

GOLD LEVEL AWARD WINNER



# County of San Mateo

## Sustainability Best Practices Activities



**ILG** INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT<sup>SM</sup>  
*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 Award. The Beacon Award 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 Award 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.

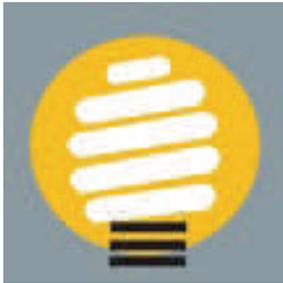


## SPOTLIGHT AWARD

Areas of Accomplishment

	SILVER LEVEL	GOLD LEVEL	PLATINUM LEVEL
Agency GHG Reductions	5% Reductions		
Community GHG Reductions	8% Reductions		
Agency Energy Savings		15% Savings	
Natural Gas Savings	7% Savings		
Sustainability Best Practice Activities		3 out of 10 categories	





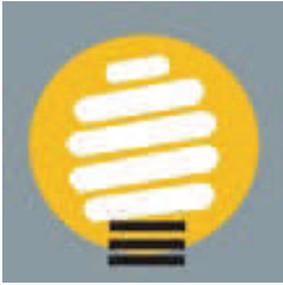
## Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. Replaced lighting in parking structures with T-8 fluorescent, bi-level vapor tight lamps and lighting controls, saving 248,200 kWh of electricity annually.	<b>2015</b>

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	1. Upgraded the economizer, boiler, and DDC controls in the Hall of Justice building, saving; 336,701 kWh, 89,814 therms and \$99,785.  2. Upgraded the solar hot water system at Camp Glenwood and preformed a retro-commissioning upgrade at the Crime Lab. The County Crime Lab's HVAC retrofit is estimated to save 12,000 therms annually.	<b>2015</b>

Level	Energy Efficiency & Conservation Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	1. San Mateo County maintains a presence on social media about energy efficiency programs; Nextdoor, Facebook, Twitter, city websites.  2. San Mateo County administers the Energy Upgrade California® Home Upgrade program, providing assistance and incentives for home improvement projects that can reduce energy use and make homes more comfortable. This statewide program is managed locally by utilities and regional energy networks and directed by the California Public Utilities Commission in collaboration with the California Energy Commission. Funding comes from utility customers under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.  3. San Mateo County collaborates with cities to promote energy efficiency programs to residents through homeowner workshops.	<b>2015</b>





# Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency & Conservation Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="345 495 1271 583">1. The county provides a team of building professionals to host a hotline for contractors and residents to call for more information on Energy Upgrade California and other energy efficiency programs available in the Bay Area.</li><li data-bbox="345 611 1271 678">2. The county trains and supports contractors on building science and how to market whole house energy efficiency.</li></ol>	<b>2015</b>





# Water & Wastewater Systems Activity

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The county ended roadside spraying as a vegetation management practice in 2015.	2015

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Water conservation projects are included in the County operations Strategic Energy Master Plan, which has been adopted by the Board of Supervisors and is being implemented.</li> <li>2. San Mateo County works in partnership with cities and the City/County Association of Governments to implement a comprehensive water pollution prevention program. The program includes education and outreach, water quality monitoring and reporting, drainage and erosion control standards and inspection procedures. The county has also established numerous collection programs for pharmaceuticals, batteries, compact fluorescent lamps and other household hazardous wastes intended to prevent medications and other contaminants from entering the environment.</li> </ol>	2015

Level	Water and Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The county has reduced watering for county-owned landscapes to one time per week for five minutes only.</li> <li>2. The county engages residents through community outreach programs (e.g. flyers, tabling events, social media, website). The county is a member of the San Mateo County Water Pollution Prevention Program, which coordinates all these efforts.</li> <li>3. The county promotes water conservation by providing information about rebates for high efficiency water appliances at our office and at tabling events.</li> <li>4. The county works to reduce trash in our storm drains by conducting regular street sweeping and community clean up events.</li> </ol>	2015





# Green Building Activity

Level	Green Building Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The county has approved a stand-alone <a href="#">Green Building Ordinance</a> . The green building measures follow the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) LEED guidelines for residential, commercial and industrial buildings and Build it Green Point Rated guidelines for single-family and multi-family dwellings.	2010

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Gold	<p>1. Conserving energy and water and using reused or recycled materials are important components of the County's Green Building Program. Established in 2008, the Green Building Program requires a minimum rating for new residential projects, substantial remodels, and commercial and industrial buildings. It also provides expedited permit processing for projects that voluntarily exceed a higher threshold rating.</p> <p>2. San Mateo County installed a 330kW solar project on the top of a public/employee parking garage that will generate electricity for the adjacent County office building and the development of a new environmental education center at Edgewood Park. In addition, it completed a smaller solar installation on the Coroner's Office/Youth Services Center</p>	2015

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Platinum	<p>1. The County's Youth Services Center, built in 2006, integrated many different green building principles including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expanding natural habitat for endangered species through restoration and natural landscaping</li> <li>• Recycling 75% of construction debris</li> <li>• Used FSC certified wood for wood framing</li> <li>• Landscaping uses drought tolerant plants</li> <li>• Powered partly by an energy saving cogeneration plant that provides electricity, hot water and chilled water to complex</li> </ul> <p>2. The County has a <a href="#">Sustainable Green Building Policy</a> that requires LEED certification for all county construction projects that meet certain requirements.</p>	2015





# Waste Reduction and Recycling Activity

Level	Waste Reduction Activity	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. In October, the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to protect the environment by banning the free distribution of single-use carry-out bags at retail outlets. Retailers in unincorporated parts of the county will have until April 2013 to phase out plastic bags.	<b>2015</b>
Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The county's Climate Action Plan for Government Operations has a goal to reach 75% waste diversion.</li> <li>2. RecycleWorks, the county's recycling program, conducts outreach and provides information and resources for residents on recycling and composting.</li> </ol>	<b>2015</b>
Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	1. The county's Energy Efficiency Climate Action Plan includes a measure to strive towards zero waste through promotion of recycling and composting programs. EECAP also includes a measure to incentivize the use of green waste and food waste for alternative energy generation.	<b>2015</b>





# Climate-friendly Purchasing Activity

Level	Climate-Friendly Activity	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. The county's bottled water purchase ordinance prohibits the use of county funds to purchase bottled water. This move not only has saved the county over \$150,000 per year but has saved the environment the cost of producing and transporting the water, saving CO2 emissions and landfill space.	<b>2015</b>

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. County policy requires that all paper products purchased by county departments meet EPA guidelines for post-consumer recycled fiber content, and that all food service ware be biodegradable, compostable, reusable or recyclable.</li> <li>2. The county motor pool uses oil products that are at least 25% re-refined and where practicable uses recycled antifreeze.</li> </ol>	<b>2015</b>

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All playground equipment and rubberized surfacing must have the highest possible recycled content. Products with recycled content receive a 10% price preference.</li> <li>2. Carpets in county buildings are made of recycled materials and use installation compounds with the lowest available volatile organic content.</li> </ol>	<b>2015</b>





# Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activity

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The Board of Supervisors adopted a Strategic Energy Master Plan to guide energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.	2015

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Gold	<p>1. The county installed one (1) electric vehicle charging station at the Redwood City Motorpool at the beginning of 2013 and is working on the installation of seven (7) additional charging stations. The installation of these charging stations will provide the opportunity for the county to look into electric vehicles as viable options for the county departments.</p> <p>2. 25% or 183 vehicles in the county's fleet are hybrid vehicles.</p>	2015

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Platinum	<p>1. The county is participating in the Peninsula Sunshares program, which will aggregate the demand of participants for solar PV in order to decrease the costs involved.</p> <p>2. The county currently streamlines most small scale solar rooftop permits (over-the-counter approval).</p> <p>3. The county is currently studying the idea of forming a Community Choice Aggregation program, which will allow residents the choice of increasing the amount of renewable energy coming through their power lines. In February 2015, the Board approved \$300,000 to commence Phase I of the project, including hiring a consultant to develop a technical feasibility study. Currently there have been two advisory committee meetings held, with attendance from most of the cities in the county and many other stakeholders. Substantial outreach efforts have been conducted for this project, including creating a new website, Twitter and doing presentations to various city councils and organizations.</p>	2015





# Efficient Transportation Activity

Level	Efficient Transportation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The county's Commute Alternatives Program offers employee transit passes (up to \$75), vanpool (\$75), carpool, bike, and walk subsidies (\$20). The county also provides resources for telecommuting and flexible work schedules.	2015

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The county has held a bike safety skills workshop and other educational workshops on active transportation in North Fair Oaks and other unincorporated areas.</li> <li>2. The county is conducting a community survey and community meetings in North Fair Oaks to understand where additional bike lanes are needed in the area. The new Middlefield Redesign project will increase the amount of bike lanes in North Fair Oaks.</li> </ol>	2015

