



City of Piedmont

Sustainability Best Practice Activities



City of Piedmont

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		2021 (12%)	
	Community GHG Reductions			2021 (30%)
	Agency Energy Savings			
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities			2022
	Beacon Vanguard 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.



Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities

Silver

1. Piedmont city council adopted electrification reach codes in February 2021, which apply to new and existing residential buildings. The reach code is designed to reduce natural gas use in residential buildings. Learn more here: https://piedmont.ca.gov/services_departments/planning_building/about_building/reach_code_information

Gold

2. The city council adopted a Home Energy Assessment Policy in February 2021, which requires each person who sells or transfers interest in real property in Piedmont to provide a Home Energy Score or a Home Energy Audit prepared in the past five years to potential buyers and the city's Planning & Building Department, in addition to all other disclosure documents. Learn more here: https://piedmont.ca.gov/services_departments/planning_building/about_building/reach_code_information
3. In July 2020, the city council adopted a policy requiring an energy assessment to be conducted and submitted for projects, which require design review permits and which may have an energy impact. This policy is intended to enable the property owner to make knowledgeable decisions on how best to incorporate measures into their construction project that reduce energy consumption, increase comfort in the home, improve air quality, and reduce the building's GHG emissions.

Platinum

4. To continue to raise awareness and understanding of the adopted reach codes and home energy policy assessment, city staff are providing educational materials about the policies to contractors, developers, realtors, and residents. This includes outreach through social media, local newspapers, and updates to the city's Reach Codes Information website page, along with responding to numerous questions from the public via email. Staff will work closely with BayREN and StopWaste to continue education efforts and promote opportunities for contractors to choose electric alternatives.
5. The city launched a free induction cooktop lending program for residents. Learn more here: https://piedmont.ca.gov/services_departments/planning_building/about_building/cooktop_lending_program
6. In June 2021, the city's reach code went into effect. Piedmont's reach code is one of few in the state that address both new construction and existing building renovations. To ensure successful implementation of the





Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

Silver

1. City staff, in coordination with the city's maintenance contractor, are evaluating where the city can reduce water consumption and reduce demand in our municipal landscapes. The maintenance team is focusing on maintaining healthy soil profiles and mulch layers, using drought tolerant and native plants for any new installations and monitoring our irrigation systems in the field and online using the EBMUD website.

Gold

2. The city will be holding an informational event focused on promoting water conservation resources to the public later this fall in partnership with local community groups. The event is called Living with Drought and will feature various agencies (e.g., EBMUD, StopWaste) demonstrating and providing tools and techniques residents can utilize to conserve water.
3. The city has had an Integrated Pest Management Policy in place for over 10 years, which seeks to implement effective and appropriate pest management programs throughout the community, which minimize and/or eliminates the use of pesticides.

Platinum

4. The city is reducing water use in its parks through the use of smart water meters and a focus on planting natives/drought tolerant landscaping.
5. The city has been sharing updates on the drought and water conservation tips on a regular basis in public forums including monthly Park Commission meetings. As a highly residential city, staff have focused on the promotion and dissemination of EBMUD, StopWaste, and Bay Friendly Landscaping resources for residents to utilize and reference at the household level.
6. The city is reviewing its Draft Green Infrastructure Plan to prioritize opportunities for green infrastructure





Green Building Activities

Silver

1. Projects required by the California Green Building Standards Code or having a building permit valuation greater than or equal to \$50,000 are required to divert at least 65% of the debris generated by the project from going to a landfill. This includes all construction, demolition and/or renovation projects within the city. Although not required, the city encourages projects with a valuation of less than \$50,000 to recycle at least 65% of the debris generated.

Gold

2. Piedmont city council adopted electrification reach codes in February 2021, which apply to new and existing residential buildings. The reach code is designed to reduce natural gas use in residential buildings. Learn more here: https://piedmont.ca.gov/services_departments/planning_building/about_building/reach_code_information
3. The city uses organic compost and mulch in its 44 acres of city-owned property.

Platinum

4. The city incentivizes solar photovoltaic systems by having a flat fee for permits, rather than the project cost based fee of a general building permit. This includes a streamlined permitting process. Similarly, the city incentivizes electric vehicle adoption by having a streamlined permitting process for electric vehicle charging.
5. In April 2022, City Council directed staff to design the City's new Community Aquatic Facility to be an all-electric facility. The entire facility will be electrified through a combination of electric heat pumps, photovoltaic/thermal (PVT) panels, and integration with the clean electrical grid. Piedmont will be one of the first cities in California to support heating large commercial pools with electricity. This project represents a market transformation model for the rest of the state and beyond. The accompanying pool facility will be the city's first LEED Certified Building.
6. In May 2022, the city completed a project to replace all remaining gas-powered water heaters at city facilities with electric heat pump water heaters (HPWH). The city participated in Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) Government and K-12 Schools Program as administered by Willdan Energy Solutions. The program is designed to support and incentivize local government, educational, and federal agency efforts to improve the energy efficiency of their buildings while reducing ongoing operational and maintenance costs. The City of Piedmont benefited from this program through the installation of 6 HPWHs at 5 sites in the city. This project will result in 32.4 metric tons of CO2 equivalent (6122 gas therm) savings.





