

PLATINUM LEVEL AWARD WINNER

BEACON  
SPOTLIGHT  
AWARD  
WINNER  
BEST PRACTICE  
ACTIVITIES



# City of Redwood City

Sustainability Best Practices Activities



**ILG** INSTITUTE FOR  
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*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. 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 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			20% Reduction
	Community GHG Reductions	8% Reduction		
	Agency Energy Savings	8% Savings		
	Natural Gas Savings	7% Savings		
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities			6 in each of 10 categories





## Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. In 2008, IT virtualized servers in city hall, saving the city 21,329 kWh of electricity and over \$3600 in utility costs annually and reducing GHG emissions by over 6.2 MT over the life of the project.	<b>2015</b>

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	<p>1. In 2009, public works implemented a citywide lighting retrofit program, changing out older, inefficient lighting in city hall, libraries, community buildings, and fire stations for efficient fluorescent lighting and LEDs in exit signs. The retrofits save the city 619,517 kWh of electricity and over \$97,000 in utility costs annually, and reduce GHG emissions by over 161.5 MT over the project life.</p> <p>2. In 2010, the city continued with lighting retrofits in the Marshall Street Garage and implemented additional HVAC and boiler retrofits, lighting controls and occupancy sensors projects in city facilities, among others. The combined savings of these projects amounts to over 155,090 kWh of electricity, over 690 therms of gas, over \$23,000 in utility costs annually and almost 35 MT of GHG emissions over the life of the projects.</p>	<b>2015</b>

Level	Energy Efficiency & Conservation Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	<p>1. In 2011, the city added refrigeration controls on vending machines, implemented a high efficiency air conditioning/heat pump project, and piloted its first LED streetlight project. Together these projects saved the city 28,744 kWh of electricity and \$4,615 annually, as well as reducing GHG emissions by over 5.12 MT over the life of the projects.</p> <p>2. In 2012, the city retrofitted Main Library's HVAC controls, saving over 6,447 kWh of electricity, 505 therms of gas, and \$1,480 of utility costs annually, as well as reducing GHG emissions over 4 MT over the life of the project.</p>	<b>2015</b>





# Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency & Conservation Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	3. In 2013, the city installed occupancy sensors at the community activities building (saving the city \$1,879 annually) and began Phase I implementation of the municipal LED streetlight replacement program. The entire LED replacement program is estimated to save the city \$30,000-50,000 annually, reduce electricity consumption by 32% in the replaced lights and cut GHG emissions by 50 MT annually.	<b>2015</b>





# Water & Wastewater Systems Activity

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activity	Reported
Silver	1. In 2005, Redwood City started construction on a <a href="#">Recycled Water Project</a> , completing phase I in 2010.	2015

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2007, the city received a \$2.9 million grant from the California State Water Resources Control Board that assisted in the installation of approximately 29,000 linear feet of <a href="#">recycled water</a> distribution pipeline along the east side of Highway 101 on the Greater Bayfront and Seaport areas.</li> <li>In 2008, Redwood City's Recycled Water Use <a href="#">Ordinance</a> was adopted by the city council on July 7th and took effect on August 6th, 2008.</li> </ol>	2015

Level	Water and Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The city parks installed a <a href="#">computerized irrigation system</a> that checks and adjusts every irrigation timer from a central location.</li> <li>Smart water meters were installed to alert staff of potential water leaks.</li> <li>City landscapes are irrigated with recycled water if they lie within the recycled water service area.</li> </ol>	2015





# Green Building Activity

Level	Green Building Activity	Reported
Silver	1. In 2009, the city adopted an <a href="#">ordinance</a> that requires new buildings to exceed the minimum requirements of California's Green Building Standards Code.	2015

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city provides information to homeowners and businesses about the available PG&amp;E rebates, Energy Upgrade Program and Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing opportunities for new buildings that exceed Title 24 energy code by 15%.</li> <li>2. The city has expedited review and permit processing for green building projects.</li> </ol>	2015

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city trains or sends building, permitting and inspection staff to CalBIG and BayREN trainings for green building standards and to facilitate the permitting approval and inspection processes.</li> <li>2. The city requires all new commercial and residential buildings to incorporate smart irrigation technology (sensors and controllers).</li> <li>3. The city has enacted a <a href="#">C&amp;D debris recycling ordinance</a> that requires 60% or more diversion of project waste.</li> </ol>	2015





# Waste Reduction and Recycling Activity

Level	Waste Reduction Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city developed a long term trash load reduction (into the storm drain system and thereby the Bay) <a href="#">plan</a> to achieve 70% trash reduction by 2017 and 100% (i.e., no visual impact) by 2022.	2015

