



BEACON  
SPOTLIGHT  
AWARD  
WINNER  
BEST PRACTICE  
ACTIVITIES



# City of Malibu

## Sustainability Best Practice Activities





# City of Malibu

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

Areas of Accomplishment		SILVER LEVEL	GOLD LEVEL	PLATINUM LEVEL
	Agency GHG Reductions			
	Community GHG Reductions			
	Agency Energy Savings		2017 (14%)	
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities	2017	2018	2019
	Beacon Award			

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. Community Outreach: The city website and social media outlets regularly include information about environmental issues, including energy efficiency rebates and green building.

## Gold

2. Local Standards: The city had adopted its own local energy standards that require properties larger than average to use no more energy than a home of mean square footage in area, essentially exceeding the state's code for efficiency.
3. PACE: Malibu signed on to two PACE programs—HERO and Ygrene.

## Platinum

4. Educational Workshops and Outreach: The city has hosted free trainings to provide plans examiners and building inspectors with the knowledge and skills to more quickly and effectively enforce the 2016 Energy Code for residential projects. The city invited utility representatives to provide residents with information on utility programs. Other events include the senior wellness fair, Resilient Malibu workshop, and the Point Dume mobile home community association meeting.
5. Cool Roofs: The city brought an agenda item forward at city council to mandate cool roofs. The item did not pass, but staff was directed to develop a process to incentivize projects that incorporate a cool roof.
6. Collaboratives and Partnerships:
  - The city was a founder of the Malibu Area Conservation Coalition (MACC), which was an evolution from a water conservation partnership started in 2006 with its water wholesaler and retailer. Recognizing that wasting water leads to water pollution and wasted energy, the partnership was expanded to local utility companies.
  - The city has sent staff to the SEEC forum since 2017.
  - The city joined the West Side Energy Partnership and SoCalREN. Through the local government programs, Malibu is currently conducting a comparative energy analysis.





# Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities

## Platinum

7. HVAC Optimum Start/Stop Programming: After SoCalREN's 2018 energy audit, the city optimized the city hall HVAC system to ensure the unit is only in use during the day when the building is occupied. This improvement is estimated to save 11% of city hall's energy use and almost \$8,000 on utility bills annually.
8. Dark Skies: The city adopted a "dark skies" ordinance to regulate outdoor lighting standards into Title 17 of the Malibu Municipal Code. The ordinance is meant to preserve Malibu's rural character and quality of life, protect wildlife and habitats from light pollution, preserve enjoyment of night-time sky, and promote the city's goal of conserving energy and natural resources.
9. Benchmarking: Though none of the city's facilities meet the 50,000 square foot requirement, the city has benchmarked their energy usage, helping determine the highest energy users, both by building and sector. Tracking this data is an important first step. It allows for a better understanding of municipal operations and where energy saving opportunities may be found in the future.





# Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

## Silver

1. Paradise Cove Clean Ocean Project: The project was constructed to capture, clean, and disinfect up to one million gallons of stormwater and urban runoff per day from Ramirez Creek and the surrounding watershed. The project has three different filtration systems to remove trash, sediment, and bacteria from stormwater and urban runoff before any of it reaches the ocean.

## Gold

2. Wildlife Road Treatment and Outreach Project: The project included installation of a series of biofiltration swales and pre-manufactured stormwater biofiltration systems on Wildlife Road and Whitesands Place that intercept and treat stormwater runoff to protect the Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) 24, a state-designated critical coastal area with a rich biodiversity and fragile ecosystem.
3. Broad Beach Road Biofiltration Project: The project prevents dry weather flows and treats feasible volumes of wet-weather flows that might otherwise discharge to the ASBS. The project diverts dry-weather and stormwater runoff from nine storm drain inlets along a one-mile stretch of Broad Beach Rd. into a combined porous parking and engineered biofiltration system on the north shoulder. Runoff is treated through evapotranspiration and biofiltration.

## Platinum

4. Efficient Plumbing: As part of the city hall renovation, water efficient fixtures and automatic flush toilets were installed.
5. Keep it Clean, Malibu: As part of the Wildlife Road Project, the city developed a program and campaign to educate the community about ASBS 24. There is a prohibition on the discharge of any waste with a strict “only rain down the drain” policy. The campaign included storm drain art, PSAs, a community pledge, and collateral materials like hats and tattoos with the logos. Extensive outreach was also done to eliminate dry weather discharges and promote ocean friendly landscapes. The PSA videos won awards for best PSAs.
6. Clean Bay Certified Restaurants: Malibu has partnered with the Bay Foundation and other Santa Monica Bay cities to recognize businesses that integrate sustainability and ocean-mindedness into their business practices. Staff inspects and certifies restaurants each year.





# Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

## Platinum

7. **Waived Permit Fees:** To promote legal and safe greywater reuse, the city waives the permit and plan review fees for laundry to landscape greywater systems.
8. **Malibu Smart:** The City of Malibu, LA County Waterworks District 29, and West Basin have partnered on the Malibu Smart campaign, the Prop 84 funded comprehensive water conservation program. The goal of Malibu Smart is to empower residents and businesses to save 28 million gallons of water annually through enhanced rebates for water-saving technologies, a water conservation concierge service, free water audits, \$5 turf replacement rebates, and rainwater, greywater, and firescaping workshops.
9. **Waste Treatment Facility:** The Civic Center Wastewater Improvement Project is part of the city's Integrated Water Quality Management Plan that is improving water quality in Malibu Creek, Malibu Lagoon, and Surfrider Beach. The facility collects wastewater for treatment and provides approximately 70 million gallons of recycled water each year for reuse.
10. **One Water Malibu:** This campaign promoted a holistic approach to water quality and conservation. It included development of a logo, water conservation video series during the recent drought featuring community members, educational banners promoting sustainable landscaping styles, and the Malibu One Water festival. The logos were used to brand a series of stormwater brochures in 2017 to outline best management practices for property owners and residents, horse owners, landscapers, and maintenance workers.







# Green Building Activities

## Silver

1. City Hall Renovation: The city incorporated green building elements into the renovation of city hall. Elements included: recycled content materials like counter tops with recycled glass; recycled content carpet squares that could be replaced in modular areas; purchasing used office furniture and work stations from a California-based office.

## Gold

2. Water Bottle Filling Stations: In partnership with West Basin Municipal Water District, the city installed two water bottle filling stations at city hall to reduce the use of single-use water bottles and encourage citizens to make the switch to reusable goods. As of April 2018, the filling stations have kept over 21,500 plastic water bottles out of the landfill.
3. Construction & Demolition (C&D) Debris Recycling Program: The city implements a C&D recycling program for public and private projects within Malibu city limits and requires C&D project managers to recycle or reuse a minimum 65% of the waste generated.

## Platinum

4. Parks and Facilities Water Conservation Plan: The plan reflects the city's commitment to water conservation by establishing water use guidelines based on drought conditions and community priorities. The plan also requires future projects to include landscaping that adheres to the use of native plants and drought-tolerant landscapes as part of all new city projects.
5. West Side Energy Partnership: The city passed a resolution to join the West Side Energy Partnership. Through involvement in the partnership, the city will receive enhanced utility incentives and rebates and will gain assistance in determining and tracking energy efficiency projects in city facilities.
6. Resilient Malibu Workshops: As part of the city's efforts to offer support and resources to residents impacted by the Woolsey fire, and to help develop a more resilient community, the city created a series of free "Resilient Malibu" workshops. The workshops highlight topics such as increasing fire resiliency in building design, fire-conscious landscaping, community emergency preparedness, and more.
7. SoCalREN: The city enrolled in SoCalREN, which provides the city with turnkey solutions and a range of technical services to fit specific project needs.





# Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

## Silver

1. Household Hazardous Waste Events: Recycling events are held bi-monthly at city hall, and events in neighboring communities are also promoted.

