

2015 BEACON AWARD WINNER



City of Brisbane

Sustainability Best Practices Activities



ILG INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTSM
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		19% Reduction	
	Community GHG Reductions		10% Reduction	
	Agency Energy Savings		17% Savings	
	Natural Gas Savings			24% Savings
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities		3 in each of 10 categories	





Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity	Reported
Silver	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. City of Brisbane has joined ENERGY STAR as a partner, and has made a fundamental commitment to measure and track the performance of the organization's facilities, improve energy performance and reduce greenhouse gas emission. 	2015
Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city is promoting home energy retrofits and holding energy saving workshops. 2. The remodeling of city hall included the following energy saving measures: replaced HVAC system with California heat pump system that heats and cools water and installed a variable frequency drive for cooling tower pump, added a lighting system with motion sensors in offices, installed occupancy sensors in conference rooms, installed a timing controller for common areas and computer monitors with efficient technologies. 3. The city purchased and uses a solar thermal cover for the community pool and a variable frequency drive for the circulating pump. 	2015
Level	Energy Efficiency & Conservation Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brisbane recently completed further street light upgrades on Sierra Point, replacing HPS box style street light fixtures with LEDs on Sierra Point Parkway and Marina Blvd and at the public Shared Use Parking Lot (168 fixtures) that serves the marina, harbormaster's office, shoreline trails and fishing piers. 2. As a part of Brisbane's Climate Action Plan, a take home toolkit to do energy and water use audits will be available to borrow. City staff is working with an advisory committee on assembling the toolkit. The city will provide funds to discount various small appliances around the home from the local hardware store. 3. In efforts to encourage energy upgrades for buildings in the community, Brisbane will adopt Open PACE summer 2016. Open PACE is an alternative to Energy Upgrade California, which will vet and offer several financial options to the consumer. Prior to Open PACE, Brisbane adopted HERO, a second financing program to help property owners finance energy and water upgrades to their home. 	2016





Water & Wastewater Systems Activity

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activity	Reported
Silver	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The city partnered with a local conservation group that is recovering and restoring an earthen vee-ditch (previously mowed down to nearly bare earth every year) with native plant materials. There has been no noticeable decrease in the stormwater capacity of this facility, but there has been a substantial increase in the output of the water quality after rainflow winds its way through the planted bottom of the "vee creek". A significant corollary benefit is that the in-stream plants are now home to several species of native animals, including insects, amphibians and birds. 	2015

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Brisbane remains among the lowest per capita water users in San Mateo County. They continue to participate in regional water conservation programs offering rebates to qualified customers for high-efficiency clothes washers, high-efficiency toilets and rain barrels, as well as offer landscape audits to our largest users. Brisbane's water conservation program involves public education and outreach, an ordinance prohibiting water waste, as well as a water-efficient landscaping ordinance that requires large landscape plans to show use of drought-tolerant plants and water-efficient irrigation. Rainwater harvesting is encouraged in Brisbane. http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/environment-waste/water/watersmart-strategy 	2015

Level	Water and Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A rain garden and bioswale at Brisbane city hall captures runoff water from the roof and parking lot before it enters the city's storm drain system. The engineered bioretention areas collect and treat runoff, filter it through selected vegetation and keep pollutants out of the bay. The project was funded in part by a San Mateo County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program Demonstration Project grant and features an informational sign. Guidelines have been developed by the city to support the capture and reuse of rainwater in a safe and effective manner. The instructional guidelines provide residents with education and information on how to conserve potable water by collecting, storing and utilizing rainwater for outdoor applications. The city participated in a very popular and successful BAWSCA water conservation education program which presented an assembly called Earthcapades, at the local elementary school in March about water conservation. 	2016





