

PLATINUM LEVEL AWARD WINNER



City of Cupertino

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 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			23%
Community GHG Reductions		13%	
Agency Energy Savings			22%
Natural Gas Savings			
Sustainability Best Practice Activities			2016



Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity	Reported
Silver	<p>1. In 2009, the city started the GreenBiz to offer free support to interested small/mid-size businesses, non-profit organizations and schools to navigate this rigorous certification process of the statewide Green Business Program. To date the program has helped 39 businesses and seen the following savings; 8,205,700 gallons of water saved, 2,668,797 kWh saved, 5,406 tons of waste diverted.</p> <p>This program has won various awards including; ICLEI's Green Business Challenge Award, 2014 ; Silicon Valley Leadership Group's Red Tape to Red Carpet Award, 2014 Green Technology's Green California Leadership Award, 2013; Acterra's Business Environmental Award,</p>	2016

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities	Reported
Gold	<p>1. The city also partners with Bay Area Regional Energy Network to promote Home Upgrade to residents, holding periodic outreach events to residents in both English and Chinese. The last two events held turned out over 100 residents each.</p> <p>2. Between 2011 and 2014 the city partnered with local nonprofit Acterra to offer the Green @ Home program to help Cupertino residents saving energy and cut costs on energy bills. This free service utilized software to analyze Smart Meter data, and determine household energy patterns, thus creating a personalized list of recommendations to reduce energy and water use in the home. Over 250 house calls were conducted were trained volunteers installed energy and water savings devices in the home.</p>	2016



Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency & Conservation Activities	Reported
<p>Platinum</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In 2013 the city completed a citywide public realm lighting efficiency by upgrading city streetlights saving 872,000 kWh/year 2. Since 2010, the city has made many energy efficiency improvements across its municipal portfolio. This includes the addition of occupancy sensors, lighting upgrades, vending controllers and computer power management software. Annual Energy savings total: \$96,781 kWh 3. Do-It-Yourself Energy Toolkit. In partnership with the Silicon Valley Energy Watch, the city created a DIY toolkit out of the success of its Green @ Home program, and to provide residents with a resource to take energy efficiency into their own hands. Just like checking out a book or DVD, city residents can check out the DIY Home Energy Savings Toolkit from the local Cupertino Library. The toolkit is stocked with supplies and energy measuring devices to conduct simple weatherproofing, upgrades and tests. Residents can use and keep the four compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), three faucet aerators, a low-flow showerhead, outlet gaskets, weather stripping and water leak detection tablets. The kit also contains tools that need to be returned to the library with the kit after use to measure energy and water use in the home. Visit www.scccl.org/ and type in "Energy Toolkit" in search bar. Since launching in Cupertino, the Silicon Valley Energy Watch has expanded the kits to a countywide program available at Santa Clara County Library District locations countywide. 	<p>2016</p>





Water & Wastewater Systems Activity

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city hired a utility efficiency analyst, who actively monitors water bills to check for usage spikes and communicates with the Public Works Service Center team so that conservation measures can take place immediately.	2016

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> In response to the drought, the city created a Think Drought campaign. This provided residents with an update on the drought statewide, as well as what the city is doing as a part of its long-standing water conservation efforts within our facilities and among our fields, parks and medians. In areas that did not need water, lawn signs with the “Think Drought” logo were places to raise public awareness. http://www.cupertino.org/savewater The city monitors and audits its water and wastewater pumps and motors to identify most and lead efficient equipment, and make efficiency upgrades as feasible. 	2016

Level	Water and Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. 2015. To assist city residents with converting lawn to drought tolerant landscaping. The city partnered with the Santa Clara Valley Water District by adding an additional \$1 to their existing \$2 per square foot rebate for converting lawn to qualifying, low water using landscape. This made the total rebate available to residents \$3 per square foot. (The additional \$1 was added for the first 1,000 square feet for residential sites and for the first 10,000 square feet for commercial sites). http://valleywater.org/Programs/LandscapeRebateProgram.aspx	2016





Water & Wastewater Systems Activity

Level	Water and Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Platinum	<p>2. Since the Landscape Rebate program was so successful in 2015, the city extended the program offering for the year 2016, again partnering with the Santa Clara Valley Water District by adding an additional \$1 to their proposed square foot rebate for converting lawn to qualifying, low water using landscape.</p> <p>3. In 2016, the city updated the Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (WELo) and held a community meeting to gather input. New development projects that include landscape areas of 500 sq. ft. or more are subject to the Ordinance. This applies to residential, commercial, industrial and institutional projects that require a permit, plan check or design review. The previous landscape size threshold in Cupertino was 2500 sq. ft., which shall remain for existing landscapes that are being rehabilitated. www.cupertino.org/welo</p>	2016





Green Building Activity

Level	Green Building Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Between 2014 and 2015 all major city facilities were certified through the County's Green Business Program which required the city to evaluate energy and water use and their procurement policies. City staff takes pride in keeping up this certification.	2016