## Gold

2. Dual Recycling & Trash Containers: It is standard practice to ensure that there are dual containers in place in city facilities so that recycling and trash receptacles are adjacent to prevent contamination that occurs when a recycling container is not nearby.
3. Clearstream Recycling: Using city/county recycling grant funds from CalRecycle, the city purchased ClearStream Recycling system units and implemented a program to use them at city recreational facilities and events. The city also has a lending program for the units, and has provided sets to schools and Boys & Girls Club for their permanent use for events on school grounds.

## Platinum

4. Battery Recycling: An ongoing battery recycling program was launched at city hall with two collection containers readily available at all times.
5. Temporary Use and Special Event Permits: As part of facility rental agreements, events must recycle and may not use polystyrene foam foodware/packaging, plastic shopping bags, or decorate with balloons. In 2018, the city's temporary use permit was updated to prohibit the use of plastic cutlery, straws, and stirrers at city facilities. Special events with 2,000 attendees or greater are required to submit a Recycling & Disposal Plan and divert at least 50% of waste materials generated from the landfill.
6. Plastic Bans: Malibu has banned polystyrene foam, plastic bags, sandbags, straws, stirrers, and cutlery. The city has prohibited the distribution of single-use plastic shopping bags since 2008. In 2017, the city amended its polystyrene ban to include ice chests, meat trays, egg cartons, beach toys, buoys, and navigational markers. In 2018, Malibu became the first city to ban plastic and bioplastic single-use plastic straws, stirrers, and cutlery in retail stores and restaurants.
7. Waste to Waves: Every year, the city partners with Sustainable Surf to host at least two month long expanded Polystyrene foam recycling events. The material is then repurposed into such products as recycled content surf board blanks.





# Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

## Silver

1. Environmentally Preferable Purchases Policy and Recycled Content Products Policy: These policies established the city's stance to use environmentally-friendly and recycled products. The practices in both policies are currently undergoing review for improvement.

## Gold

2. Universal Wastes Policy: This policy set up a process to reduce batteries generated at city hall by purchasing and encouraging the use of rechargeable batteries by staff.
3. Sustainable City Practices: The city launched new waste reduction programs at city hall for Earth Day by providing reusable foodware to staff, including: reusable metal cutlery, ceramic mugs, water cups, reusable straws, brushes, and holders.

## Platinum

4. Integrated Pest Management Policy (IPM): The city eliminated the use of all pesticides on city-owned parks, roads, and property, and removed traps. After a two-year pilot program, the city's long-term IPM Policy (renamed "Earth Friendly Management Policy") is going through the CEQA process.
5. Staff Sustainability Committee: The committee meets every month to discuss the city and its employees' climate-friendly practices/purchasing and strategies for improvement. Discussion topics include a carpool challenge, zero waste city hall, and the environmentally preferable purchasing policy update.
6. LED Lamp Replacement: Maintenance staff at city hall replaces burnt out fluorescent lamps as needed with LED lamps.
7. Sustainable Giveaways: The city purchases and provides reusable giveaways, such as stainless steel straws with straw cleaners and travel utensil sets to the public during outreach/community events. These sustainable giveaways encourage reuse and waste reduction.





# Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

## Silver

1. Electric Vehicle Charging: The city installed three EV charging stations in the Civic Center area and is installing eight more throughout the city.

## Gold

2. Green Fleet: Most of the city's vehicle fleet are hybrids. City council directed staff to develop a plan to transition to an all-electric vehicle fleet by 2020, replacing vehicles with mileage over 75,000 with an EV, and replacing trucks with hybrid or diesel-powered trucks in the absence of an electric equivalent.
3. Clean Power Alliance: The city joined the Clean Power Alliance (CPA) of Southern California in 2017. The alliance is a coalition of cities that have come together to purchase electricity in the wholesale power market, and sell it to their residents and businesses at competitive rates. The CPA intends to purchase cleaner and more renewable electricity and offer it to customers at a cost that is less than Southern California Edison.