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

Silver

1. The city is currently updating its Environmental Preferable Purchasing Policy that was adopted in 2008 to include more stringent requirements for recycled paper content and materials.

Gold

2. The city's diversion rate in 2020 was 75%, and staff are educating the public on ways to increase this rate further in goals of zero waste.
3. The city initiated a Trash Ambassador Program, which allows high school students to monitor trash bin compliance and proper sorting at events and during school lunch days.

Platinum

4. The city created a Green Event Guide to assist event organizers in making sustainable choices by directing them to resources that are compatible with the city's recycling and composting program.
5. The city hosts bi-monthly compost giveaway events available to residents for free. Since September 2021, the city has held 6 giveaway events and distributed over 85 cubic yards of compost to hundreds of residents. The city is also working with its waste hauler and regional partners such as StopWaste to find opportunities to increase procurement of organic materials and diversion rate. In addition, staff organized local high school and middle school volunteers to assist with waste management reduction efforts at several public events, including the Harvest Festival and Turkey Trot in 2021. The 'Waste Ambassadors' help educate event attendees about proper sorting of materials and promote the City's waste reduction and outreach program, Piedmont Evergreen.
6. The city offers free kitchen food waste pails and biobags to residents to collect food scraps for composting. In the last six months, nearly 50 residents have picked up a new pail and accompanying biobags. The city's





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

Silver

1. The city is currently updating its Environmental Preferable Purchasing Policy that was adopted in 2008 to include more stringent requirements for recycled paper content and materials.

Gold

2. The city attempts to use only compostable materials at events and maintains and distributes an Green Event Guide.
3. The city attempts to procure locally produced goods from local vendors for events.

Platinum

4. The city makes bulk purchases for its recycled paper product ordering.
5. To help inform the Sustainable Procurement Policy (formerly known as the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy) policy update, staff worked with regional partners to ensure current and best practices were being utilized. The city's Sustainability Division held several trainings with city staff members with to inform them of the new policies and create a system for centralized recordkeeping. This has entailed the creation of key department purchasers who will lead their respective departments in making sustainable procurement decisions. Staff also created an internal sustainable procurement implementation guide to accompany the updated Procurement Policy and assist staff with procurement decisions.
6. In 2021, the City adopted a policy to prohibit the purchase, acquisition, distribution, or issuing of a permit for





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

Silver

1. The city has the highest rate of enrollment in 100% renewable electricity in Alameda County, with 93% of residential customers enrolled in East Bay Community Energy's 100% renewable service plan.

Gold

2. The city is in initial stages of developing a fleet electrification study.
3. The city is working in coordination with East Bay Community Energy to install publicly accessible DC fast electric vehicle charging stations.

Platinum

4. The city is supporting the local school district on a project to install solar photovoltaics on school facilities.
5. The city is currently working with East Bay Community Energy (EBCE), the City's local community choice aggregator, to install 4 publicly accessible DC Fast Chargers in the Civic Center. These will be the first publicly available EV chargers in the city. The city's Sustainability Division actively applied for EV infrastructure funding (e.g., CALEVIP) and held informational sessions to the public about EV funding opportunities and ways to increase EV adoption.
6. Since 2001, Piedmont has had over 550 solar installation projects to-date, a notable figure considering there are only about 4000 housing units within the city.





Efficient Transportation Activities

Silver

1. The city has short and long range community transportation goals: 50% electric vehicle adoption by 2030 and 100% by 2050.

Gold

2. The city is currently updating its Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan which includes a Safe Route to Schools component.
3. The city promotes Bike to Work Day.

Platinum

4. The city is exploring the installation of a bike sharing station that would serve the greater community and build out active transportation infrastructure.
5. The city provides information and participates in programs such as Spare the Air and Bike Month events like Bike to Work Days that help employees use climate friendly commute alternatives.
6. As part of the implementation of the recently updated Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, the city is designating key streets as shared bike routes to increase local trips made by bikes.
7. The city is part of Alameda County Transportation Commission, the county's transportation commission that works to expand access and improve mobility. The city also follows the Complete Streets Policy set by the MTC, which requires projects to consider the accommodation of people who walk, bike, and roll.





Land Use and Community Design Activities

Silver

1. The city's General Plan integrates land-use diversity.

Gold

2. The city is supporting the school district on the installation of electric vehicle charging stations.
3. The city is updating its housing element to include additional mixed-development units.

