.	**2015**

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Gold	1. The city facilitates shuttles, carpool/vanpool options, emergency ride-home program and carpool gas card incentive. (Administered through Peninsula Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance). 2. The city participates in the Safe Routes to School Program. • Resolution 2002-35 Authorizing city participation in the Safe Routes to School Program, May 20, 2002	**2015**

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. The city requires a Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Program with each Use Permit/Specific Development Plan for large projects. 2. The city/EMID 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. 3. The city implemented a 9-80 work schedule for most employees and the option for certain employees to telecommute from home, keeping cars off the roadways while maintaining a productive workforce. 4. The city operates a Senior Express Shuttle to transport residents age 55 and older to events and activities in the region.	**2015**

Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Approved the Pilgrim Triton Master Plan to create a compact, efficient mixed use development to replace an obsolete industrial park.	**2015**

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Gold	1. Require bicycle racks to be installed at all new commercial/office developments. Bicycle racks are also on all shuttles. 2. Maintains a bicycle/pedestrian path along the Bayfront—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.	**2015**

Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Silver	1. Adopted regulations prohibiting the installation or replacement of wood burning appliances unless conditions are met to protect air quality. • Ordinance 486 regulating the burning of certain fuels within wood burning fireplaces, heaters, or appliances and regulating the installation of wood burning fireplaces, heaters or appliances, February 20, 2001	2015

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Gold	1. Created an enhanced wetland area at Sea Cloud Park with spoils from lagoon dredging. 2. Built environmentally sustainable parks by incorporating reused and recycled materials, water-efficient landscaping and water-efficient technology systems.	2015

Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Silver	1. City council recently approved a plan that encourages sustainability of all kinds in Foster City, including environmental, equity and economic. Among the programs are "Invest in Foster City" – actions that will enhance the economic vitality of our community by the availability and sustainability of infrastructure, services, and opportunities through investment and redevelopment opportunities; "Shop in Foster City" – actions that encourage the growth of retail and commercial sales of Foster City businesses; and "We Are Foster City" – actions that identify and distinguish Foster City as a community that enables the pursuit of a high quality of life.	**2015**

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Gold	1. Participates in the Great Race for Clean Air. 2. Joined CaliforniaFIRST, HERO and Figtree to enable Foster City property owners to access Property-Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing. Resolution 2010-23 Authorizing California FIRST Program, 3/1/2010 Resolution 2014-90 Authorizing Figtree PACE Program, 8/4/2014 Resolution 2014-91 Authorizing HERO PACE Program, 8/4/2014	**2015**

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. Maintains an online "Sustainable Foster City Dashboard" to provide data, information and resources on a variety of sustainable indicators. 2. Created the "Green Footprint" video series. 3. The city is an active member of 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.	**2015**

Notes: