

PLATINUM LEVEL AWARD WINNER

BEACON

SPOTLIGHT
AWARD

WINNER

BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of Livermore

Sustainability Best Practices Activities



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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: Local Leadership toward Solving Climate Change. 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			
	Community GHG Reductions			
	Agency Energy Savings	8%		
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities		2017	



Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Greenhouse gas emissions inventory – The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) assisted the City in the preparation of a GHG inventory for the 2005 year. The inventory had two components – one for the Livermore community as a whole, and a second for municipal operations.	2015
Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities	Reported
Gold	1. Climate Action Plan – Adopted by the City Council in November 2012, Livermore’s Climate Action Plan outlines ways to reduce the amount of GHGs produced within the City to a level 15% below 2008 conditions by 2020. 2. The Capacity Project – This project is a joint effort by the City, Chevron Energy Solutions, and WattzOn that helps Livermore residents, businesses, and students identify free and low-cost ways to reduce energy use and save money on utility bills.	2015
Level	Energy Efficiency & Conservation Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. LED street light conversion – Around 7,000 existing high pressure sodium (HPS) cobra head street lights were replaced with high-efficiency LED fixtures that use less electricity and emit better quality light than the existing street lights. 2. California Youth Energy Services – From 2009-2012 the City of Livermore hosted the California Youth Energy Services for the summer to serve the community with free energy assessments and retrofits. These assessments, or "Green House Calls," assisted with recycling and waste reduction and were available to both homeowners and renters. The assessments included the installation of CFL light bulbs, efficient flow showerheads, faucet aerators and retractable clotheslines, as well as a check for toilet leaks and attic insulation level – all free of charge. 3. Beacon Award Recipient – The City received a Beacon Award for energy-efficiency measures in municipal operations.	2015





Water & Wastewater Systems Activity

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Water efficient landscape ordinance – This ordinance established standards for designing, installing, and maintaining water efficient landscapes that avoid runoff and other water waste in landscape projects. This is accomplished through requirements for responsible landscape design, soil care, irrigation design and scheduling, and management, which utilize reasonable amounts of water while ensuring that aesthetic, functional, energy and environmental benefits of landscapes are achieved with design flexibility.	2015

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Gold	<p>1. Recycled water – Recycled water has been produced at the Livermore Water Reclamation Plant for over 30 years. City water treatment facilities utilize the effluent filters and a ultra-violet disinfection system. The recycled water system contains over 14 miles of pipe-line, a pump station, and a 1.9-million-gallon reservoir. The City uses recycled water for irrigation and fire protection.</p> <p>2. Landscape Water Conservation System – Many civic areas are connected to the Landscape Water Conservation System via a centralized irrigation system that schedules irrigation cycles based on evaporation rates provided by a weather station. To minimize water waste, sites are frequently checked and automatically shut off when a broken pipe or large flow increase is detected.</p>	2015

Level	Water and Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. Livermore Water Resources Division actively promotes water conservation on its website - http://cityoflivermore.net/citygov/pw/public_works_divisions/wrd/conserves/default.htm . Information provided addresses water conservation for home, landscaping, commercial businesses and industry. In addition, rebates are currently offered for high efficiency washing machine purchases and lawn conversions. Additional outreach provided at community events such as farmers markets and downtown festivals.	2015





Green Building Activity

Level	Green Building Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Livermore's Green City Hall – In 2002, Livermore's City Hall celebrated its "grand re-opening" after a major renovation that incorporated many sustainable building materials and practices to conserve natural resources. More than 75% of the original building shell was retained and more than half of demolition materials were salvaged or recycled.	2015

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Civic Green Buildings Ordinance LEED requirement – The City adopted the Civic Green Building ordinance in 2004 to promote sustainable construction and use of new civic buildings. The ordinance requires a minimum LEED silver rating. 2. Construction and Demolition Ordinance – Since 2002, the Construction and Demolition Ordinance help Livermore meet State mandates to divert at least 50% of solid waste from landfills through recycling and reuse. 	2015

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. Green Building Code – In 2010, the State of California adopted a statewide green building code that was adopted by the City of Livermore and went into effect on January 1, 2011. The adoption of the state green building code effectively sunset the City's green building ordinance as listed above.	2015





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activity

Level	Waste Reduction Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Livermore Recycles – The Livermore Recycles program is a user-friendly resource developed through a partnership between the City of Livermore and Livermore Sanitation for residents and businesses to learn about Livermore’s cutting edge waste reduction programs such as city-wide recycling and composting.	2015

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Gold	1. Styrofoam Ordinance – Beginning July 1, 2011, the City’s ordinance banned Styrofoam “to-go” containers for foodservice businesses. 2. Reusable Bag Ordinance – The City opted into Alameda County’s Reusable Bag Ordinance. Beginning January 1, 2013 stores in Livermore that sell packaged foods stopped providing customers with single-use plastic bags upon checkout. Consumers are encouraged to bring reusable bags from home.	2015

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. Use of Rubberized Asphalt Concrete (RAC) – RAC is used on City high-volume/major arterial road paving projects and is implemented when the City receives significant grants for large projects due to the costs. RAC uses recycled tires to ass rubber to concrete mix. This practice reduces the stockpile of waste tires statewide. Studies show that RAC-paved roadways are cost-effective and decrease road noise compared to other paving methods. 2. Annual electronic waste recycling events – Livermore has conducted annual Electronic Waste Recycling events for residents and businesses and will continue to provide support as needed, as there are now frequent events held by private firms. These events enable participants to comply with State regulations that prohibit the disposal of e-waste in landfills.	2015





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activity

Level	Climate-Friendly Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Recycled Product Procurement Policy – Through its Recycled Product Procurement Policy, City staff purchase and use recycled materials for City operations such as green office supplies, furniture, park benches, picnic tables, and school and park playground structures.	2015

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The City Purchasing Division has participated in the Cartridges for Kids program for over 5 years. The program pays cash for recyclable items such as most laser toners, inkjet toners, cell phones, PDAs, old lap tops, digital cameras and GPS systems. Proceeds from the program benefit the Special Needs Department of Granada High School in Livermore. Items are collected and picked up once a month. Participation in the program helps protect the environment by keeping these items out of landfills while supporting local educational programs. The City Purchasing Division partners with Public Purchase, a web-based eProcurement service. The eProcurement Systems allows for automatic notification and transmittal of bid requests to vendors. This program allows most purchasing activities to be handled entirely on-line, from bid announcements, requests for quotes submittals (under \$50,000) and award of contracts thereby significantly reducing paper. 	2015

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Platinum		





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activity

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Use of Hybrid Vehicles and City charging stations – The City operates seven hybrid vehicles and has installed charging stations at both City Hall and the Maintenance Service Center for electric City trucks and employees with electric cars.	2015

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Gold	<p>1. Rooftop solar panels at City Hall – In 2004, a 75-kilowatt Photovoltaic System was installed on the roof of City Hall, generating 13.5% of the facility’s annual electricity needs and lowering power bills. The system has since been expanded to 100 kilowatts through the Energy Efficiency and Community Block Grant.</p> <p>2. Civic Center Library Solar Photovoltaic Power System – A ground-mount solar photovoltaic (PV) power generation system is being installed behind the library, The PV system will be secured by fencing on 4.52 acres and enhanced with environmentally appropriate landscaping. The entire PV array comprises three systems totaling 1.2 MWs to supply electricity to City Hall, the Police Department, and the Library, and supplements the City’s existing system at City Hall. This project is a collaborative effort between the City and Chevron Energy Solutions and is part of a larger Energy Conservation Package. The PV system is designed to reduce future electrical bills at the three facilities by approximately 90%. This will lead to a reduction in GHG emissions by approximately 2 million pounds per year, equivalent to taking 175 cars off the road each year.</p>	2015

