

GOLD LEVEL AWARD WINNER

BEACON
SPOTLIGHT
AWARD
WINNER
BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of Richmond

Sustainability Best Practices Activities



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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.



SPOTLIGHT AWARD

Areas of Accomplishment

	SILVER LEVEL	GOLD LEVEL	PLATINUM LEVEL
Agency GHG Reductions			
Community GHG Reductions			
Agency Energy Savings		14%	
Natural Gas Savings			
Sustainability Best Practice Activities		2016	





Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The City of Richmond adopted two residential Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs, HERO and CaliforniaFIRST. PACE allows homeowners to finance energy-and-water efficiency improvements through their property tax bill. Property owners repay the assessment over 5 to 20 years and interest is tax deductible. On Tuesday May 10, 2016 the CaliforniaFIRST and HERO Program provided updates to city staff on their success in financing energy and water upgrades in Richmond. CaliforniaFIRST Program has approved a total of 114 projects, and financed 74 projects of these programs have been completed or are under construction. The 74 financed projects have resulted in \$1.7 million dollars of economic impact, 138 kilowatts of solar installation, and are estimated to have created 19 jobs. A progress report provided by CaliforniaFIRST with program impacts is provided as Attachment 1. Additional info about the California HERO program may be found at: https://www.heroprogram.com/. The HERO Program operationalized on June 10, 2015, Richmond residents have completed 27 projects utilizing \$546,000 of HERO Program financing with a total economic impact of \$945,000. The projects are estimated to have generated 5 jobs, and a lifetime savings of 677 tons of greenhouse gases and 87,500 gallons of water. A progress report provided by the HERO Program with program impacts is provided as Attachment 2. Additional info about the California HERO program may be found at: https://www.heroprogram.com/. Since the Richmond City Council voted to join three PACE programs on December 16, 2014, several additional PACE providers have formed and have reached out to city staff to request authorization to provide financing to Richmond property owners. The additional PACE programs within city staff's recommended action for City Council are summarized as: 1) California Statewide Communities Development Authority Open PACE program ("Open PACE"); and 2) Y-Greene Energy Fund ("Y-Greene"). http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/1610/Environmental-Initiatives	2016





Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities	Reported
Gold	- For 7 weeks each summer, the City of Richmond has partnered with Rising Sun Energy Center to employ youth between ages of 15 and 22 to serve communities with Green House Call through the California Youth Energy Services (CYES) program. At Green House Calls, they perform energy assessments, install free energy-and-water savings equipment and provide personalized recommendations to residents to further savings. Rising Sun has been running the CYES program in Richmond since 2008. Since 2009, CYES has employed 93 Richmond youth, who have served 2,216 homes in their community with Green House Calls. Since 2010, those Green House Calls have saved 424,651 kWh and 3,261 gallons per minute of water. http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/2498/Residents - Through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, the City of Richmond offered the Richmond Recovery Rebates (R3) Program, which funded home energy efficiency upgrades for Richmond homeowners. Homeowners were eligible to receive up to \$9,250 from various Energy Update California programs (including R3) to increase their home's energy efficiency. The R3 program is currently seeking new funding opportunities so it can resume. Every \$1 of R3 funds awarded to a project, \$5.5 dollars were invested back into the local economy. The city awarded a total of \$378,121 to 203 projects, generating in the process \$2,146,835 in total economic activity and created 24 new, local jobs. Contractors were required to provide payroll documentation that a minimum percentage of on-site work was completed by graduates of the city's green jobs academy - RichmondBUILD. The R3 program encouraged contractors to utilize the Department of Labor hiring incentives through the On the Job (OJT) program. Of the over \$2,000,000 in total economic activity, the R3 program leveraged \$913,606 in State and Regional rebates and \$813,377 in private capital, or co-payments, by homeowners. http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/2498/Residents	2016

Level	Energy Efficiency & Conservation Activities	Reported
Platinum		2016





Water & Wastewater Systems Activity

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Richmond's City Hall reduced water consumption by 46% compared to before through the installation of low-flow fixtures for sinks, showerheads, waterless urinals and dual-flush toilets.	2016

