

BEACON



SPOTLIGHT
AWARD

WINNER

BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of Richmond

Sustainability Best Practice Activities



INSTITUTE FOR
LOCAL GOVERNMENTSM







Promoting Good Government at the Local Level

City of Richmond

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		2017 (13%)	
	Agency Energy Savings		2016 (14%)	
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities	2016		2017
	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. The City of Richmond adopted two residential Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs, HERO and CaliforniaFIRST. CaliforniaFIRST has approved a total of 114 projects. Richmond residents have completed 27 projects utilizing \$546,000 of HERO Program financing, with a total economic impact of \$945,000.

Gold

2. For 7 weeks each summer, the City of Richmond partners with Rising Sun Energy Center to employ youth between ages of 15 and 22 to serve communities with Green House Calls through the California Youth Energy Services (CYES) Program. At Green House Calls, they perform energy assessments, install free energy-and-water savings equipment, and provide personalized recommendations to residents to further savings. Since 2009, CYES has employed 93 Richmond youth, who have served 2,216 homes in their community. Since 2010, those Green House Calls have saved 424,651 kWh and 3,261 gallons per minute of water.
3. Through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, the City of Richmond offered the Richmond Recovery Rebates (R3) Program, which funded home energy efficiency upgrades for Richmond homeowners. Homeowners were eligible to receive up to \$9,250 from various Energy Update California Programs to increase their home's energy efficiency.

Platinum





Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

Silver

1. Richmond's city hall reduced water consumption by 46% compared to before through the installation of low-flow fixtures for sinks, showerheads, waterless urinals, and dual-flush toilets.

Gold

2. The city uses 59% less water in its landscape plan than that of the previous city hall. Water-intensive turf areas were replaced with drought-tolerant plants.
3. The city constructed bioswales to remove sediment from surface runoff water.

Platinum





Green Building Activities

Silver

1. In 2007, the city adopted a Municipal Green Building Ordinance that mandates the incorporation of green building measures in city construction projects. The ordinance applies to all city projects with more than 5,000 square feet of conditioned floor, as well as projects undertaken by other that received more than \$300,000 of aid from the city.

Gold

2. The City of Richmond held workshops to prepare local contractors for the implementation of the Green Building Ordinance intended to increase energy efficiency of residential and commercial structures. The main purpose of the workshops are to enroll residents in Energy Upgrade California or GRID Alternatives SASH Program.
3. The Mathieu Court Alley Greening Project celebrated its ribbon cutting in April 2016 and has been open for use for residents and pedestrians. The 16,000 square foot alley was repaved, narrowed from a two-way alley to one-way, and is designed to incorporate community gardens for area residents and pedestrians passing through. Incorporating bioswales and/or rain gardens and native planting, the project will mimic natural systems that clean and filter stormwater and create habitat for native birds and beneficial insects. The alley way is intended to create a new community green space with tree canopies and spaces for people to sit and enjoy their surroundings. Opportunities for community gardens and edible landscape will also create a source of fresh produce in a "food desert" neighborhood. Limiting vehicle access will allow for more shared use of the entire space with opportunities for children to play safely as well as providing a safe route of travel.

Platinum





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

Silver

1. The City of Richmond passed a Food Ware Ordinance in July 2013 that prohibits the distribution of polystyrene foam food ware by restaurants and other food providers. On January 1, 2014, the city expanded the ordinance to a) prohibit the retail sale of polystyrene foam products, including cups, bowls, and coolers, and b) call for a fine to business owners in violation of the ordinance following a warning.

Gold

2. On July 16, 2013, the City of Richmond adopted a Single-Use Bag Ordinance that prohibits the distribution of single-use plastic bags in retail establishments at the point of sale, except restaurants and take-out food establishments.
3. The City of Richmond partnered with RecycleMore to offer a comprehensive School Recycling and Classroom Education Program in West Contra Costa County schools. The program included field trips, papermaking and composting workshops, and assistance in establishing on-site recycling programs.

Platinum

4. The City of Richmond is partnering with Richmond Sanitary Service to offer a free Curbside Compost Program at no cost to businesses.





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

Silver

1. In 2008, the city purchased a fuel-efficient motorcycle fleet for the police department.

Gold

2. The city purchases certified sustainable wood that is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council.
3. In 2009, the City of Richmond adopted an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy to direct the city's effort in procuring environmentally preferable products and services.

Platinum

4. The city purchases paper with recycled content.
5. The city purchases energy efficient appliances.
6. The city uses green cleaning products.





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

Silver

1. The City of Richmond is collaborating with GRID Alternatives to provide free solar systems for income-qualifying homes in Richmond and North Richmond. To date, the partnership has serviced over 150 homes and is expected to provide more than \$2.5 million in energy cost savings for families over the solar systems' lifetimes. The initiative will also provide more than 15,000 hours of job skills-building in solar installation for community volunteers and job trainees.

Gold

2. The City of Richmond installed solar photovoltaics on the roof of city hall and the auditorium, which jointly provide 15% of the civic center's electricity demand, or 175,800 kWh per year. The combined arrays provide 131 kW (DC) of power.
3. In 2012, the City of Richmond joined MCE, a Community Choice Aggregation Program.