Green Building Activity

Level	Green Building Activity	Reported
Silver	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city adopted a Green Building Ordinance, the purpose of which is to conserve natural resources, reduce construction waste, and increase energy efficiency. All commercial projects are required to meet a minimum of a LEED silver rating; single family homes and multi-family units shall achieve a “green home” rating on the New Home Green Points Checklist. A subcommittee composed of planning commission and Open Space and Ecology (citizen advisory) Committee members and city staff was formed and exists to continue to update the Green Building Ordinance relative to changes in State requirements. (See Title 15.80, Green Building Requirements in City of Brisbane Municipal Code. When adopted, codes exceeded California Building Code standards. 	2015

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city has negotiated development agreements with several private developments to achieve a higher LEED standard and to commit expenditures to either on-site or off-site renewable energy. 2. The city drafted an Environmental Action Plan to achieve climate change mitigation and look ahead to adaptation policies and programs. The Open Space and Ecology Committee (OSEC) is working with staff to develop the plan. A significant component of the plan is the promotion of energy efficiency and renewable energy for residences and businesses. Other actions to reduce GHGs include: participating in Energy Upgrade California, retrofitting city hall with energy efficient technologies and installing a solar thermal heating system for the community pool. 	2015

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city has promoted compliance with new Title 24 Energy Codes for buildings. The city, through OSEC, has sponsored training for local contractors regarding residential envelope requirements provided through BayREN, and has plans to offer the training for commercial facilities as well. Building and planning staff have also been trained regarding the new requirements. 	2016





Green Building Activity

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
<p>Platinum</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The City of Brisbane is participating in a PG&E program to audit municipal buildings through Enovity. city hall, the community pool, Mission Blue Community Center, and the harbormaster's office will be retro-commissioned based on the audit results. 3. The City of Brisbane has initiated the investigation of residential and commercial energy conservation ordinances for Brisbane and other agencies in San Mateo County with C/CAG. The Regionally Integrated Climate Action Planning Suite (RICAPS) working group is facilitating and coordinating the information gathering. 4. For the second year in a row, Brisbane is participating in the Peninsula SunShares Program, which offers community members the opportunity to purchase and install PV panels at a lower cost due to economies of scale. This year the program will also include a discounted price on select electric vehicles. This program runs from August to October. 5. Implemented residential rooftop solar permit streamlining policy and issued 15 permits under the policy in the last fiscal year. 6. Adopted a new water conservation in landscaping ordinance, exceeding the Statewide MWELo requirements, which applies to new development and substantial rehabilitation projects. 	<p>2016</p>





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activity

Level	Waste Reduction Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Brisbane's construction and demolition ordinance requires the following: for demolition, 100% of inert solids and 50% of debris must be diverted. Construction and remodeling requires 50% diversion of all construction and demolition debris. Salvage and recovery requirements for a demolition project are as follows: prior to demolition an applicant shall make the structure planned for demolition available for salvage and recovery.	2015

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The City of Brisbane renegotiated its franchise agreement with South San Francisco Scavenger (SSFS) in 2014. As a result, SSFS implemented a residential food scraps collection program in January 2015. Food waste bins were provided to all residents to collect scraps before placement in the green compost collection bin before scheduled pick-up. Green waste bins are picked up weekly, as compared to every two week before the program was put in place. 2. The city council adopted a plastic bag ban and a polystyrene ban, both modeled after and administered by the County of San Mateo's Environmental Health Department. 	2015

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. City council and upper and middle management staff utilize iPads to view agenda packages rather than printed copies. Open Space and Ecology Committee (OSEC) has opted to make their meeting packet electronic. During OSEC meetings, Power Point software and monitors are utilized to view materials. 2. Residents may recycle batteries, light bulbs and plastic bags at a waste collection site at city hall. 3. City of Brisbane initiated composting/food scraps collection at their city hall facility, including paper towels in restrooms in November of 2015. Staff continues to educate users on proper items to compost. 4. The City of Brisbane public works department uses up to 70% refined (recycled) oil for machinery and vehicles. All oil changes are completed on a once yearly basis. 5. The City of Brisbane set up a public collection receptacle for plastic bags, which are recycled by the city's waste franchise company. 	2016





