

SILVER LEVEL AWARD WINNER

BEACON  
SPOTLIGHT  
AWARD  
WINNER  
BEST PRACTICE  
ACTIVITIES



# City of Mill Valley

Sustainability Best Practices Activities



**ILG** INSTITUTE FOR  
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*Promoting Good Government at the Local Level*

## SPOTLIGHT AWARD

Areas of Accomplishment

		SILVER LEVEL	GOLD LEVEL	PLATINUM LEVEL
	Agency GHG Reductions			
	Community GHG Reductions			
	Agency Energy Savings		15%	
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities	2018		



## 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. 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.



## Supporting California local governments

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 Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city now purchases, through MCE, lower carbon intensity of electricity by purchasing power.	2018

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities	Reported
Gold	1.	2018

Level	Energy Efficiency & Conservation Activities	Reported
Platinum	1.	





# Water & Wastewater Systems Activity

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city implemented new landscape guidelines for residential projects proposing over 500 square feet of landscaping. Smart meter/irrigation systems and native, drought resistant plantings required.	2018

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Gold	1. The City of Mill Valley has recently updated the median planting areas along a 1-mile section of Miller Avenue based on these standards, and have installed new drainage and rain garden systems at the corner of major intersections along Miller Avenue.	2018

Level	Water and Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Platinum	1.	





# Green Building Activity

Level	Green Building Activity	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. The city has adopted Cal Green Tier 1 (with 15% increase in energy) for all new residential homes, including tear downs.	<b>2018</b>

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	1. The Sewer Agency of Southern Marin is located in the City of Mill Valley, and is updating its building to comply with LEED Silver Green Building requirements.	<b>2018</b>

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	1.	







# Waste Reduction and Recycling Activity

Level	Waste Reduction Activity	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. Ongoing waste diversion programs include a residential food waste composting program and mandatory food waste and recycling service for large commercial producers.	<b>2018</b>

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Several events have been modified in the last several years so they are Zero Waste, with all materials being compostable and a waste management team on site to educate the community on composting and "which bin to use at home". Such events include an annual pancake breakfast, bunny breakfast and wine festival.</li> <li>2. New outdoor recycling added to waste collection on Miller Avenue and in the downtown commercial area.</li> </ol>	<b>2018</b>

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	1. The city has also installed size water refilling stations near parks and sports fields, to promote the use of reusable water bottles (rather than plastic water bottles).	<b>2018</b>





# Climate-friendly Purchasing Activity

Level	Climate-Friendly Activity	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. Reducing the use of plastic. The city has a plastic bag ban, and requires \$.10 for reusable paper bags. The ordinance applies to all retail stores and restaurants (including the one drive-thru).	<b>2018</b>

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The City of Mill Valley does not allow plastic water bottles to be purchased as part of a city-sponsored event.</li> <li>2. The city now purchases burlap sandbags rather than plastic sandbags.</li> </ol>	

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	1. The city is partnering with local organizations to "green" events so there is less waste created from the event. This year, the city is collaborating with the Chamber of Commerce for its Wine & Food Festival, requiring vendors to use compostable materials for the event.	







# Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activity

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Use of Solar. Based on 2015 data, the city's residential sector has reduced its emissions by 11% and the commercial sector has reduced its energy by 9%. One feature leading to these reductions is switching to solar to power buildings and heat water. Countywide, solar systems have been growing at about 20% annually. The City of Mill Valley is one of the top solar generators, and has recently installed a new solar system over the parking lot at the Community Center that will be used to power the building. The city also has reduced permit fees for solar installations. In 2017, 42 residential solar permits were issued.	2018

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Gold	1. Marin Clean Energy was launched in 2010, creating a choice in energy use. MCE currently carried approximately 70% of the electricity load in Mill Valley. Most recently, the city, like many of its residents, has transitioned to 100% renewable energy ("deep green") to power city-related operations. This is anticipated to result in a 7% reduction in city-related emissions and is a cost-effective means of offsetting energy-related greenhouse gas emissions and continuing the city's sustainability stewardship.	2018

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Platinum	1.	





# Efficient Transportation Activity

Level	Efficient Transportation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Marin County continues to lead the way in hybrid and electric car ownership. The City of Mill Valley also continues to make strides in switching its vehicle fleet to more climate-friendly vehicles, including the leasing of 4 Bolts.	2018

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Gold	1. The City of Mill Valley is also pilot testing electric bicycles as part of its energy efficient fleet.	2018

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Platinum	1.	2018





# Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The City of Mill Valley has recently completed the 18-month reconstruction of the 2-mile Miller Avenue Streetscape corridor. The roadway redesign included removal of frontage roads and reconstruction of the roadway to create a multi-modal complete street with buffered bike lanes (3 foot buffer + 5-6 bike lanes), ADA compliant sidewalks, rain gardens, sustainable/drought-resistant landscaping, and new underground storm water retention and drainage systems. Completion of this roadway project has improved access to downtown and the regional Bay Trail for bicycles and pedestrians, and has increased safety of the entire corridor for bicyclists and pedestrians. Infrastructure improvements have increased non-motorized transportation on the corridor, as well as improved water efficiency associated with irrigation.	2018

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Gold		2018

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Platinum	1.	





# Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. Recent adoption and acceptance of easements to formalize steps, lanes and pathways that exist within the city, with proposed improvements planned for these old pathways, many of which were originally used to access the railroad from hillside homes.	<b>2018</b>

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	1. The city adopted a new tree ordinance, requiring one to one replacement of trees, and stricter requirements for heritage trees (based on the diameter of the heritage tree).	<b>2018</b>

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	1.	





# Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. Since 2012, the city has participated in the Resilient Neighborhoods program. To date, 30 households, 62 people and 515,213 CO2 lbs has been reduced. Since the beginning of 2017, both the number of people and the amount of CO2 lbs reduced have more than doubled. The number of households is up 87%, the number of people in those households is up 116% and the number of CO2 lbs reduced is up 116%.	<b>2018</b>

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	1. Interactive website that can be used to see progress being made by local jurisdiction in Marin <a href="http://www.marintracker.org/">http://www.marintracker.org/</a>	<b>2018</b>

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	1.	





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