Platinum

4. The city is currently updating its Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan.
5. The city is currently working on its Draft Housing Element with sustainability elements as a central tenant to the plan. The city's Home website is a clearinghouse for information about new housing policy in Piedmont and Housing Element project updates, as well as interactive ways to participate in the public engagement for these city initiatives.
6. In 2019, the city adopted its first Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). The LHMP represents the City's commitment to mitigate and reduce the impacts of natural hazards to the citizens, property, and critical infrastructure in the City.





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

Silver

1. The city maintains an extensive urban forest and is a member of Tree City USA and annual Arbor Day celebrations.

Gold

2. The City of Piedmont is making near-term progress to implement Green Infrastructure (GI) in the city. Water conservation and storm water management are important to both the CAP 2.0 and to Piedmont's GI Plan, which mandates storm water practices such as bioswales and rain gardens in certain development projects. Capturing and treating storm water runoff on-site through green infrastructure helps to reduce flow volumes and pollutant loads to downstream surface waters. All public works projects since 2019 have been evaluated for GI attributes.
3. As part of the city's General Plan, the Environmentally-Sensitive Park Design element guides parks, trails, and other recreational facilities in Piedmont's parks to be compatible with the natural environment, including habitat, views, and other environmental resources. New recreational buildings and other park structures and facilities should be sited in a way that minimizes their impacts on useable open space, avoids conflicts with existing park activities, and is compatible with the natural setting. Park design should also be compatible with city policies to reduce fuel loads and wildfire hazards

Platinum

4. The city's Sustainability Division along with the Parks Division are collaborating to create a Sustainable Parks Strategy that will outline strategies and best practices to ensure the city's parks and public spaces are prepared, maintained, and preserved to address the myriad of impacts of climate change. Concurrently, the city actively works to maintain and improve its urban forest to support local insects, butterflies, bees, birds, and mammals and that can thrive in a changing climate.
5. The city completed a street tree inventory to inform the planting and maintenance of its healthy urban forest.
6. The city is incrementally replacing all city waste bins in parks and public spaces to ensure consistency with bin sizing and coloring across the city.





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

Silver

1. The city continued to conduct CAP 2.0 community engagement and education events during the pandemic. Given pandemic restrictions, these engagement and educational events have been focused in virtual formats and print materials. This has included the formation of a weekly feature in the Piedmont Post, the 'Climate Corner', focused on raising awareness of CAP 2.0 actions and issues, as well as partnering with Piedmont Connect on movie screenings and FAQs. The city also maintains a webpage to keep residents up to date on the CAP and what measures city staff are undertaking.

Gold

2. The Piedmont Climate Challenge is an online GHG tracking platform where residents can log and track any actions they take to reduce GHG emissions in their lives. This platform was first used in late 2019. We recently completed our second full cycle of the Climate Challenge, and over 320 users have participated so far. This is a great way to have the community reflect on emissions and work to take action to reduce them.
3. Piedmont Connect is a not for profit collaborative community organization supporting resident initiatives and City efforts to build a sustainable future. Piedmont Connect has partnered with the city on several recent efforts, including Earth Day celebrations, an educational movie screening, the Piedmont Climate Challenge, and bolstering community support for the Reach Codes. Piedmont Connect maintains an active newsletter and has been instrumental in ongoing sustainability outreach, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. City staff meets with Piedmont Connect monthly to collaborate on projects and work towards a more environmentally-friendly future.

Platinum

4. The city actively promotes its community climate challenge platform, which seeks individual action to address climate change. Since the beginning of 2022, the city's Sustainability Division has presented climate action informational sessions to the middle school Green Club and the high school Green Club. The city regularly updates its website to include the latest sustainability information and updates, sends monthly electronic newsletters containing sustainability updates, and hosts a weekly column in the local newspaper named the Climate Corner. The city also regularly collaborates with local groups such as Piedmont Connect and the League of Women Voters.



Platinum

5. The city's Sustainability Division organizes and participates in various community events throughout the year. In the past year this has included tabling at the city's annual Harvest Festival, Turkey Trot, Elementary School Spring Fair, and Independence Day celebrations to promote and encourage best practices in sustainability. Additional events and workshops organized by the city have included a water-conservation workshop, an electric vehicle charging station town hall, and a building electrification community forum.
6. In 2022, Piedmont's Planning and Building Department launched its first city-wide Sustainability Awards, as part of an expansion of its annual Design Award Program. The Program recognizes Piedmont property owners who have done an extraordinary job of planning and designing their construction and landscaping projects. The Sustainability Awards featured property owners showcasing green infrastructure and outstanding sustainable design in solar roofing.





© 2022 by Institute for Local Government
1400 K Street, Suite 205
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-658-8208
www.ca-ilg.org