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Platinum		2015





Efficient Transportation Activity

Level	Efficient Transportation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Complete Streets Ordinance – On January 28, 2013 the Livermore City Council unanimously approved the City’s Complete Streets Policy. This policy was developed to provide guidance for residents, decision makers, staff, and various partners to ensure that multimodal elements are incorporated into all transportation improvement projects.	2015

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Gold	<p>1. Collaboration with regional agencies – The City collaborates with regional agencies such as the Alameda Transportation Commission, the Tri-Valley Transportation Council, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Association of Bay Area Governments, and the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority. Projects include the Bike and Trail Master Plan, the Rapid bus system, and regional transit oriented development planning.</p> <p>2. Street-Level Imagery project – Livermore’s award-winning Street-Level Imagery Project enables staff to inspect City streets via photo files from any computer on the City’s network. In addition to saving staff time on visits, this innovative system reduces City vehicle workload, fuel consumption, and emissions.</p>	2015

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Platinum		





Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activity	Reported
Silver	<p>1. Award-winning form based codes – In 2011 the City’s Development Code received the Richard H. Driehaus Charitable Lead Trust Form-Based Codes Award. In selecting the Livermore Code, the jurors singled out these aspects of the code for comment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The code is a valuable model of how to code a medium sized town with existing walkable and sprawl neighborhoods. • The code is focused on providing a complete form-based regulation for higher density residential areas that are, or have the potential to be, walkable and will provide a successful model for other areas within the City. • The document is organized to incorporate a form-based code into a larger development code overhaul such that the sprawl areas of the City remain under Euclidean zoning while the form-based code is designed for walkable areas of the City and designed to expand to all walkable areas – as the City is ready. 	2015

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Gold	<p>1. Bay-friendly Landscaping Ordinance – This ordinance requires City projects to incorporate Bay-friendly landscaping practices. Bay-friendly landscaping is a whole systems’ approach to the design, construction, and maintenance of the landscape in order to support the integrity of the San Francisco Bay watershed. Some key components include reducing waste and using recycled content materials, nurturing healthy soils while reducing fertilizer use, and conserving water and energy.</p> <p>2. Tree Preservation Ordinance – This ordinance establishes the policies, regulations, and standards for the protection of trees on any parcel of land within the City.</p>	2015

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Platinum		2015





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Silver	1. Urban growth boundary – Livermore is completely surrounded by an urban growth boundary (UGB). The boundary is intended to protect existing agriculture uses and natural resources outside the City from future urban development.	2015

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Gold	1. National Arbor Day Foundation’s Tree City USA program –In April 2012, the Arbor Day Foundation recognized the City of Livermore as a Tree City USA community for our commitment to urban forestry. The City of Livermore has earned this national designation for the past 19 years, and was commended for making planting and caring for trees a priority. 2. Farmers’ Markets – The City has two farmers’ markets, one year-round and another during the summer, where residents can buy locally grown and organic produce, enjoy live music, and taste local Livermore wine.	2015

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. Spare the Air Program – The City is active in the Spare the Air program and the Tri-Valley Resources Subcommittee of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. Since 2002, on declared Spare the Air days, City maintenance crews have been minimizing or eliminating turf mowing, paving work, and the use of two-cycle engines.	2015





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Silver	1. Sustainability website – The “Live More, Save More – Sustainable Livermore” website is a user-friendly resource for the community to learn about sustainability efforts in the City and how they can get involved to help build a sustainable community.	2015

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Green Resource Center – Since 2005, the Green Resource Center within the City Hall Permit Center has offered comprehensive public resources and staff assistance regarding green planning/building, recycling, reuse, and conservation. 2. The City holds an annual Community Compost Giveaway for all City residents. Residents are able to collect up to two bags of compost at no cost. The compost material is created from food scraps, food-soiled paper, and yard trimmings that Livermore residents put in their Organics cart. Approximately 680 households participated at the 2017 event, which is almost a 15% increase compared to the previous year’s event. A total of 24 tons of compost was brought back to the Livermore community to close the composting loop. 	2015







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