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In 2013, the city adopted an aggressive Green Building standard, more aggressive than Title 24. Which included minimum LEED Certified from 25,000 to 50,000 SF and LEED Silver for commercial buildings greater than 50,000, or its equivalence. 2. In 2015, the city adopted Climate Action Plan which requires new agency buildings to exceed the minimum requirements of Cal Green, Title 6, 	2016

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. City requires agency landscaping and parks to incorporate smart irrigation technology systems that save water and energy. 2. Since 2009, the city has had a dedicated web page to help residents find green building information and resources. www.cupertino.org/index.aspx?page=1007 3. City building and planning staff are trained in appropriate green building standards and technologies to facility the permitting and approval inspection progresses, and they are encouraged to seek out new and innovate trainings. 	2016





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activity

Level	Waste Reduction Activity	Reported
Silver	1. In 2013, the city adopted a Reusable Bag Ordinance , which prohibits the distribution of thin plastic carry out bags and requires stores to charge \$0.10 for a recycled paper bag.	2016

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Since, 2010 the city has had curbside residential composting available to all city residents, through its residential organics waste recycling program. Additionally, residents can get free bulk compost for their garden from the food and yard waste collected through the city's organics waste and recycling program. 2. Adopted in 2014, the Foam Container Ordinance, restricts the distribution of food service ware containers made from polystyrene foam (Styrofoam). To help educate restaurant owners, a one page simplified fact sheet and FAQs was created and distributed. Additionally outreach is conducted through the city's Green Biz program. 	2016

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city waste prevention guide for outdoor and indoor events at city facilities, to help city staff understand how to set up a zero waste event. 2. The city's mandatory commercial organics recycle ordinance requires high generators of organic waste to compost, at a faster rate than the State managed AB1826. Additionally, property owners are required to install and maintain outdoor waste trio receptacles for public use, which include a landfill, comingled recyclables, and compost. www.cupertino.org/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=11223 3. In 2014, the city developed guidelines for non-residential building trash and recycling enclosures. Applicable for commercial, public, industrial, and institutional buildings must have enclosures for garbage, recycling and organics containers. 	2016





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activity

Level	Climate-Friendly Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Since 2013, the city is dedicated to continuously review current purchasing practices to identify possible green procurement opportunities.	2016

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Initially adopted in 2007, updated in 2015. City adopted an Environmental Preferable Purchasing Policy, outlines guidelines on office paper reduction. Staff is researching ways to implement this measure and track progress. Ideas include reducing the source at time of procurement (buy less paper) and reducing the amount of paper used (use paper with one side printed as scrap paper, or print less). 2015. Continue a targeted employee education campaign, with the development of a simplified one page handout cheat sheet for the Environmental Preferable Purchasing Policy, to help staff achieve the goals of the Environmental Preferable Purchasing Policy when purchasing office and cleaning supplies. Held a series of lunchtime meetings to educate staff. Conduct employee awareness training on the purchasing and use of green products and services and created a user guide for the Environmental Preferable Purchasing Policy. 	2016

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> In many contracts with consultants and outside vendors, there are requirements for using recycled products and supplies when feasible. Staff places friendly stickers on products around city hall that are out of compliance with city environmental purchasing policy. Through the Green Biz program, we work with the business community to education them about climate-friendly procurement opportunities and 	2016





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activity

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Silver	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> In 2014, the city service yard installed solar PV with annual capacity of producing 103.7 kW of solar PV, which is enough electricity to offset 74% of the sites energy use. It is estimated to save the city approximately \$25,000 a year, over the 25 year life of the system. 	2016

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> In 2015, the city fleet vehicle composition was 15% zero-or-low emissions vehicles. This is through a mix of hybrids, plug-in hybrids and two new all electric vehicles. In 2015, the city installed five dual port public charging stations at three different locations throughout the city, with grant funding through the Bay Area Charge Ahead Project, a grant program funded by the California Energy Commission. To accelerate and encourage the use of electric vehicles and clean fuels in the community. 	2016

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> In 2015, the city developed a GIS map that residents can access online that identifies where solar projects are located throughout the community. http://gis.cupertino.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/27594d3a92344eb1b46e1df2b5fafe9d_4 In 2009, the city joined California First, to provide PACE financing for energy efficiency, renewable energy and water efficiency improvements for residents, commercial and multi-family properties. The city is currently exploring making additional PACE providers available to Cupertino residents and businesses. In 2014, Cupertino was the first city to take action to join and form Silicon Valley Clean Energy Authority, and was a leader in its development along with the cities of Sunnyvale, Mountain View and the County of Santa Clara. 	2016





Efficient Transportation Activity

Level	Efficient Transportation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Adopted in 2014, the Community Vision 2040 , city's General Plan, mobility element outlines the short and long range community transportation goals, objectives and policy. This includes the link between land use and transportation, complete streets and greenhouse gas emissions.	2016