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city adopted an <a href="#">ordinance prohibiting</a> businesses from using single-use disposal polystyrene (styrofoam) containers. The ordinance was adopted in May 2012 and went into effect on January 1, 2013.</li> <li>2. A C and D <a href="#">ordinance</a> was adopted January 2013 to help the city comply with the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 by requiring all new residential and non-residential construction and demolition projects and any alteration or addition projects valued at or over \$50,000 to achieve a 60% landfill diversion and recycling rate, as well as recycling 100% of all inert materials. An administrative fee is assessed to offset costs of staff time, and a deposit is charged at the beginning of the permit process, to be returned to the applicant, without interest, upon proof of compliance with the 60% recycling rate.</li> </ol>	2015

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An <a href="#">ordinance</a> banning the use of plastic shopping bags by retailers. The ordinance was adopted in March 2013.</li> <li>2. The city's waste JPA (<a href="#">RethinkWaste</a>) board of directors passed SBWMA Ordinance No. 002 to help gather data on recycling activities taking place in the service area separate from those services provided by Recology San Mateo County, effective January 1, 2015. The new ordinance applies to businesses that back haul recyclable materials, and haulers, brokers and other entities that provide recycling collection services to businesses in our service area. The ordinance requires that these type of businesses report recycling data (such as weight, types of recyclables collected, and city collected in) on a quarterly basis starting in 2015.</li> <li>3. The city is piloting a Household Hazardous Waste pick-up program which began March 1, 2015.</li> </ol>	2015







# Climate-friendly Purchasing Activity

Level	Climate-Friendly Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city purchases and uses recycled content paper where feasible.	2015

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Facilities maintenance uses GreenSeal products to clean city facilities.</li> <li>2. The city's IT department procures EPEAT-certified electronics where feasible.</li> </ol>	2015

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city's facilities maintenance team conducts employee awareness training on purchasing and using green cleaning products.</li> <li>2. The city offers a Green Business certification program which educates businesses on green procurement.</li> <li>3. The city's public works department has replaced fleet passenger vehicles with hybrids, except where infeasible (Police vehicles). The city's fleet consists of 23 Hybrids (19%) and three electric vehicles (3%).</li> </ol>	2015





# Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activity

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Silver	1. In 2007, the city installed <a href="#">solar-powered parking meters</a> in the downtown area.	2015
Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Gold	1. The city council has approved a power purchase agreement (PPA) for solar on <a href="#">Red Morton Community Center</a> , March 23, 2015.  2. Redwood City is a program partner in the <a href="#">Bay Area Bike Share</a> pilot, led by the bay area air quality management district and funded through local, regional and federal grants.	2015
Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Platinum	1. Redwood City has installed <a href="#">EV charging stations</a> available to the public at a number of city facilities.  2. The city has adopted three <a href="#">PACE</a> financing programs (CaliforniaFirst, HERO, and Figtree).  3. The city is offering a residential group solar program, Peninsula Sunshares, to people who live or work in <a href="#">Redwood City</a> .	2015





# Efficient Transportation Activity

Level	Efficient Transportation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city provides information and participates in programs such as Spare the Air Day; Commute.org's Spring Campaign; and Bike Month events like Bike to Shop, Bike to School, and Bike to Work Days that help employees use commute alternatives.	2015

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city has a robust Employee Commute Alternatives Program, compliant with SB 1339, that subsidizes employee transit passes with a match up to \$100. Employees can use pre-tax dollars to pay the remaining amount.</li> <li>2. For every 20 days an employee uses a commute alternative, the city subsidizes half of a \$20-gift card to Safeway, Whole Foods or Trader Joe's.</li> </ol>	2015

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city offers employees who carpool, vanpool, or use transit a guaranteed ride home in case of emergencies.</li> <li>2. The city allows unbundled parking to be permitted in downtown multi-family residential developments as per the <a href="#">Downtown Precise Plan</a> Section 2.6.2.</li> <li>3. <a href="#">Redwood City is a partner in Connect</a>, Redwood City!, formerly known as the Making the Last Mile Connection Pilot Program, which implements a suite of mobility options within the City of Redwood City. The goal of the program is to test the ability for these mobility options to change travel habits away from single-occupancy personal vehicle travel, thereby reducing vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions. The program received a \$1.5 million grant from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission through its Climate Initiatives Grant Program. In 2013, the city implemented vanpools as part of the pilot project, to accompany the existing car share program and the Bay Area Bike Share, which also is funded under the Climate Initiatives Program.</li> </ol>	2015





# Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activity	Reported
Silver	<p>1. The city has developed a General Plan that emphasizes smart growth and complete streets planning and policies. From the General Plan Build Environment Element:</p> <p>The <a href="#">Urban Form and Land Use goals</a> and policies implement the following guiding principles of this General Plan and plan for sustainability within our finite resources including but not limited to open space, water, energy, and air quality. The goals ensure that change harmonizes with existing development to preserve our historic and neighborhood character. Partner with and embrace our neighborhoods to improve health, safety, and well being for all in our community. Design for active pedestrian and bicycle friendly streets and public spaces.</p>	2015

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Gold	<p>1. Redwood City's Draft <a href="#">Housing Element for 2015-2023</a> is currently under review with the State of California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), with public hearings slated for fall 2015. The city inventories potential infill development sites and maintains a community-wide database of vacant and underutilized infill sites to monitor the community's growth and change.</p> <p>2. The city's <a href="#">General Plan</a> states that development priority will be given to infill sites that are well served by "complete streets"—transit, pedestrian amenities, and bike ways, and the city has been successful at providing density bonuses and increasing development density along the transit corridors and particularly in the downtown precise plan area, which is served by the Caltrain station.</p>	2015





# Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="345 501 1263 562">1. The city currently offers three Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs to businesses and residents (Hero, Figtree, and CaliforniaFirst).</li> <li data-bbox="345 594 1263 747">2. The city's <a href="#">General Plan</a> includes programs to adopt a GHG emissions reduction target and a climate action plan and to conduct GHG Inventories. The city has conducted GHG Inventories for municipal operations (2005 and 2010) and for the community as a whole (2005 and 2010), and the city adopted a <a href="#">Climate Action Plan</a> in 2013.</li> <li data-bbox="345 779 1263 840">3. The city has implemented <a href="#">zoning</a> for mixed-use development to encourage walking and biking for short trips rather than using vehicles.</li> </ol>	2015





# Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Silver	1. The city has adopted a <a href="#">tree ordinance</a> to protect urban forests, including protection for specific tree species.	2015

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Gold	1. The city has adopted a <a href="#">zoning ordinance</a> that restricts ridgeline and hillside grading for home building on hillsides as a way to enhance public safety and preserve open space.  2. Redwood City is designated as a Tree City USA community by the <a href="#">Arbor Day Foundation</a> .	2015

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. The city endeavors to build environmentally sustainable parks by incorporating reused and recycled materials and water-efficient landscaping and irrigation systems. To that end, the city parks installed a computerized irrigation system that checks and adjusts every irrigation timer from a central location. The parks department has assisted and coordinated with public works water conservation staff to implement three “Lawn-be-Gone” projects in locations that are maintained by the parks department (replacing lawn with drought-tolerant planting) and has renovated several parks replacing some lawn areas with trees and mulch. Parks also reuses posts and footings to avoid sending viable materials to the landfill.  2. The parks department partners with Acterra, an environmental non-profit which coordinates many of our volunteers to do habitat restoration work in our 40-acre <a href="#">Stulsaft Park</a> (the removal of invasive species and the planting of natives).  3. Davey resource group completed a <a href="#">Street, Parks, and City Facilities Tree Inventory</a> in 2012. The city has a tree ordinance and replacement policy, and CityTrees, a non-profit tree planting partner, assists with tree planting, pruning and education program.	2015





# Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Silver	1. The city uses social media (eNews, NextDoor, Facebook, and Twitter) to inform the community about sustainable activities such as the annual mayor's challenge for water conservation, community choice aggregation stakeholder meetings, peninsula SunShares outreach events and bike month events.	2015

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city gives away reusable chico bags and water-conserving aerators, shower heads and sprinklers.</li> <li>2. The city distributes maps showing the community bicycle system; provides bay area bike share information and incentives online, in social media, and at city events; and promotes bike month events to encourage vehicle miles traveled reduction.</li> </ol>	2015

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city creates opportunities for community members to provide feedback on proposed sustainability policies and programs such as community choice aggregation at stakeholder meetings and public workshops.</li> <li>2. The city includes <u>sustainability and climate-change</u> related projects as part of youth activities such as the annual water conservation poster contest for kids K-8th grade and partnering with a local non-profit to have volunteer high school students remove invasive species at local parks and open space areas.</li> <li>3. The city council recognizes local businesses who participate in the <u>Green Business Program</u>.</li> </ol>	2015





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