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activity

Level	Climate-Friendly Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Brisbane adopted an Integrated Pest Management policy which does not allow the purchase or use of herbicides or pesticides on any municipal landscaped areas.	2015

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. City staff computers are refurbished rather than replaced new. Copy paper products purchased are recycled. Packaging materials and mailing envelopes are recycled. Building plan check is performed digitally rather than on paper. City makes large documents of community interest available for digital download and prints copies upon request only. 2. The City Hall remodel included programmable lighting system for common areas and motion sensors for offices and conference rooms, a new low energy HVAC system with cooling tower and water source heat pumps, countertops made of 85% recycled materials including glass, and public restrooms with paper saving hand dryers. 	2015

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With the city's newly implemented Vehicle Replacement Program, when possible, public works fleet vehicles will be replaced with hybrid or electric vehicles. The city recently purchased an E-Z-GO two person electric vehicle and still utilizes a GEM electric vehicle for public works operation and maintenance activities and short trips not requiring a significant amount of tools or equipment. City council has directed staff, and staff has obtained an agreement to install an electric vehicle charging station or stations in the Brisbane Village Shopping Center and possibly at city hall. The city made the installation of an EV charging station at the Brisbane Marina possible through an agreement with a private party. 2. City staff in partnership with the Climate Action Plan subcommittee will hold a Learn and Lunch to educate staff about climate issues and the importance of the climate action plan adopted by the city and the climate-friendly purchasing guide. The training assists employees in making green choices when purchasing items for the city, and the climate action plan contains tips on how to lower ones carbon footprint at work and at home, these items will be mentioned and encouraged. 3. The Department of Public Works of the City of Brisbane replaced a Crown Victoria sedan with a Prius fleet vehicle in April 2016. 	2016





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activity

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city has adopted an ordinance to set fixed solar permit fees for residential permits and will provide expedited solar permitting review to promote adoption of rooftop photovoltaic systems, per solar streamlining bill AB 2188.	2015

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brisbane installed solar thermal heating for the community swimming pool to lower conventional energy use. Solar thermal heating provides in the range of 10 to 20% of energy needed to heat the pool, depending on weather. 2. In 2014, Brisbane renegotiated its franchise agreement with South San Francisco Scavenger (SSFS), Brisbane's solid waste provider. With demand from neighboring cities to provide food scraps collection and diversion, Brisbane was able to negotiate a food scrap pickup service. SSFS installed and commissioned an anaerobic digester to process green waste including food scraps. Methane gas created from the process is used to fuel approximately half of its fleet vehicles. Also, Brisbane's franchise agreement with Recology for servicing the northeast zone of the city includes the ability to purchase compressed natural gas fuel at a reduced rate. 	2015

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brisbane is an active participant in Peninsula SunShares a bulk solar purchase program. Program utilizes economies of scale to bring down the cost of installing rooftop solar panels on residences. Brisbane has partnered with Foster City, which is the lead agency administering the program. Brisbane has held two workshops as of May 30, 2015 and has the sixth highest signup rate for consultations in the San Mateo County to date. 2. City of Brisbane staff applied for and received grant funds amounting to \$40,000 from the BAAQMD for a public DC Fast charger for electric vehicles. Notification of funds was received in June. Purchasing and installation of the EV charger will occur later in 2016. 3. At the February 4th city council meeting, a resolution was adopted to join the Joint Powers Authority to establish the Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE) Authority in San Mateo County. Brisbane will move forward in supporting PCE with community outreach and education. It is expected that renewable energy will be supplied to participating cities later this year. 4. City staff coordinated with Envision Solar to hold a demonstration of the EV Arc solar electric vehicle charger at city hall. The demonstration will occur in July and will be for one day. Community members with electric vehicles will be able to charge at no cost for one hour each. 	2016





Efficient Transportation Activity

Level	Efficient Transportation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Brisbane subsidizes/pays into a shuttle consortium with other businesses in Crocker Industrial Park to participate in the Peninsula Congestion Relief Alliance Shuttle service to transport residents and workers to and from the Brisbane Caltrain stop and the nearest BART station. Brisbane distributes shuttle pass cards to employees and residents of Brisbane upon request.	2015