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Gold	1. The city uses 59% less water in its landscape plan than that of the previous City Hall. Water-intensive turf areas were replaced with drought-tolerant plants. http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/1842/Green-Civic-Center 2. The city constructed bioswales to remove sediment from surface runoff water. http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/1842/Green-Civic-Center	2016

Level	Water and Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Platinum		2016





Green Building Activity

Level	Green Building Activity	Reported
Silver	On July 7, 2007, the City of Richmond adopted a Municipal Green Building Ordinance (R.M.C Chapter 6.45) that mandates the incorporation of green building measures in city construction projects. The ordinance applies to all city projects with more than 5,000 square feet of conditioned floor area as well as projects undertaken by other that received more than \$300,000 of aid from the city. The ordinance was not updated, but it was automatically incorporated to account for 2013 Building Standards by state law. http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/1816/Local-Requirements	2016

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Gold	- The City of Richmond held workshops to prepare local contractors for the implementation of the green building ordinance intended to increase energy efficiency of residential and commercial structures. To organize the workshops, the city collaborated with three organizations: Build it Green, Contra Costa College, and RichmondBUILD. The main purpose of the workshops are to enroll residents in Energy Upgrade California or GRID Alternatives SASH program. We've held approximately 8 workshops over the last five years and attendance has ranged from 25 to 100 residents, with an average of 40 residents. http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/2188/New-Green-Building-Ordinance - The Mathieu Court Alley Greening Project celebrated its ribbon cutting in April 2016 and has been open for use for residents and pedestrians. Mathieu Court is a paved alley, 25 feet in width and approximately 640 feet in length. The 16,000 square foot alley was repaved, narrowed from a two-way alley to one-way, and is designed to incorporate community gardens for area residents and pedestrians passing through. Incorporating bioswales and/or rain gardens and native planting, the project will mimic natural systems that clean and filter stormwater and create habitat for native birds and beneficial insects. The alley way is intended to create a new community green space with tree canopies and spaces for people to sit and enjoy their surroundings. Opportunities for community gardens and edible landscape will also create a source of fresh produce in a "food desert" neighborhood. Limiting vehicle access will allow for more shared use of the entire space with opportunities for children to play safely as well as providing a safe route of travel. http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/3258/Mathieu-Court	2016





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activity

Level	Waste Reduction Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The City of Richmond passed a Food Ware Ordinance in July 2013 that prohibits the distribution of polystyrene foam food ware by restaurants and other food providers. On January 1, 2014, the city expanded the ordinance to (1) prohibit the retail sale of polystyrene foam products, including cups, bowls, and coolers, and (2) call for a fine to business owners in violation of the ordinance following a warning. http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/1824/Food-Ware-Ordinance .	2016
Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Gold	1. On July 16, 2013, the City of Richmond adopted a Single-Use Bag Ordinance that prohibits the distribution of single-use plastic bags in retail establishments at the point of sale, except restaurants and take-out food establishments. Retail establishments would charge a minimum of 5 cents per paper bag distributed at point of sale. The ordinance went into effect January 1, 2014. http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/2396/Single-Use-Bag-Ordinance http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/27414 2. The City of Richmond partnered with RecycleMore to offer a comprehensive school recycling and classroom education program in West Contra Costa County schools. The program included field trips, papermaking and composting workshops, and assistance in establishing on-site recycling programs. Its primary goal was to educate families through teaching school age children the importance of the 4 R's - reduce, reuse, recycle and rot. The start date of the program was July 2005, and it concluded in 2014. School assemblies and fieldtrips restarted in April 2016. http://www.recyclemore.com/content/recyclemores-free-school-programs	2016





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activity

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. The City of Richmond is partnering with Richmond Sanitary Service to offer a free curbside compost program at no cost to businesses. Businesses can schedule a walk-through in order to start their green cart service. Through Richmond Sanitary Service, businesses can receive training, collection bins, and service recommendations. Since the start of the commercial food scraps program in August 2014, approximately 846 tons of commercial food scraps have been diverted from landfill in Richmond. This number has been approximated because Richmond Sanitary Service is only able to provide overall “organics” tonnage. R3 allocated the overall “organics” tonnage using the capacity of the containers for residential, commercial, and industrial customers in Richmond. http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/1729/Businesses	2016