Platinum





Efficient Transportation Activities

Silver

1. In December 2009, the City of Richmond passed a Commuter Benefits Ordinance, which encourages commuters to decrease single-occupancy vehicle trips to worksites.

Gold

2. The city dedicates some parking spaces to low-emitting and fuel-efficient vehicles. There are a total of eight parking spaces at city hall devoted to low-emitting fuel-efficient vehicles.
3. The City of Richmond encourages the use of climate-friendly fuel and vehicles by participating in "Drive Electric Week." The 2015 week of events featured test drives of electric vehicles, meet-and-greets with automotive industry employees, and testimonial information sessions from current electric vehicle owners.

Platinum

4. There are continual efforts to install bicycle parking racks throughout the city to encourage low impact modes of transportation. The city's newly formed Transportation Department will commence this initiative in FY 2016/17. The Commuter Benefit Ordinance also regulates local businesses providing low-impact transit options such as installing bicycle racks, participating in bicycle share, shuttle service, and carshare.





Land Use and Community Design Activities

Silver

1. The City of Richmond uses concrete pavers, decomposed granite and light-colored concrete to reduce the heat island effect created primarily by darker surfaces.

Gold

2. In February 2015, the city prepared a final draft of the Richmond Livable Corridors Form-Based Code (FBC) for three major commercial corridors. The corridors are also located in priority development areas which are designated for growth new public transit. The FBC focuses on creating, revitalizing and preserving vibrant, walkable, urban places through the use of physical form rather than land use. It emphasizes the use of sustainability and public health indicators in order to maximize environmental and public health benefits.
3. The FBC and zoning update are being designed to remove barriers for infill development by providing flexibility in meeting certain city standards. The city has an Inclusionary Housing Ordinance that requires new development with more than ten units to include affordable housing or pay an in-lieu fee.

Platinum

4. The city is in the process of completing its zoning update to include water-efficient landscaping requirements and storm water management. In addition, the Subdivision Ordinance update will include green infrastructure for streets. The city is also drafting an Urban Greening Master Plan to expand the city's tree canopy and green infrastructure





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

Silver

1. The City of Richmond has partnered with the volunteer organization Self-Sustaining Communities to secure donations of garden seeds and fruit trees. They will provide these to residents, community gardens, and community-based organizations free of charge. To date, the city has received donations of 4,400 trees and 4,500 seed packets.

Gold

2. The City of Richmond partners with the Watershed Project to protect the city's wetlands, marshlands, creek corridors and more. Richmond has 32 miles of shoreline, more than any other city in the Bay Area, and seeks to maintain every mile possible.
3. Richmond Main Street Initiative, a non-profit running Downtown Richmond's Business Improvement District, has hosted a weekly farmer's market since 2012. In October 2015, the City of Richmond hosted its first Food Day event in recognition of National Food Day.

Platinum

4. The city supports the Richmond-based non-profit, Urban Tilth which cultivates agriculture in West Contra Costa County to help the community build a more sustainable, healthy and just food system. Urban Tilth hires and trains residents to work with schools, community-based organizations, government agencies, businesses, and individuals to develop the capacity to produce 5% of our community's own food supply.
5. The City of Richmond updated their Tree Ordinance and completed an inventory of all city-owned trees, including street trees, park trees, and trees on city-owned property in 2013.
6. In 2006, the City of Richmond started construction of the Richmond Greenway, a multi-use trail that would provide a continuous pathway from Garrard Boulevard and the Richmond Parkway to San Pablo Avenue. The city adopted the Greenway as a public park in 2011. The Greenway links the San Francisco Bay Trail on the west to the Ohlone Greenway in the east





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

Silver

1. On April 9, 2016, the City of Richmond held a compost giveaway to residents. The city donated up to 2 cubic feet of compost per resident in order to support healthy food initiatives in the city.

Gold

2. The City of Richmond, the Watershed Project, and Supervisor Gioia's office are jointly organizing the 31st Annual Coastal Cleanup on September 19, 2016. The highest recorded number of volunteers at Coastal Cleanup Day in Richmond is 800 people, which was set in 2012. From 2012 to 2015, volunteers collected a total of nearly three tons of debris.
3. On April 23, 2007, the City of Richmond launched RichmondBUILD, a public-private partnership focused on developing talent and skill in the high-growth, high-wage construction and renewable energy fields. The RichmondBUILD Program recruits participants from low-income households and has a track record of placing graduates in well-paying jobs. The program has received recognition from a range of organizations, including UC Berkeley, the U.S. Green Building Council, the FBI, and Senator Barbara Boxer. Over the course of 10 years, about 5,000 members of Richmond community and neighboring cities have graduated from RichmondBUILD.

Platinum

4. In 2011, the City of Richmond, the Local Government Commission, and Pogo Park collaborated to prepare a Caltrans Environmental Justice Transportation Planning Grant proposal to fund the Yellow Brick Road Walkable Neighborhood Plan. In 2008, a group of teenagers conceived the Yellow Brick Road as a network of "safe, green and clean" pedestrian and cycling paths designated by brightly colored yellow bricks. The Yellow Brick Road Plan connects community-identified assets, such as schools, parks, and transit in the Iron Triangle neighborhood. The project brought together local residents, city staff, transportation planners and other professionals to develop a dynamic model of neighborhood planning that can be replicated in other neighborhoods in Richmond and elsewhere.





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