

BEACON

SPOTLIGHT
AWARD
WINNER
BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of Mill Valley

Sustainability Best Practice Activities



ILG INSTITUTE FOR
LOCAL GOVERNMENTSM
Promoting Good Government at the Local Level

City of Mill Valley

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		2018 (15%)	
	Community GHG Reductions		2017 (12%)	
	Agency Energy Savings	2016 (5%)		
	Natural Gas Savings	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities	2018		
	Beacon Award	2018		

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. The city now purchases lower carbon intensity of electricity through Marin Clean Energy (MCE).

Gold

Platinum





Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

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 are required.

Gold

2. 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.

Platinum





Green Building Activities

Silver

1. The city has adopted Cal Green Tier 1 (with 15% increase in energy) for all new residential homes, including tear downs.

Gold

2. 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.

Platinum





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

Silver

1. Ongoing waste diversion programs include a Residential Food Waste Composting Program and mandatory food waste and recycling service for large commercial producers.

Gold

2. Several events have been modified in the last several years so they produce zero waste, with all materials being compostable. A waste management team is 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.
3. New outdoor recycling added to waste collection on Miller Avenue and in the downtown commercial area.

Platinum

4. The city has also installed size water refilling stations near parks and sports fields, to promote the use of reusable water bottles.





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

Silver

1. 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).

Gold

2. The City of Mill Valley does not allow plastic water bottles to be purchased as part of a city-sponsored event.
3. The city now purchases burlap sandbags rather than plastic sandbags.

Platinum

4. 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 Activities

Silver

1. 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. 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.

Gold

2. MCE currently carries 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.

Platinum





Efficient Transportation Activities

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 four Bolts.

Gold

2. The City of Mill Valley is pilot testing electric bicycles as part of its energy efficient fleet.

Platinum





Land Use and Community Design Activities

Silver

1. The City of Mill Valley has recently completed the 18-month reconstruction of the two-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, 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. Infrastructure improvements have increased non-motorized transportation on the corridor, as well as improved water efficiency associated with irrigation.

Gold

Platinum





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

Silver

1. The city recently adopted 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.

Gold

2. The city adopted a new Tree Ordinance, requiring one to one replacement of trees, and stricter requirements for heritage trees.

Platinum





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

Silver

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%.

Gold

Platinum





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