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activity

Level	Climate-Friendly Activity	Reported
Silver	1. In 2008, the city purchased a fuel-efficient motorcycle fleet for the Richmond Police Department. http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/1882/Environmentally-Preferable-Purchasing	2016

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Gold	1. The city purchases certified sustainable wood that is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/1842/Green-Civic-Center. 2. In 2009, the City of Richmond adopted an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy to direct the city's effort in procuring environmentally preferable products and services.	2016

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. The city purchases paper with recycled content. 2. The city purchases energy efficient appliances. 3. The city uses green cleaning products.	2016





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activity

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The City of Richmond is collaborating with GRID Alternatives to provide free solar systems for income-qualifying homes in Richmond and North Richmond. Residents must own their own home and make less than 80% of the area median income. To date, the partnership has serviced over 150 homes and is expected to provide more than \$2.5 million in energy cost savings for families over the solar systems' lifetimes. The initiative will also provide more than 15,000 hours of job skills-building in solar installation for community volunteers and job trainees. The City of Richmond has been a partner with GRID Alternatives for 7 years. http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/1610/Environmental-Initiatives	2016

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Gold	1. The City of Richmond installed solar photovoltaics on the roof of City Hall and the Auditorium, which jointly provide 15% of the Civic Center's electricity demand, or 175,800 kWh per year. The combined arrays provide 131 kW (DC) of power. This is equivalent to 139 tons per year of carbon dioxide emissions avoided. The panels were installed about 9 years ago. http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/1842/Green-Civic-Center 2. In 2012, the City of Richmond joined MCE, a Community Choice Aggregation Program. MCE is a public, not-for-profit agency that provides electricity supplied from renewable sources at competitive rates. Community Choice Aggregation programs like MCE allow local governments to offer their residents and businesses another option for purchasing electricity. Through selecting MCE, Richmond supports the development of new in-state and local renewable energy generation.	2016

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Platinum		2016





Efficient Transportation Activity

Level	Efficient Transportation Activity	Reported
Silver	On December 18, 2009, the City of Richmond passed a Commuter Benefits Ordinance (Ordinance 22-09 N.S., Chapter 9.62), which encourages commuters to decrease single-occupancy vehicle trips to worksites. The ordinance applies to private businesses, public agencies, and nonprofits who employ at least ten full time employees. A business has to offer one of the following options to employees: a program allowing employees to exclude commuting cost from taxable wages, a program in which the employer offers a transit pass or reimbursement for vanpool charges, or transportation furnished by the employer at no cost to the employee. http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/29960	2016

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Gold	- The city dedicates some parking spaces to low-emitting and fuel-efficient vehicles. There are a total of eight (8) parking spaces at City Hall devoted to low-emitting fuel-efficient vehicles. Three spaces are the EV charging stations located across from the Art Center, designated approximately 2 years ago 2014. Three spaces are located across from the library and marked "carpool only", and two spaces are located at the City's Corp yard and were designated in January, 2015. http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/1842/Green-Civic-Center - The City of Richmond encourages the use of climate-friendly fuel and vehicles by participating in "Drive Electric Week." In September 2016 the City of Richmond will host its second Drive Electric Week to educate the public, businesses and residents on the environmental and personal benefits of driving electric vehicles. The 2015 week of events featured test drives of electric vehicles, meet-and-greets with automotive industry employees, and testimonial information sessions from current electric vehicle owners. https://driveelectricweek.org/event.php?eventid=450 http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/8813	2016





Efficient Transportation Activity

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. The city's newly formed Transportation Department will commence this initiative in FY 2016/17. There are continual efforts to install bicycle parking racks throughout the city to encourage low impact modes of transportation. The city ECIA funds will support bicycle share initiatives and the Department will worked with the newly formed ECIA Committee in FY 2016/17 to commence this project. The Commuter Benefit Ordinance (CBO) also regulates local businesses providing low-impact transit options such as installing bicycle racks, participating in bicycle share, shuttle service and carshare. http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/8813	2016





Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The City of Richmond uses concrete pavers, decomposed granite and light-colored concrete to reduce the heat island effect created primarily by darker surfaces. http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/1842/Green-Civic-Center	2016

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Gold	1. In February 2015, the city prepared a final draft of the Richmond Livable Corridors Form-Based Code (FBC) for three major commercial corridors: Macdonald Avenue, San Pablo Avenue and 23rd Street. The corridors are also located in priority development areas which are designated for growth new public transit. The FBC focuses on creating, revitalizing and preserving vibrant, walkable, urban places through the use of physical form rather than land use. It emphasizes the use of sustainability and public health indicators in order to maximize environmental and public health benefits. The planning effort was funded by a California Strategic Growth Council grant. Though the FBC has not been formally adopted by the city, it will be integrated into the city's zoning update. Formal adoption is planned for December 2016. 2. The FBC and zoning update are being designed to remove barriers for infill development by providing flexibility in meeting certain city standards. The city has an inclusionary housing ordinance that requires new development with more than 10 units to include affordable housing or pay an in lieu fee. (2030 General Plan, Energy and Climate Change Element, Policy EC4.D) http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/8813	2016

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. The city is in the process of completing its zoning update to include water-efficient landscaping requirements and storm water management. In addition, the subdivision ordinance update will include green infrastructure for streets. The city is also drafting an urban greening master plan to expand the city's tree canopy and green infrastructure. (2030 General Plan, Energy and Climate Change Element, Policy EC4.3) http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/8813	2016





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Silver	The City of Richmond has partnered with the volunteer organization Self-Sustaining Communities to secure donations of garden seeds and fruit trees. They will provide these to residents, community gardens, and community-based organizations free of charge. To date, the city has received donations of 4,400 trees and 4,500 seed packets.http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/2677/Tree-and-Garden-Outreach	2016

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Gold	- The City of Richmond partners with The Watershed Project to protect the city's wetlands, marshlands, creek corridors and more. Richmond has 32 miles of shoreline, more than any other city in the Bay Area, and seeks to maintain every mile possible. http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/8813 - Richmond Main Street Initiative, a non-profit running Downtown Richmond's Business Improvement District, has hosted a weekly farmer's market since 2012. In October 2015, the City of Richmond hosted its first Food Day event in recognition of National Food Day. At the event, Mayor Tom Butt's Office, city departments and local organizations educated residents on healthy eating and the importance access to healthy foods and eating habits have on overall wellness. This summer, Mayor Tom Butt's Office is launching a Richmond Food Census in which volunteers will visit every store in the city that sells food to assess the access to healthy eating options available to our residents. The Food Census will begin the week of July 4 – 8 and will help create policies and programs that with the intent of increasing access to healthy food options throughout the city. This week, Mayor Tom Butt concluded his first Urban Garden Contest and Showcase in which he challenged Richmond residents to show off their home edible gardens for a chance to win gardening prizes from local resources. The Urban Garden Contest and Showcase was designed to be a fun and interactive way to encourage residents to grow their own foods at home. This contest was a creative way in which Mayor Butt sought to address the effects of food deserts by encouraging residents to make the most of their land.http://www.urbantilth.org/ .	2016





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. The city supports the Richmond-based non-profit, Urban Tilth which cultivates agriculture in West Contra Costa County to help the community build a more sustainable, healthy and just food system. Urban Tilth was founded in 2005 and hires and trains residents to work with schools, community-based organizations, government agencies, businesses, and individuals to develop the capacity to produce 5% of our community's own food supply. Urban Tilth has 7 urban agriculture gardens in the Richmond community including their new flagship site, North Richmond Farm. The North Richmond Farm broke ground in 2012 with the vision of establishing the North Richmond community's only daily-fresh fruit and vegetable market stand. The farm is also planned to have a community kitchen, an amphitheater, bike shop, and watershed learning center. Along the Richmond Greenway, Urban Tilth plants fruits and vegetables that are available to the community and pedestrians are known to pick fresh berries and fruit as they walk the trail. 2. The City of Richmond updated their Tree Ordinance (R.M.C. Chapter 10.08) and completed an inventory of all city-owned trees, including street trees, park trees, and trees on city-owned property in 2013. This was accomplished through a grant from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Urban and Community Forestry Program. The Urban and Community Forestry Program is committed to supporting efforts under AB32 to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change; primary activities include tree planting, municipal tree inventories, urban forest educational efforts, and innovative urban forestry projects.	2016





