

BEACON  
SPOTLIGHT  
AWARD  
WINNER  
BEST PRACTICE  
ACTIVITIES



# City of Fremont

Sustainability Best Practice Activities




# City of Fremont

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

SPOTLIGHT AWARD		SILVER LEVEL	GOLD LEVEL	PLATINUM LEVEL
Areas of Accomplishment				
	Agency GHG Reductions	2017 (7%)		
	Community GHG Reductions		2017 (11%)	
	Agency Energy Savings			2017 (28%)
	Natural Gas Savings	2017 (6%)		
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities		2017	
	Beacon Award	2017		

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. In May 2016, the City of Fremont contracted with OpTerra Energy Services to complete a comprehensive energy and water upgrade project throughout city facilities. This \$9.1 million project includes the installation of LED energy saving technology in all streetlights, public parks, and plazas, as well as within the interior and exterior of city facilities. The project also includes the installation of energy-saving pool pump controls at the Aqua Adventure Water Park. Collectively, these efforts are expected to save an annual 4.4 million kWh of electricity and 12,000 therms, reducing the city's GHG footprint by 976 metric tons.

## Gold

2. The city collaborates with the East Bay Energy Watch (EBEW) to provide no-to-low cost efficiency upgrades to local residents and small to medium businesses. The program offers free facility energy audits and provides incentives for energy efficient lighting retrogrades, select refrigeration equipment, controls, and other technologies.
3. The city collaborates with BayREN to offer comprehensive "whole home" building upgrades through the Home Upgrade and Bay Area Multifamily Building Enhancements programs. From 2011-2016, 192 Fremont households have completed home energy upgrades.

## Platinum





# Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

## Silver

1. In May 2016, the city contracted with Opterra Energy Services to complete water upgrade projects throughout city facilities. The project included the upgrade of public facility plumbing fixtures to high-efficiency options and the installation of weather-based irrigation controls at city parks. The project will replace 265 toilets, 74 urinals, 165 sinks, and 61 showerheads with ultra low water usage options. It will also replace 218 irrigation systems at 8 city parks with weather-based irrigation controls.

## Gold

2. The city protects valuable water resources through a series of development standards that incorporate increased awareness for watershed management. The city's Landscape Development Requirements and Policies document compiles practices pertaining to council-adopted landscape requirements.
3. In 2017, the city purchased street sweeping vehicles with water-efficient designs, which use "misting" technology that uses a fraction of the water required by most street sweepers. One sweeper saves about 240,000 gallons of water per year.

## Platinum







# Green Building Activities

## Silver

1. In 2006, the city council passed a resolution requiring all new city facilities over 10,000 square feet incorporate project features so as to qualify for LEED certification at the silver level or higher. In other cases, facilities will incorporate feasible sustainable practices within the project budget. Since the resolution, the city has built three new fire station facilities, all of which have attained LEED certification.

## Gold

2. The city's Waste Handling Plan provides specific guidelines for managing waste produced through construction and demolition projects. As part of these guidelines, Fremont passed a Construction Debris Recycling Ordinance, which requires 100% of asphalt, concrete, and dirt used in construction projects to be reused or recycled. Additionally, 50% of all remaining project debris must be reused or recycled. The city updated the ordinance in 2017 to meet CalGreen standards. The city also passed a landfill ban on plant debris, requiring that 100% of plant and tree debris must be separated and composted.
3. The city recently implemented a series of green building and energy efficiency reach codes that go beyond minimum statewide requirements. Fremont passed measures requiring that new residential and non-residential building projects must include EV ready parking spaces.

## Platinum





# Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

## Silver

1. Since 1996, the city has partnered with Fremont Unified School District to fund a District Recycling Coordinator position to direct the overall waste management and waste reduction efforts for all schools and offices within the district.

## Gold

2. The Bay Area Green Business Program has operated across Alameda County since 1996. The city collaborates with the Green Business partnership to equip local businesses with information on how to conserve energy and water, reduce waste, prevent pollution, and minimize their overall carbon footprint. Fremont currently has 24 certified Green Businesses and honors recently recertified businesses annually at city council meetings.
3. In January 2011, the City of Fremont instituted a ban on the use of expanded polystyrene for take-out food packaging at all Fremont food vendors. Vendors are expected to use compostable or recyclable food service ware.

## Platinum







# Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

## Silver

1. In 2014, the city's Environmental Services Department developed and implemented an internal Freecycle program that provides city employees with the opportunity to drop off usable and working office supplies at the "Freecycle Store".