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The city recently adopted a Safe Pedestrian Routes to Schools Plan to improve pedestrian routes and make them safer for children to walk to school and bus stops, as well as pedestrians walking to markets, the library, community centers, the community park and various other parks and ball fields and the community pool. The city has been providing robust education and enforcement regarding parked vehicles that block the sidewalk. The city has recently coordinated with Zipcar to bring service into town. Brisbane recently improved a bus stop with a new concrete sidewalk and shelter at Bayshore Blvd and Geneva Avenue in partnership with Daly City and SamTrans. Brisbane recently completed installation of Class 2 bike lane facilities along the length of Bayshore Boulevard (approximately 2.5 miles). 	2015

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Brisbane recently installed rapid reflective flashing beacons for two crosswalks at intersections; one adjacent to the elementary school, and one close to and on the middle school routes, at an uncontrolled crossing in the downtown business district. Providing improved safety measures at these street crossings will encourage more walking and bicycling for short trips and reduce reliance on the automobile. City staff marketed the Commuter Challenge by Commute.org, to encourage the use of public transportation and active modes of transportation. The challenge ran from April 1st to May 31st. In the April 7th city council meeting, May was proclaimed to be Bicycle Month. On May 12th, the city provided two energizer stations, which served approximately 1,100 commuters on bike. On May 21st Brisbane participated in Bike to Shop Day. Staff solicited local businesses to participate; a number of businesses offered a discount to community members that arrived on bicycle. 	2016





Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activity	Reported
Silver	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approximately 75% of the city's remaining developable land lies within the Brisbane Baylands, a primarily vacant 600 acre brownfield site. There is strong community consensus that the proposed development project should embody best sustainability practices. A comprehensive environmental planning and review process includes an analysis of greenhouse gas emissions associated with the project, the implications of sea level rise, and the potential for onsite renewable solar and wind energy production to help achieve a goal of energy neutrality. The city envisions the Baylands as a model sustainable development, with areas of compact transit-oriented development, as well as substantial open space. A committee of staff, elected officials and three different citizen advisory groups' representatives, with the assistance of a consultant, are finalizing a Sustainability Framework for development of the Brisbane Baylands based on the One Planet Communities principles this summer. 	2015

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brisbane's Complete Streets Committee prepared a Safe Pedestrian Routes to Schools Plan, adopted by council, that addresses residents' concerns about walkability in residential Brisbane, particularly for parents and children walking to school. The plan includes infrastructure improvements, reduced speed limits around schools, education, collaboration with the schools and with parents and enforcement. 2. City staff, with the Complete Streets Safety Committee and the planning commission, prepared and reviewed a proposed General Plan Amendment to the Circulation Element, consisting of relevant complete streets goals policies, and programs to be adopted by city council imminently. (if we are sure this will be passed by October, let's write it as if it happened). 	2015

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The City of Brisbane, together with the City and County of San Francisco, obtained Priority Development Area status from the Association of Bay Area Governments for 574 acres of Bi-county Baylands property. PDA status is generally conferred on infill development opportunity areas that are primed for a pedestrian and bicycle-friendly environment served by transit. 	2016





Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
<p>Platinum</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. A study was completed on turf replacement for city-owned non-recreational facilities. Consultant Callendar and Associates developed landscape models that consisted of drought tolerant and native plants, which was presented to city council. 3. The city adopted and updated complete streets component of the Circulation Element of the General Plan, outlining long-term “Green Streets” and alternative transportation policies. 4. The city funded and hired a consultant to complete a Parkside at Brisbane Village Precise Plan to create a local area plan with community input, accommodating a minimum of 228 new infill, transit-oriented housing units in central Brisbane. 	<p>2016</p>





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Silver	1. In addition to significant aquatic and open space resources at the Baylands, the city has acquired approximately 48 acres of land on San Bruno Mountain to protect as open space per the adopted Open Space Plan. This property is within the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), and provides habitat for endangered butterfly species and host plants.	2015

