

GOLD LEVEL AWARD WINNER

BEACON  
SPOTLIGHT  
AWARD  
WINNER  
BEST PRACTICE  
ACTIVITIES



# City of Burlingame

Sustainability Best Practices Activities



**ILG** INSTITUTE FOR  
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*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 customers 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	9% Reduction		
	Community GHG Reductions	7% Reduction		
	Agency Energy Savings		13% Reduction	
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities		3 in each of 10 categories	





## Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. Burlingame is undergoing an energy efficiency study on city facilities through a grant with the California Energy Commission to identify energy saving opportunities.	<b>2015</b>
Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	1. The city is enrolled in the Demand Response Program and continuing enrollment in Energy Management Services for all city facilities.  2. The city retrofitted all (approximately 800) of the city-owned street lights to LEDs.	<b>2015</b>
Level	Energy Efficiency & Conservation Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	1. The City of Burlingame conducted outreach to businesses to participate in the San Mateo County Energy Watch program which provides free turn-key energy audits for small businesses. Outreach included meeting with chamber of commerce and the city's two business improvement districts. It also included a letter from the mayor to all 700 small businesses in Burlingame.  2. The City of Burlingame has adopted three new Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs to operate in the city: Open PACE, Figtree and HERO. The city also created a city PACE webpage.	<b>2015</b>





# Water & Wastewater Systems Activity

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city changed out the eight old 3.5 gallons/flush toilets in city hall with efficient 1.28 gallons/flush and installed waterless urinals in city hall and the police station.	2015

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The city provides rebates for residents to replace older toilets and washing machines with high efficiency ones.</li> <li>The City of Burlingame has a dedicated drought website with resources and information on how to save water for residents and businesses.</li> </ol>	2015

Level	Water and Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The city council adopted a Water in Conservation in Landscaping Ordinance in February 2010 which requires landscaping to be designed to achieve water efficiency. Projects also need to comply with the Indoor Water Conservation Ordinance (adopted in February 2010), which requires the installation of modern, water-conserving features to further reduce the demand for water by the proposed project.</li> <li>Burlingame has improved water efficiency and conservation in the city's landscaped areas by installing efficient sprinkler nozzles and control systems.</li> <li>The city collaborates with Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agencies (BAWSCA) to offer outreach and education to residents including water conservation classes.</li> </ol>	2015







# Green Building Activity

Level	Green Building Activity	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. The city has a dedicated green building webpage on the city's website to help residents find green building information and resources.	<b>2015</b>
Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	1. The city has created an energy and water savings factsheet listing all the rebates and energy efficiency opportunities available to Burlingame residents and businesses. The fact sheet is posted on the city's website and printed copies available at building counter.  2. Burlingame has a dedicated green building expert as part of building staff to assist contractors in complying with CalGreen green building codes. Green building expert facilitates a green building checklist as part of permitting and inspection processes.	<b>2015</b>
Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	1. Burlingame has zero permit fees for solar projects.	<b>2015</b>





# Waste Reduction and Recycling Activity

Level	Waste Reduction Activity	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. The city completed a waste audit for its buildings to identify ways to reduce waste and increase composting and recycling. In response to the waste audit, the city installed updated and new recycling and composting bins and signage. The city will provide trainings to staff and janitorial services to ensure maximum and proper waste reduction.	<b>2015</b>

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city co-sponsors an annual electronic recycling and paper shredding community event for Burlingame residents.</li> <li>2. The city has prevented pollution of water in creeks and the bay by installing more than 40 full trash capture devices in storm drain catch basins in the Burlingame Avenue downtown area and the Broadway commercial area.</li> </ol>	<b>2015</b>

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city provides bins for recycling batteries, compact fluorescent light bulbs, old cell phones and eyeglasses at city hall.</li> <li>2. The city has banned the use of single-use carry-out plastic bags; and requires a minimum charge of 25 cents for paper bags.</li> <li>3. The city has banned the use of polystyrene disposable food service ware for food vendors.</li> </ol>	<b>2015</b>





# Climate-friendly Purchasing Activity

Level	Climate-Friendly Activity	Reported
Silver	1. The city has approximately 12 non-truck vehicles all of which are hybrids and converted three trucks to use biodiesel.	2015

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city installed GPS devices on vehicle fleets to track fuel usage and activity and improve trip planning.</li> <li>2. The city is moving to an online payment system for the water bills that will significantly reduce paper mailings.</li> </ol>	2015

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Platinum	1. The city purchases recycled oil for vehicle maintenance.	2015







# Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activity

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. The city installed four EV Charging stations in City Parking Lot V by the Burlingame Ave train station.	<b>2015</b>
Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	<p>1. The city partnered with 11 neighboring communities to implement a Peninsula Sunshares Program which is a bulk energy purchasing program. Burlingame had over 60 participants, 10% of which installed solar projects.</p> <p>2. The city installed solar powered meters and pay stations in downtown Burlingame as part of streetscape improvement project.</p>	<b>2015</b>





# Efficient Transportation Activity

Level	Efficient Transportation Activity	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. The City of Burlingame provides commuter benefits to employees, such as reimbursing public transit commute expenses up to \$130/month and paying an incentive of up to \$30/month to employees who carpool, walk or bike to work.	<b>2015</b>

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city is implementing a complete streets project on Carolan Avenue which will create two dedicated bike lanes and pedestrian improvements. Started in 2014 and was completed in 2015.</li> <li>2. The city has completed a downtown streetscape improvement project to improve pedestrian activity in downtown Burlingame. Improvements include: fifteen new bike racks, 50% wider sidewalks and bulb outs for pedestrian safety and upgraded traffic signals to minimize engine idling.</li> </ol>	<b>2015</b>

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Through the city's Transportation Demand Management Program, two major employers in the city (hotels and hospital) fund local shuttles between Caltrain, BART and work places. The city also operates a local shuttle that runs from hotels to the two business districts.</li> <li>2. The city has installed smart meters in downtown Burlingame and parking strategies to deter long term parking on Burlingame Ave.</li> <li>3. The city utilizes the Parker App to provide information on parking lots, times and fees.</li> </ol>	<b>2015</b>





# Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activity	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. Burlingame is in the process of updating the general plan, zoning code and climate action plan in 2015. To date, the city updated the general plan and zoning code to address multi-modal transit, improved bicycle and pedestrian accessibility and identify greenhouse gas reductions. The general plan update process, will take two years in an effort to include a robust public outreach effort for public participation and input.	<b>2015</b>

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	1. The city completed a Burlingame Downtown Specific Plan. The plan outlined the downtown streetscape project completed in 2014. A specific plan also set out goals for more affordable housing. The city is currently studying redeveloping two parking lots in downtown Burlingame for affordable housing developments.  2. The city is also participating in a San Mateo County effort to study Community Choice Aggregation (known as Peninsula Clean Energy) to potentially provide clean energy options to Burlingame residents.	<b>2015</b>

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	1. The City of Burlingame constructed a rain garden by a parking lot to treat and filter storm water before being discharged into the city's storm drainage system. Similar landscaping features were installed as part of new downtown streetscape.	<b>2015</b>





# Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. Burlingame has been a Tree City since 1980 (awarded by the National Arbor Day) and has an active tree maintenance and replacement program. The city plants 250-300 trees every year. Burlingame also provides outreach materials and a dedicated website on tree information.	<b>2015</b>
Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	1. The city completed a street tree inventory in 2011 that is updated regularly. 2. The city created and maintains a community garden at Bayside Fields.	<b>2015</b>
Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	1. The city has reduced fire risks around Murray Field and Golf Center by cutting back brush and other hazards. 2. The city constructed new bocce ball courts, adding new recreational activities for residents. The city is considering developing a new park on bayfront property to protect wetlands and support water recreational activities. 3. The city supports a local farmers market in downtown Burlingame. The farmers market presents stalls with local fruit, vegetables, honey and cooked foods.	<b>2015</b>





# Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	1. The City of Burlingame's Citizens Environmental Council (CEC) participated in the CoolCalifornia City Challenge and won 7th place. The challenge encourages households to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from saving energy driving less.	<b>2015</b>

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city hired Burlingame's first ever sustainability coordinator to work with community and city organization to improve sustainability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</li> <li>2. Burlingame continued their partnership with Citizen's Environmental Council to provide timely environmental lectures and film showings at the library.</li> </ol>	<b>2015</b>

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In March 2012, Burlingame adopted a new ordinance regulating leaf blowers. The ordinance addresses the health risks of high decibel noise pollution and allergenic particulate matter blown into the air by leaf blowers by reducing the number of days blowers may be used in each neighborhood.</li> <li>2. The city's new sustainability coordinator updated the city's sustainability website, regularly posts news to the electronic newsletter (goes to ~6,000 residents) and is participating in a Sustainability Circle to develop a sustainability plan for the city.</li> <li>3. Burlingame implemented the first Bike to Shop Day on Saturday May 23, 2015. Over ten local businesses participated by offering discounts to patrons that bike to shop that day.</li> </ol>	<b>2015</b>



Notes:









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