## Gold

2. In 2006, the city adopted a Green Purchasing Policy intended to eliminate or reduce the city's purchase of products with avoidable toxins, support strong recycling markets, reduce the quantity of materials landfilled, conserve natural resources, and educate city staff on green purchasing practices.
3. In April of 2017, Fremont held its first meeting of a newly formed internal city Green Team. The team consists of representatives from a variety of city departments with the goal of incorporating a broad spectrum of perspectives to implement environmentally-focused projects within various areas of city operations.

## Platinum





# Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

## Silver

1. In 2015, Fremont participated in a residential solar bulk purchasing effort among a handful of East Bay Area cities called “SunShares”. The cities worked with two local solar firms to negotiate a discounted price for the lease or purchase of rooftop solar PV systems that was 15% below market rate. Through SunShares, 47 Fremont homes installed solar within a 3 month period. Regionally, 169 solar projects were installed.

## Gold

2. The city was an active participant in the regional Renewable Energy Procurement project (R-REP). The R-REP allowed Fremont and other public agencies to benefit from economies of scale and from the collective technical expertise of the group. Through the R-REP, Fremont entered power purchase agreements for four carport solar installations.
3. In 2016, the city contracted with Gridscape Solutions to install microgrid demonstration systems at three city fire stations.

## Platinum





# Efficient Transportation Activities

## Silver

1. The city's Bicycle and Pedestrian Program's primary objective is to provide cyclists and pedestrians with safe and accessible routes to all destinations that are served by public roads, trails, and various forms of public transit within and outside the city. In December of 2016, the city updated its Pedestrian Master Plan and is working on updating its Bicycle Master Plan.

## Gold

2. In order to support electric vehicle ownership, the city encourages the installation of publicly accessible EV charging stations. To support this, 100 level 2 charging ports and 21 DC fast charging ports at 20 different locations in Fremont are currently available for public use.
3. In an effort to reduce vehicle emissions and increase utilization of public transportation, the city started an 18-month car-sharing pilot program with Zipcar in 2015. The program provides three reserved Zipcar parking spaces at BART and two at Centerville station. To encourage usage of the car share vehicles, Fremont worked with Zipcar to offer a \$25 discount on membership and \$25 worth of driving credits during the first few months of the program.

## Platinum





# Land Use and Community Design Activities

## Silver

1. The City of Fremont adopted its award-winning General Plan in late 2011. The plan is organized around the theme of sustainability, with a vision statement that “Fremont will serve as a national model of how an auto-oriented suburb can evolve into a sustainable, strategically urban, modern city”. The plan calls for future growth to be focused in four transit-oriented development areas and sets a target for reducing GHG emissions by 25% from 2005 levels by 2020.

## Gold

2. In late 2012, the city adopted its first Climate Action Plan, which laid out a series of strategies for achieving the GHG emission reduction goals established in the General Plan. The plan serves as a working document, with built-in flexibility to revise and replace specific strategies based on technological changes and new funding opportunities.
3. The city joined PACE financing in 2010 to create opportunities for Fremont residents and business owners to purchase clean energy systems.

## Platinum





# Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

## Silver

1. The City of Fremont is a designated Tree City USA, a distinction held for over 21 years.

## Gold

2. In 2013, Fremont was awarded a \$1.2 million grant for creek restoration and other improvements to Sabercat Creek. The project provides critical creek and habitat restoration, reduces erosion, greatly improves public access, provides safety vehicle and ADA access, and repairs existing trails along Sabercat Creek.
3. In 1981, the city passed the Hill Initiative (Measure A), to regulate land use in Fremont's hill areas. In 2002, the city updated these regulations and increased the level of development restrictions.

## Platinum





# Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

## Silver

1. In 2016, the City of Fremont launched a new residential climate action engagement platform called the Fremont Green Challenge. The challenge website offers residents all the information they need to save energy, water, and money, all while reducing their impact on climate change.

## Gold

2. In 2016, the city ran the “kilowatt smackdown”, a youth energy saving competition that provided energy and water audits to small businesses and restaurants. The competition provided students with the opportunity to learn about energy saving practices, while earning community service hours and competing for prizes.
3. The city established the Environmental Sustainability Commission in 2012 to advise the city council on emerging policy issues related to environmental sustainability. In particular, the commission is charged with advising city council on updates to the Climate Action Plan, policies for recycling, source reduction, and waste diversion, and assisting the city with marketing, public education, outreach, and promotion activities to stimulate the greatest possible participation in sustainability efforts.

## Platinum









© 2019 by Institute for Local Government  
1400 K Street, Suite 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-658-8208  
[www.ca-ilg.org](http://www.ca-ilg.org)