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brisbane has established a vegetation management program to control the encroachment of invasive plants and sustain the native habitat value of the city's open space on San Bruno Mountain adjacent to San Bruno Mountain State and County Park. A vegetation management plan is developed each year by a community advisory committee, and the restoration work is then carried out by contractors. 2. Brisbane continues to maintain and expand its extensive array of open space and outdoor facilities in the form of parks, athletic fields (soccer and softball), tennis courts, basketball courts, a community pool, a skatepark, walking and biking paths along the bay shore and paths and trails adjacent to San Bruno Mountain. 	2015

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The City of Brisbane, together with San Mateo County and the City of South San Francisco, has applied for Priority Conservation Area status for the San Bruno Mountain area/habitat from the Association of Bay Area Governments and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. Brisbane's portion of the application seeks to include a number of areas adjacent or related to San Bruno Mountain that host native plants and habitat for endangered species, including the several endangered butterflies whose habitat exists on these properties. Several of the areas have the additional benefit of serving as recreation opportunities. 2. A city citizen advisory committee recommended the expansion of the existing community garden to the city council. The garden is at full capacity and more spaces are in demand, as indicated by a waitlist of about 30 residents. 3. Each year, city staff coordinates three habitat restoration events. This year, a fourth event at a new location occurred on June 25th. The event was completed in partnership with the local non-profit San Bruno Mountain Watch. The event will focus on removal of non-native invasive species in endangered butterfly habitat and get local community members involved in the restoration effort. 	2016





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Silver	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Open Space and Ecology Citizen's Advisory Committee has a booth at the annual Community Festival. A variety of materials are prepared by a subcommittee and staff that reflect current environmental issues, and promote green rebates and incentives. In addition to these handouts, there are featured activities at the booth. Past examples of handouts: CaliforniaFIRST energy saving financing and rebate programs, PG&E rebates, BAWSCA rebates, how to be sustainable during the holidays, an invasive plant species brochure, reuse and recycling guides, and how to lower your carbon footprint. Activity examples: DIY Christmas decorations, calculate your carbon footprint, carbon footprint piñata, and carbon sequestration in your yard. 	2015
Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In spring 2012, the City of Brisbane launched a year round weekly farmers market, in partnership with the West Coast Farmers Market Association. The close knit residential community and large business community have been enjoying local organic produce, fresh food and other related products while minimizing Brisbane's carbon footprint. 2. The Open Space and Ecology Committee has written sustainability articles in the Brisbane city newsletter, and there is a sustainability page on the city website. 	2015
Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city allows/permits raising of fowl and beekeeping and has a thriving community garden and community orchard. Chapter 6.14 of the Municipal Code allows up to a total of four fowl, birds, rabbits or rodents on one property, unless special permits are obtained. Bees are kept on city property adjacent to the local community garden, and are maintained by community members. 2. Two to three volunteer Habitat Restoration Day events are held each year: Earth day and Habitat Restoration Day both target local areas that need trash clean-up or invasive species removal. The third event is Lagoon Clean-up Day, where trash is cleaned up from around the Brisbane lagoon. Each event is well attended by the community. 	2016





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The Open Space and Ecology committee recommended that the city council symbolically ban fracking in Brisbane. At the February 4th meeting, city council adopted a resolution to symbolically ban fracking and join the Coalition Californians Against Fracking, and signed on to a letter to Governor Brown encouraging banning fracking in California. 4. City staff participated in the CDP (formerly known as the Carbon Disclosure Project) survey, to disclose carbon emissions and actions against climate change. CDP is a global non-profit based in London. Participating in the survey allowed the city to gain insight on global action towards climate change and potential measures for consideration, as well as to further promote actions the city has taken. The survey was submitted in May. 5. Each week the Open Space and Ecology Committee and staff prepare “climate facts” to post on the city website and city social media sites. The purpose of the climate facts is to call attention to the city’s climate action plan and important climate change issues. 	2016



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