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In 2015, the city adopted the Bikeway Improvement Prioritization Update to the 2011 Cupertino Bicycle Transportation Plan. This is a roadmap designed to encourage cycling as a safe alternative to the automobile. 2. To encourage bicycling within the city for short trips, the city has created a Cupertino Bikeways Map, to display all the bike lanes and routes throughout the city. 	2016

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In 2015, the city piloted Cupertino Safe Routes to School with eight schools participating, modeled after the National Safe Routes to School Program. Engaging community members to identify how to best increase student travel safety by collecting travel data, and organizing a contracted walk audit school sites selected by the working group and city employee programs. 2. In 2016, Cupertino hosted its first ever Pedal for the Planet Family Bike Ride in conjunction with the annual earth day festival. Featuring a 6-mile bike ride around the city for families. The event including free bicycle maintenance checks and tune-ups from two local bike shops. 3. City has bicycle fleet available for local travel of city staff around town, including maps, bicycle helmets, locks and tools. 	2016





Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Community Vision 2040 , the city's General Plan was adopted in 2014 with the first Environmental Resources and Sustainability Element , which includes goals, policies and strategies that help Cupertino think more holistically about sustainability, and in doing so, improve the ecological health and the quality of life for the community. It addresses climate change, air quality, energy, buildings, natural resources, and water. This element links the general plan to the city's climate action plan.	2016

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2015. Community and Municipal Climate Action Plan that outlines 225 measures to reduce greenhouse gas emission and help reach our goal of reducing GHG 15% below 2010 baseline by 2020. 2015. A baseline Greenhouse gas inventory was conducted for 2010 data following the ICLEI U.S. Community Protocol for community wide emissions and Local Government Operations Protocol for municipal emissions. 	2016

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The city housing element encourages compact, efficient and contiguous development of a range of housing types and affordability levels. This includes a density bonus ordinance. In 2009, the City of Cupertino won the Award for Excellence for in the Public Works, Infrastructure and Transportation category of the 2009 Helen Putnam Award program, for the Don Burnett Bicycle Footbridge, which is cable-stayed bridge over Interstate 280, carrying bicycle and pedestrian traffic. To improve connectivity among neighborhoods that was previously divided by a freeway. City requires bicycle racks, showers and other amenities as a part of new commercial development projects to promote bicycle use by new employees and residents. 	2016





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Silver	1. The city has adopted a protected tree ordinance to protect urban forest, including prohibiting the removal of protected trees.	2016

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase opportunities for open spaces and other recreation opportunities, including the opening of the Mc Clellan Ranch Preserve Environmental Resource Center, which holds education opportunities for residents and students. 2. The city's CAP Community goal five is to expand green infrastructure and enhance the city's existing urban forest on public and private lands. This includes a measure for the urban forest program which includes goals to track and plant 2,500 net new trees by 2020. 	2016

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. City has an online GIS map showing location of all trees in the city maintained by public works. http://gis.cupertino.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/170655ededf3406f9399aa337dac3bea_29 2. City of Cupertino is proud to be a Tree City USA community by Arbor Day Foundation. 3. Through, it's Parks Master Planning process, the city is committed to increasing the number, type and accessibility of parks and other recreational opportunities in the community, including promoting public health and climate benefits. 	2016





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Silver	1. Green @ School. A pilot program created by the City of Cupertino and initially funded through a Silicon Valley Energy Watch grant to empower students as environmental change agents on their school campuses, at home, and throughout their community to implement sustainability practices. Development of a handbook which outlines how to implement a green@school program, complete the sustainability certification process, and educate students, faculty, and staff about sustainability and a healthy campus community.	2016

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Gold	1. The city continues to use social media channels to outreach to the community on environmental actions they can take to help the city reach its climate action goals. 2. Forum on Innovative Transit: New Models for Silicon Valley. A community forum with presentations and discussions with five through leaders in the field of transportation. The forum was broadcast live on the city channel	2016

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. In 2015 the city created a sustainability commission to help with the implementation and tracking of the city's climate action plan. Consists of five city residents who serve on a voluntary basis, and meet quarterly.	2016





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
<p>Platinum</p>	<p>2. 2014. Sustainability Showcase Series. In partnership with the Cupertino Library, and Cupertino Library Commission, held four events which were attended by almost 200 community members over the course of four months. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earth Day Baby & Preschool Storytime- earth day themed interactive musical storytime and sing along lead by Cupertino Green Team and Cupertino librarians • Materials Magic: It doesn't take a wizard to make your waste disappear!- environmental education show featuring comedy, juggling, magic and craft activities for kids • Green Tech Toolbar: Solar & EV Technologies for you Home & Our Planet- series of speakers featuring regional experts on solar and electric vehicle technology. • Green Teens Service Hours to Grow you Green Thumb & Protect Our Parks- <p>3. Since 2009, the city hosts an annual Earth Day celebration, which brings over 7,000 community members out to enjoy music, games, visit community booths, eat from food trucks and celebrate the environmental and sustainability efforts of the city.</p>	





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