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Platinum	3. In 2006, the City of Richmond started construction of the Richmond Greenway, a multi-use trail that would provide a continuous pathway from Garrard Boulevard and the Richmond Parkway to San Pablo Avenue. The city adopted the Greenway as a public park in 2011. The Greenway links the San Francisco Bay Trail on the west to the Ohlone Greenway in the east. It converted a large stretch of abandoned railroad property into a local and regional transportation and open space resource. The city works with Friends of Richmond Greenway (FORG), a collaborative of local nonprofits and community members who maintain and develop the Greenway. The Richmond Greenway is currently about 2.5 miles and spans from San Pablo Ave. to South 2nd St. The Mayor's Office is currently leading an initiative to acquire land necessary to connect the Greenway to the Richmond Parkway and the nearby San Francisco Bay Trail. The land acquisition would increase the Greenway in length by 0.6 miles and would complete the original distance of the trail. The Greenway is lined with parks, gardens, and murals which are all developed and maintained by community members. In 2015, A senior apartment building was built adjacent to the Greenway on Harbour Way providing elders direct access to the trail and parks from their housing development.	2016





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Silver	On April 9, 2016, the City of Richmond held a Compost Giveaway to residents in conjunction with Contra Costa Master Gardener's Urban Tilth Great Tomato Sale. The city donated up to 2 cubic feet of compost per resident in order to support healthy food initiatives in the city. Richmond is one of the only cities in the Bay Area that has a closed-loop composting program, whereby food scraps are composted within the city. The Compost Giveaway it is held on special occasions, there isn't a fixed date for it. The Compost Giveaway has been taking place for about five or six years. The amount of compost given away is usually about five cubic yards. It also varies between three or ten cubic yards. The largest amount of compost ever given away was twenty cubic yards.http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/1610/Environmental-Initiatives	2016

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Gold	- The City of Richmond, the Watershed Project, and Supervisor Gioia's office are jointly organizing the 31st Annual Coastal Cleanup on September 19, 2016. Coastal Cleanup Day is the state's largest shoreline cleanup project. Massive amounts of debris accumulate on the beaches and inland shorelines. The highest recorded number of volunteers at Coastal Cleanup Day in Richmond is 800 people which was set in 2012. In 2014 and 2015, 400 volunteers took part in the cleanup effort. From 2012 to 2015, volunteers collected a total of nearly three tons of debris.http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/1735/Stormwater - On April 23, 2007, the City of Richmond launched RichmondBUILD, a public-private partnership focused on developing talent and skill in the high-growth, high-wage construction and renewable energy fields. The RichmondBUILD program recruits participants from low-income households and has a track record of placing graduates in well-paying jobs. All participants first complete a Carpentry Pre-Apprenticeship course, then select from the following electives: extended carpentry, hazardous waste removal, solar energy, energy efficiency or electricity wiring. The program has received recognition from a range of organizations, including UC Berkeley, the U.S. Green Building Council, the FBI, and Senator Barbara Boxer. Over the course of 10 years, about 5,000 members of Richmond community and neighboring cities have graduated from RichmondBUILD. http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/1243/RichmondBUILD	2016





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. In 2011, the City of Richmond, the Local Government Commission and Pogo Park (a community-based nonprofit) collaborated to prepare a Caltrans Environmental Justice Transportation Planning grant proposal to fund the Yellow Brick Road Walkable Neighborhood Plan. Back in 2008, a group of teenagers conceived the Yellow Brick Road as a network of 'safe, green and clean' pedestrian and cycling paths designated by brightly colored yellow bricks. The Yellow Brick Road Plan connects community-identified assets, such as schools, parks and transit in the Iron Triangle neighborhood. The project brought together local residents, city staff, transportation planners and other professionals to develop a dynamic model of neighborhood planning that can be replicated in other neighborhoods in Richmond and elsewhere. http://www.fehrandpeers.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Overview-Strategy.pdf	2016





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