

BEACON



SPOTLIGHT  
AWARD

WINNER

BEST PRACTICE  
ACTIVITIES



# City of South San Francisco

## Sustainability Best Practice Activities


**INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT<sup>SM</sup>**  
*Promoting Good Government at the Local Level*



# City of South San Francisco

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		2016 (19%)	2017 (22%)
	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 replaced approximately 4,000 cobrahead high pressure sodium (HPS) streetlights to more energy efficient LEDs.

## Gold

2. In June, 2016, the city installed a high-efficiency turbo blower at the Water Quality Control Plan, which will save up to \$100,000 per year, and will help the environment by eliminating approximately 1,054 metric tons of CO2 greenhouse gas emissions annually, or the equivalent of removing 70 passengers from the roadways.
3. Installed an energy management system at the Municipal Services Building (MSB).

## Platinum

4. Replaced boilers at city facilities.
5. The city authorized the replacement of HVAC equipment at Grand Avenue Library, Fire Station 61, replace the condensing unit at the Main Library, and the heat tower at Magnolia Senior Center. These units are past their estimated useful life, and will be replaced by more efficient units.
6. In July 2016, city council approved Resolution 80-2016, authorizing a contract to completing an Energy Efficiency Plan for city facilities. The project will audit all city facilities, and create a plan to design and install energy efficiency measures. Energy efficiency projects at city facilities will save money on electrical costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and will contribute towards meeting the goals of the Climate Action Plan.





# Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

## Silver

1. The city is improving the irrigation infrastructure in city parks and civic landscaping. The project would identify and implement high-priority replacement of broken or inefficient irrigation equipment at various sites, specifically targeting obsolete irrigation controllers and inefficient spray heads, replacing them with “smart” or weather-based controllers and high-efficiency irrigation emitters and/or drip irrigation systems.

## Gold

2. In 2016, the city remodeled outdated restrooms at the Municipal Services Building with ADA accessible amenities, and water and energy saving fixtures.
3. The city was awarded a Silicon Valley Water Conservation award, having reduced more than half of municipal water use within two years (57% reduction since 2013), and was recognized for greenscape management efforts.

## Platinum

4. The city partnered with the Bay-Friendly Landscaping & Gardening Coalition to train Parks Division staff (in total 27 supervisory and maintenance personnel) focused on storm water management, soil health, irrigation, plant care, integrated pest management, and tree care.
5. The city is developing a Green Infrastructure Framework to prioritize and map project locations in the city where existing impervious surfaces can be replaced with permeable material.
6. The city is studying the financial viability and benefits of using recycled water within the sanitary sewer system, in order to reduce the demand of water from local wells and from the Hetch Hetchy reservoir. By using potable water for sewer cleaning, this will save roughly 6,000 gallons/day, approximately the amount of water used by 109 residents/day.





# Green Building Activities

## Silver

1. Coordinating with the San Francisco International Airport on the Aircraft Noise Insulation Program (ANIP), a program to insulate homes near the airport against noise, which also has the benefit of increasing energy efficiency of retrofitted homes by 30%.

## Gold

2. Miller Avenue Parking Structure (a new public parking garage) was constructed with sustainable building materials and contains other features, such as bike parking, geothermal wells for heating and cooling, energy efficient lighting and water-efficient landscaping.
3. The city requires new non-residential construction to comply with standards regarding green building and renewable energy sources either through on-site renewable energy, participation in a power purchase agreement, or complying with CALGreen Tier 2 energy efficiency requirements.

## Platinum

4. Staff is trained in green building standards and technologies, in order to support the permitting process for construction that incorporates green building elements.
5. Through CDBG funding, the city is partnering with El Concilio, a local non-profit organization, to provide minor home repairs for low-income households to make their home eligible for energy/weatherization improvements. This helps the households reduce water and energy usage, and also provides low-income homeowners a way to save money and have more control over their finances.
6. South San Francisco offers incentives for new or rehabilitated development that provides green building measures over and above the applicable green building compliance thresholds required pursuant to the city's Green Building Ordinance, in the form of an floor area ratio/density/height bonus.





# Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

## Silver

1. The City of South San Francisco publicizes and hosts e-waste recycling events on a regular basis, free of charge, to help residents safely dispose of unwanted electronic waste.

## Gold

2. The city has a Green Food Packaging Ordinance, which includes a ban on polystyrene packaging.
3. The city participates in a regional program to ban the use of single-use plastic bags.

## Platinum

4. Recycling and green waste facilities are available for all city residents/businesses.
5. The city has a Construction and Demolition Recycling Ordinance in place to reduce construction waste. The ordinance requires a Waste Management Plan that includes directing 100% of inert solids to reuse or recycling facilities approved by the city.
6. The city provides information and handouts about recycling and waste reduction on our website, and through handouts and resources at public buildings.







# Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

## Silver

1. The city promotes purchasing through local businesses and vendors when feasible, to reduce GHGs.

## Gold

2. The city requires consultant's documents to be submitted on recycled paper.
3. City council and planning commission agendas and staff reports are available online to reduce the amount of paper used to make copies.