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The board adopted a county ordinance that requires all new vehicles purchased for the county fleet to get 30 MPG or higher.</li> <li>2. The county's health system has purchased a fleet of bicycles available for local travel by employees.</li> <li>3. The county funds half of the time of an Active Transportation Coordinator that works on a variety of projects and represents the county on many active transportation boards.</li> <li>4. The county participates in Bay Area Bike Share and also hosts an annual free adult education class for biking.</li> <li>5. The county contributes through C/CAG for Commute.org, which puts on active transportation events like Bike to Work Day.</li> <li>6. The county was an active partner in installing a Intelligent Transportation System along El Camino Real.</li> <li>7. "Get Healthy SMC", a program sponsored by the county's Health System, promotes active transportation to County residents.</li> </ol>	2015





# Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The board of supervisors approved preparing preliminary <u>Middlefield Redesign Project</u> focusing on removing lanes for cars and adding accessibility for bikes and pedestrians.	2015

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan Colma, a project on the redesign of the unincorporated Colma area, incorporates many aspects of Transit Oriented Development including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proximity to transit (BART station)</li> <li>Minimum bicycle parking standards</li> </ul> </li> <li>The county participates in Grand Boulevard Initiative that studies better transit options like Bus Rapid Transit, wider sidewalks and pedestrian safety along El Camino Real.</li> </ol>	2015

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The county incorporated a Complete Streets Policy in the General Plan, defined as providing an integrated, balanced, and multimodal transportation network that meets the needs of all users.</li> <li>The county incorporated a Transportation Element into its General Plan that has goals to increase the proportion of trips by public transit or ridesharing, minimize environmental impacts from transportation improvements and promote energy-conserving transportation systems.</li> <li>The County Office of Education runs a Safe Routes to School Program and offers a grant program in association with C/CAG that promotes active transportation to school, helps identify routes and oversees many different champions.</li> <li>The county painted a green colored bike trail along Alpine Road.</li> </ol>	2015





# Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. The Board of Supervisors approved a Climate Action Plan and an Energy Efficiency amendment to its General Plan (2013) which includes a measure to require areas with hardscape design to integrate shading and tree planting.	<b>2015</b>

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	1. The Board of Supervisors created an Office of Sustainability which takes on a variety of projects including climate action planning, energy efficiency rebates, renewable energy procurement, waste reduction, stormwater management, active transportation and commute alternatives.  2. The County is piloting a telework programs, allowing its employees to work from home to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from commuting to work.	<b>2015</b>

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	1. The Board of Supervisors approved the County's 2010 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory for Government Operations and the Climate Action Plan for Government Operations, which guides the County's greenhouse gas reduction efforts.	<b>2015</b>





# Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. San Mateo County is collaborating with all 20 cities and towns to develop a countywide residential energy conservation program. If funded by state grants and federal stimulus money, the program will encourage property owners to retrofit the homes to reduce their energy bills, improve indoor air quality and contribute to reducing the community carbon footprint. The program also offers residents the option of financing the retrofit improvements through additional payments on their property tax bills.	<b>2015</b>

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	1. The county provides information and tips about the specific actions individuals and organizations can take to conserve resources are available through a "Green Portal" on the county website and the county's Recycle Works Program.  2. The San Mateo County Water Pollution Prevention Program and the county's Environmental Health Division provide information regarding best management practices and methods to avoid pollution.	<b>2015</b>

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	1. In 2007, the County Manager's Office formed the Green Team, made up of representatives of all the County's departments. The Green Team is charged with finding ways that departments can reduce the County's carbon footprint. The team has been instrumental in developing a Green Report Card that tracks and grades each department's environmental impact, adopting a Community Supported Agriculture program so that employees can purchase fresh fruit and vegetables from a local farm and assisting in the education and rollout of the polystyrene ban. The Green Team continues to explore ways to reduce departmental carbon emissions, including the possible expansion of telecommuting opportunities.  2. The San Mateo County Green Business Program verifies that participating businesses meet high standards of environmental performance. A partnership of government agencies and utilities helps local businesses comply with all environmental regulations and to take additional actions to conserve resources, prevent pollution, and minimize waste. The program offers motivated businesses and agencies an easy-to-use framework for improving environmental performance.	<b>2015</b>



# Note:





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