

BEACON



SPOTLIGHT  
AWARD

WINNER

BEST PRACTICE  
ACTIVITIES



# City of Half Moon Bay

Sustainability Best Practice Activities



**ILG** INSTITUTE FOR  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT<sup>SM</sup>  
*Promoting Good Government at the Local Level*

# City of Half Moon Bay

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			2020 (20%)
	Agency Energy Savings			
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities		2020	
	Beacon Vanguard 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. To reduce energy use, the city worked in partnership with PG&E to convert more than 200 PG&E-operated streetlights to more efficient LEDs.

## Gold

2. The City of Half Moon Bay supports the San Mateo County Green Business Program, which offers technical assistance and resources to small and medium-sized businesses throughout San Mateo County that want to join the prestigious list of certified green business. Certified green businesses are not only recognized as part of the California Green Business Network, but they often save money in the process of certification by learning how to conserving energy and water and minimizing waste.
3. To increase agency energy efficiency and to lead by example, the city completed lighting upgrades throughout city facilities, installed double-paned windows at the community center and converted approximately 30 city-operated downtown streetlights to LEDs.

## Platinum





# Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

## Silver

1. The city has developed over ten green infrastructure projects to improve water quality, reverse urbanization of local creeks and waterways and decrease localized flooding.

## Gold

2. At the Half Moon Bay Library, a minimum of 80% of the total runoff from onsite is conveyed into biotreatment areas, which function as soil and plant-based filtration devices that remove pollutants and encourage infiltration on site. The landscape integrates a large amount of permeable paving to allow for improved stormwater infiltration, in addition to what is managed through the stormwater planters.
3. Adopted in 2019, the city's Green Infrastructure Plan describes how the city will, over time, transition its existing "gray" (i.e. traditional) infrastructure to "green" infrastructure to improve water quality, reduce sediment and peak runoff into local creeks, waterways and the Pacific Ocean, incorporate Green Infrastructure in capital improvement projects, harvest rainwater and more.

## Platinum





# Green Building Activities

## Silver

1. The city has a dedicated page on its website to help residents find local green building information, resources, and rebates available to them to encourage sustainable practices in new construction, remodel and upgrade projects.

## Gold

2. In 2018, the city constructed a zero-net energy library, the first of its kind in San Mateo County. The library includes a large rooftop photovoltaic array that provides nearly all the electricity for the building. Other energy-reducing features include hydronic radiant floor heating and an integrated system that controls lighting, window blinds and cooling systems. Site features include electric vehicle charging stations, drought-tolerant plantings, bioswales and permeable pavers that allow rainwater to be captured and filtered before it percolates into the ground, rather than flowing into storm drains.
3. Adopted in 2019, the Parks Master Plan outlines how the city strives to achieve the highest level of sustainability feasible in the design and maintenance of city-owned parks. Actions include: (1) conservation measures such as updating irrigation systems, particularly at Smith Field, installing water-saving elements in bathrooms, and replacing high water use landscaping with drought tolerant and low water-use planting; (2) incorporating energy efficient features in parks such as LED safety lighting; and (3) providing amenities that support sustainable behaviors, such as recycling receptacles and bicycle racks, at all parks.

## Platinum





# Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

## Silver

1. The City of Half Moon Bay has a 10-year Franchise Agreement with Republic Services, Inc. to provide recycling, compost and garbage collection services. This new Franchise Agreement went into effect April 1, 2018 and expanded the services previously offered to include food composting.

## Gold

2. The city offers free kitchen food waste pails to collect food scraps for composting. The city's website includes tips on how to sort food in the fridge to reduce waste and a useful recycling, organics and garbage sorting guide.
3. Free compost is available for community members to pick up at two annual Community Recycling events. During these events, the city also offers free electronic waste recycling, document shredding and recycling education.

## Platinum

4. The city's Sustainability Implementation Plan includes an overall goal to "lead by example" by adopting policies and ordinances that reflect the city's commitment to promoting Zero Waste and to engage with San Mateo County to adopt a disposable food service ware ordinance.





# Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

## Silver

1. Half Moon Bay is researching and drafting an internal sustainable purchasing policy that addresses fleet electrification.

## Gold

2. The Sustainability Implementation Plan (SIP) includes key actions to adopt a chemical purchase/use policy for city operations.
3. As part of the SIP future actions, the city will revise the facility rental and special event permitting process to include a Zero Waste element.

## Platinum





# Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

## Silver

1. Half Moon Bay participates in Peninsula Clean Energy, a community choice energy program that offers cleaner energy at competitive rates. Residents of the city were automatically been enrolled in ECOplus but can opt up to ECO100 to power homes with 100% renewable energy for \$0.01/kWh more

## Gold

2. The city offers a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program for residents to invest in home improvements like energy efficiency, solar energy, insulated windows or upgraded HVAC equipment. The PACE loans are attached to the property, paid back through tax bills and are passed along to the next owner when the property is sold.
3. In 2019, the city opted up to ECO100 through Peninsula Clean Energy, meaning all city facilities are powered by 100% renewable energy.

## Platinum







# Efficient Transportation Activities

## Silver

1. The city purchased and maintains two bicycles that are made available for employees to use for local trips and meetings as an alternative to vehicle use.

## Gold

2. The city installed 2 public electric vehicle charging stations at the library and 4 stations in the downtown area. Public charging is available for \$1/hour.
3. In 2019, City Council adopted the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, which, in addition to recommending specific projects for active transportation, includes recommendations for equity programs to reduce the potential disparity within the bicycling and walking communities by ensuring each person, regardless of age, race, gender identity or disability, has equal opportunities to walk or ride a bicycle.

## Platinum





# Land Use and Community Design Activities

## Silver

1. The City of Half Moon Bay is committed to becoming a leader in sustainability and establishing the city as a green vacation destination. In response to City Council identifying sustainability as a priority in FY 2019-20, staff developed the Sustainability Implementation Plan which outlines opportunities to implement sustainable policies, programs, and projects within the city.

## Gold

2. The Sustainability Implementation Plan includes strategic moves to complete the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) Outreach Pilot Project and to develop and adopt a comprehensive CAAP that reflects the entire Half Moon Bay community.
3. The city is working to build resiliency in the community by pursuing opportunities to install solar photovoltaic and battery back-up systems at key community facilities such as the Half Moon Bay Library.

## Platinum





# Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

## Silver

1. The Parks Master Plan, adopted in 2019, prioritizes park maintenance to ensure that all park facilities, be they existing or developed at a future time, provide high quality environments for years to come.

## Gold

2. The Poplar Beach Gateways multi-year project will create a plan for the Poplar Beach area, improve parking and access, create a phased program for erosion mitigation, bluff restoration, creation of gateway elements and initiate work on the easterly re-alignment of the Coastal Trail.
3. In 2020, City Council authorized a facility-use agreement with Coastside Friendship Organic Garden (c-FOG) to use a portion of the Johnston house park property at no fee to develop and operate a managed organic community garden. The city also contributed \$20,000 for initial development and construction.

## Platinum





# Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

## Silver

1. In honor of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, the City of Half Moon Bay launched the Earth Year campaign, featuring monthly themes, challenges, events, and online resources that can help community members build up their sustainability toolbox throughout the year.

## Gold

2. The city website promotes local events run by local nonprofits and government agencies to help community members find ways to engage and learn new skills. This includes free virtual events the community could attend during the COVID-19 pandemic. Examples of these events include a home composting workshop, a weekly seminar run by Commute.org and Silicon Valley Bike Coalition to promote safe biking, and an edible garden working group.
3. The city website provides a carbon footprint calculator and checklist to help community members understand and track actions they can take to reduce energy use, utilize efficient transportation, explore a low carbon diet, get involved in climate action and more.

## Platinum







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