

SILVER LEVEL AWARD WINNER

BEACON



City of Watsonville

Sustainability Best Practices Activities



ILG INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTSM
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 Program. The Beacon Program 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 Program 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			25%
	Agency Energy Savings		17%	
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities	2018		



Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. All city facilities within Watsonville have been audited to identify energy efficiency opportunities, as well as potential for renewable energy production.	2018

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All city facilities have been benchmarked using the Portfolio Manager tool. This allows city staff to track energy usage and track the impacts that retrofits and behavior change campaigns are having. 2. The City of Watsonville has been working with partners in order to access technical assistance and financial incentives, including facility audits, rebates, and on-bill financing. 	2018

Level	Energy Efficiency & Conservation Activities	Reported
Platinum	1.	





Water & Wastewater Systems Activity

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The Watsonville wastewater treatment plant produces recycled water, which is used to irrigate 2,000 acres of row crops (https://www.cityofwatsonville.org/812/Wastewater-Division)	2018

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Gold	1. The City of Watsonville provides detailed information to the community regarding water conservation on its website. This information includes water conservation tips, information on a lawn conversion rebate program, and information on rebates for the installation of water efficient equipment (https://www.cityofwatsonville.org/717/Business-Resident-Water-Conservation-Res)	2018

Level	Water and Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Platinum	1.	





Green Building Activity

Level	Green Building Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The City of Watsonville is implementing a green building program and information about green building is found on a dedicated page of the website (https://www.cityofwatsonville.org/1069/Green-Business-Program)	2018

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Gold	1. The City of Watsonville is part of the Hero Program, a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program, which allows community members to access loan funding to implement green building retrofits.	

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
Platinum	1.	





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activity

Level	Waste Reduction Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The City of Watsonville provides detailed recycling and organic recycling information to the community, which is available on the website (https://www.cityofwatsonville.org/1183/Recycling)	2018

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Gold	1.	2018

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Platinum	1.	2018





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activity

Level	Climate-Friendly Activity	Reported
Silver	1. As per the City of Watsonville Municipal Code (6-6.104), all city facilities must use biodegradable, compostable or recyclable food service ware. In addition: "City of Watsonville contractors, and special events promoters and vendors shall use biodegradable, compostable, or recyclable food service ware products while performing under a City of Watsonville contract or permit."	2018

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Gold		

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Platinum		





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activity

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Silver	1. In 2017, City of Watsonville joined the Monterey Bay Community Power (MBCP), a joint power authority working under the Community Choice Energy model. MBCP will provide the community with carbon free electricity beginning in spring 2018 (https://www.mbcommunitypower.org/)	2018

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Gold	1.	2018

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
Platinum	1.	





Efficient Transportation Activity

Level	Efficient Transportation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The City of Watsonville provides detailed information about the numerous recreation trails on the website. This information includes a detailed trail map as well as a promotional video (https://www.cityofwatsonville.org/1192/Watsonville-City-Trails)	2018

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The City of Watsonville works with local partners, such as the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Agency, to conduct studies and implement projects designed to decrease traffic and promote active transportation. 2. The City of Watsonville is part of AMBAG, the federally designated MPO for the Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties. The City of Watsonville uses the transportation model provided by AMBAG which includes different modes of transportation (bicycling, private vehicles, public transit; http://www.ambag.org/programs-services/modeling) 	2018

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Platinum	1.	2018





Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The Watsonville city council approved an expenditure plan in 2017 for seven transportation projects, which include the construction of a new bicycle lane as well as safety improvements for existing bike lanes.	2018

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Gold	1. The City of Watsonville is partnering with AMBAG to work on a Sustainable Communities Strategy, as part of SB 375 (http://www.ambag.org/programs-services/planning/metro-transport-plan)	2018

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Platinum	1.	





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Silver	1. The City of Watsonville adopted an urban green plan in 2006. Elements of this plan include providing information on sustainable landscaping best practices, an urban street trees program and a community gardens program (https://www.cityofwatsonville.org/774/Urban-Greening-Plan)	2018

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Gold	1.	2018

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Platinum	1.	





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Silver	1. The City of Watsonville provides the community with great information and exhibits on a wide variety of environmental topics, through the Nature Center (https://www.cityofwatsonville.org/684/Nature-Center)	2018

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The City of Watsonville works with partners to provide the community with webinars, seminars and trainings on a wide variety of sustainability topics, ranging from solar water heating, to energy auditing classes. 2. The City of Watsonville works with partners to provide the community with information and project assistance, to pursue energy efficiency opportunities. 	2018

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Platinum	1.	





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