## Platinum

4. Solar Carport Design: The new solar power system would provide city hall with clean renewable energy that would help make it a zero net energy building. The city has completed the final design for five solar panel carport structures and EV charging stations.
5. PACE Financing: Malibu signed on to two PACE programs—HERO and Ygrene to help residents finance projects for renewable energy, energy and water efficiency improvements, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
6. Opting to 100% Renewable Electricity for Municipal Accounts: During FY 19/20 proposed budget meeting, city council directed staff to add funding for the city to opt-up its municipal accounts from 50% renewable electricity to 100% renewable electricity through its participation in the CPA. The final budget was approved on June 24, 2019.





# Efficient Transportation Activities

## Silver

1. Grants: The city regularly competes for grant funding to improve traffic safety. Many projects have been awarded and completed to date.

## Gold

2. Cross Creek Road Improvements: To provide traffic calming features that improve safety for pedestrians and motorists, improve street drainage, and provide an aesthetically pleasing streetscape for the Cross Creek Road commercial area, decorative sidewalks, crosswalks and parking areas, landscaping, sidewalk furniture, storm drains, and street pavement were installed. Environmental components of the project included porous sidewalks and parking areas, drought-tolerant landscaping, and the installation of recycled water piping and irrigation systems.
3. Safe Routes to School: To provide safe walking paths for kids in previously unpaved roadway shoulders, the city installed decomposed granite walkways along prime corridors used to walk to schools.

## Platinum

4. Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) Bike Route Improvement: The city partnered with other local cities to identify potential areas to improve bike safety. The project was completed in 2015 and included striping and signage upgrades installed across seven miles of PCH, as well as shoulder and intersection improvements.
5. PCH Bus Stop Improvements: Improvements promoting safety and accessibility for transit riders, and improving traffic flow for all modes of travel were made at 11 bus stops, 10 of which are located on PCH. The improvements included constructing sidewalks, curbs and gutters, curb ramps, asphalt concrete work, signage, traffic striping, and relocation of bus benches.
6. Bus Shelters Installation: In partnership with Metro, three bus shelters were installed at the city's highest volume transit stops to increase visibility and enhance ridership experience, with the goal of encouraging public transit ridership.
7. La Costa Pedestrian Improvements: The project will improve and upgrade the existing marked crosswalk in the La Costa Beach area by installing a pedestrian activated traffic signal.





# Land Use and Community Design Activities

## Silver

1. PCH Safety Study: In collaboration with SCAG, the city conducted a safety study to examine current road conditions, determine accident patterns, assess traffic conflicts, and develop strategies to improve safety on PCH in Malibu for bicyclists, pedestrians, transit riders, and motorists. As a result of the study, the city is in the process of installing communication to establish signal synchronization on a portion of PCH.

## Gold

2. Beachfront Standards: Policies are in place to maximize public access to and along the coast. This maximizes public recreational opportunities in the coastal zone consistent with sound resource conservation principles and constitutionally protected rights of property owners. The City of Malibu General Plan and Land Use Plan include implementation measures and policies that prohibit development on bluff faces, require development to be sited outside of bluff retreat and set back from the edge of the bluff to avoid and minimize visual impacts, and to preserve the views of the pacific ocean, offshore islands, the Santa Monica mountains, canyons, valleys, and/or ravines.
3. Trancas Canyon Park: The project included multi-purpose turf fields for non-scheduled activities, an off-leash dog park and a playground integrating recycled content materials and furnishings.

## Platinum

4. Formula Retail Ordinance: The ordinance limits the amount of chain stores and requires distinct, non-chain stores to populate the centers, consistent with the community character and to avoid aesthetic effect of proliferation. The ordinance supports the objectives and policies of the General Plan intended to preserve and enhance the city's unique, small-town feel, commercial character, and the needs of its visitors and residents.
5. Citywide View Preservation and Restoration: This ordinance provides procedures for the residents of Malibu to work with their neighbors to "preserve" or "restore" a primary view.
6. Land Acquisition: The city purchased a total of 29.24 acres of open space for the community's future use and benefit.





# Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

## Silver

1. Las Flores Creek Restoration & Park Project: The project restored the creek and preserved the natural area, created a new public park, and helped prevent future flooding. Phase 1 included most of the park construction and major repairs to restore Las Flores Creek including walking trails, picnic areas, preservation and naturalization work on Las Flores Creek through planting of over 45 varieties of native plant species, and installation of interpretive signage. Phase II consisted of improvements to provide additional park amenities, greater ease of access, and increased safety for park visitors and adjacent neighborhoods, including a foot bridge, restrooms, and emergency services storage.

## Gold

2. Legacy Park: The creation of Legacy Park also restored and developed important native coastal habitats, while creating open space for passive recreation and environmental education. It offers a living learning center, informational kiosks, an outdoor classroom, a cultural interpretive center, and numerous other features to provide information and education about flora and fauna along the Southern California coast. Referred to as an environmental cleaning machine, Legacy Park can capture up to 2.6 million gallons per day of stormwater and urban runoff for treatment and disinfection. The clean water is then reused for irrigation of the park.
3. Solstice Creek Bridge Replacement: This project included the demolition, removal, and replacement of the old concrete bridge located on Corral Canyon Rd. just north of PCH to remove barriers that prevent fish passage. It improved the potential for migration of steelhead trout into the riparian habitat of the Solstice Canyon Creek Watershed. Additional work included road improvements, riparian re-vegetation, landscaping, and irrigation work.

## Platinum

4. Bluffs Park Ocean Friendly Demonstration Garden: Installed at prominent Bluffs Park, it was constructed to allow people to see ocean-friendly garden conservation principles in action and to encourage residents to practice them in their own yards. The project was funded through a State Water Resources Control Board grant with contributions from the City of Malibu, West Basin Municipal Water District, Los Angeles County Waterworks District 29, and the generous support of materials and services from the community.





## Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

### Platinum

5. Living Shoreline Project: The city is working with the Bay Foundation, CA Coastal Conservancy, and LA County Beaches and Harbors to restore three acres of sandy beach and dune habitat at Zuma Beach and Point Dume Beach. The projects aim to achieve the following three goals: increase the resiliency of the shoreline through the restoration of sandy beach and dune habitat, implement “soft-scape” protection measures against sea level rise and coastal storms, and increase engagement of the community through enhanced beach experiences, outreach, and education.
6. Future Park & Ride: The city purchased a total of 29.24 acres of open space, of which 4.1 acres of land was purchased with transportation dollars intended for park and ride lots along an existing Metro transit route.







# Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

## Silver

1. Community Outreach: The city uses its website and social media outlets to inform the community about sustainable and environmentally themed events in the area.

## Gold

2. Day without a Bag: As an early adopter of a plastic shopping bag ban, the city offered reusable bags to the community regularly at events, in particular the annual Day Without a Bag, in partnership with Heal the Bay.
3. Engaging Kids: The city takes opportunities to engage and work with kids and young adults on community programs. Some examples are giving talks at elementary schools, having kids volunteer at events, Pepperdine University business student environmental projects, promoting a water-themed educational and art competition, and inviting the DiscoveryCube to provide water conservation assemblies for 5th grade students.

## Platinum

4. One Water—Bottle Filling Station Promotion: Launched in partnership with West Basin Municipal Water District, community members are encouraged to come to city hall and use the new water bottle filling stations, which feature a digital display tracking the number of plastic bottles saved/not used. In return, they receive a special cup with reusable straw if they post the photo to social media of themselves using the station and tagging it #OneWaterMalibu.
5. Plastic Straws, Cutlery, and Stirrers Ban Outreach: To promote the city's new plastic ban, staff delivered a box of environmentally safe paper straws to each local food service business, samples of compostable cutlery, and plastic-free guidelines for reusable and disposable straw, cutlery, and stirrer alternatives. People that posted a photo to social media and tagged #StrawlessOcean received a reusable stainless steel straw and brush.
6. Water Conservation Assemblies: The city partnered with Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District and the City of Santa Monica to bring water conservation assemblies to 5th grade students at Malibu's three elementary schools. After each assembly, the students receive a reusable water conservation bag filled with a resource booklet, flow measure bag, five-minute shower timer, and toilet leak detector.









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