## Platinum





# Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

## Silver

1. The city has joined the Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE) Program, which gives residents and businesses the option to purchase electricity from cleaner and renewable sources.

## Gold

2. The city provides information on our website and at the permit center about resources to install solar and other energy efficient systems.
3. The city has committed to be a partner with the San Mateo County Alternative Vehicle Community Partner Project, which is a project to accelerate the transition to alternative fuels in the county, and expanding the alternative fuel network and encouraging alternative fuel utilization.

## Platinum

4. The city has partnered with the HERO Program, CaliforniaFIRST and Figtree to offer Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and water conservation upgrades for all residential properties.





# Efficient Transportation Activities

## Silver

1. The city has adopted Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plans, which are being implemented on a citywide basis to improve bike and pedestrian infrastructure, and encourage these methods of transportation as alternatives to single-occupancy vehicles.

## Gold

2. South San Francisco participates in the Grand Boulevard Initiative, which supports work to make El Camino Real more friendly to the people who live and work along it. The initiative is focusing on creating people-friendly places through safer sidewalks and crosswalks, parks and green spaces, improved transportation options, and efficient and affordable development.
3. The South City Shuttle is a free shuttle around South San Francisco, with trips to local stores, the senior center, libraries, city hall and parks. The shuttle provides transit connections with SamTrans and BART. The shuttle won an "Excellence in Motion" award in 2016, and was recognized for providing transportation services to students, as well as to low-income and disabled residents, after a major bus route was eliminated.

## Platinum

4. South San Francisco is participating in a bike-share pilot program to encourage bicycle usage as an alternative to driving and to provide last-mile solutions for transit access.
5. In order to promote bicycling, the city has requirements for bicycle parking for multi-family residential, commercial and public land uses.
6. The City of South San Francisco is partnering with Scoop, a rideshare program focused on carpools for commuters.





# Land Use and Community Design Activities

## Silver

1. The city has recently entitled over 600 transit-oriented development units in close proximity (within a ½ mile radius) of the Caltrain station, within the Downtown Station Area Specific Plan. Additional development opportunity sites within the DSASP are currently in the entitlement process, or have been identified for future development.

## Gold

2. The city has recently put out a Request for Qualifications for a city-owned site within the El Camino Real – Chestnut Specific Plan area, proximate to the BART station. The site is envisioned as a transit-oriented, mixed-use site with a range of residential opportunities and commercial uses.
3. South San Francisco participates in a regional effort (RICAPS) to implement the city's Climate Action Plan and collaborate with other agencies on sustainability tools and practices.

## Platinum

4. South San Francisco is in the midst of a project to upgrade and reconfigure the Caltrain Station, creating a pedestrian plaza, linkages to downtown, and enhanced access for pedestrians, bicyclists, commuter shuttles, and public transit. Construction is anticipated to begin in the fall of 2017.
5. The city's Zoning Ordinance includes mechanisms and incentives to encourage walking, bicycling, and transit, instead of reliance on the single-occupancy vehicle in terms of density and FAR bonuses near transit, reduced parking requirements within transit station areas, and FAR bonuses for the provision of bicycle and pedestrian amenities.
6. South San Francisco is working on enhancing ferry service and encouraging transit-oriented development adjacent to the South San Francisco ferry terminal at Oyster Point.





# Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

## Silver

1. South San Francisco is designated as a Tree City USA community by the Arbor Day Foundation.

## Gold

2. South San Francisco has a Street Tree Ordinance that is designed to protect and preserve trees in the public right-of-way.
3. The City of South San Francisco has a community garden that is available for residents to cultivate, plant, and maintain a garden space within an urban environment.

## Platinum

4. The city hosts neighborhood clean-up and tree planting events as a way of beautifying the city and offsetting carbon emissions through the addition of trees.
5. The city has a recently adopted Parks and Recreation Master Plan that is a strategy to meet the open space and recreational needs of current and future city residents.
6. Tree planting resources and information is available on the city's website to encourage tree planting activities, and homeowners may request to have trees planted in front of their property.





# Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

## Silver

1. The city uses social media to inform the community about sustainable activities, such as ways to reduce water and energy usage, community choice aggregation stakeholder meetings, e-waste events, and other sustainability programs.

## Gold

2. South San Francisco hosts and publicizes e-waste recycling events on a regular basis, available to community residents.
3. South San Francisco is participating in a regional Community Choice Aggregation Program (Peninsula Clean Energy) to offer cleaner energy options at lower prices to city residents and businesses.

## Platinum

4. The city sponsored an art contest for elementary school students to showcase artwork about conserving water. The winning artwork was displayed at city hall.
5. The city distributes and publicizes maps showing the community's bicycle and pedestrian networks at city facilities and online to encourage residents and employees to walk and bike for health and environmental benefits.
6. The city hosts annual volunteer clean-up events for residents to join, including Arbor Day, Coastal Clean-up Day, and Centennial Trail clean-up.







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