



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
County Manager



Date: June 1, 2015
Board Meeting Date: June 16, 2015
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Jim Eggemeyer, Director, Office of Sustainability

Subject: Resolution authorizing participation in the Beacon Award Program

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution authorizing the participation of the County of San Mateo in the Institute for Local Government's Beacon Award: Local Leadership Toward Solving Climate Change.

BACKGROUND:

The Regionally Integrated Climate Action Planning Suite (RICAPS) is a program organized by the City/County Association of Governments (C/CAG) to assist cities within San Mateo County and the County itself with developing greenhouse gas inventories and climate action plans for conformance with AB32 and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines for a Qualified Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy. As part of the RICAPS program, the San Mateo County Energy Watch is encouraging County-wide participation in the Beacon Award program.

The Beacon Award: Local Leadership Toward Solving Climate Change, sponsored by the Institute for Local Government (ILG) and the Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative, is a statewide program recognizing California cities and counties that are working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save energy and adopt policies and programs that promote sustainability. ILG is the non-profit research and education affiliate of the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties.

The Beacon Program features two types of awards:

- Beacon Award: recognizing an agency's holistic approach to addressing climate change. Participating agencies are required to complete each of six elements to win a Beacon Award.

- Spotlight Award: recognizing individual accomplishments of cities and counties participating in the Beacon Program as they work to complete the six elements necessary to achieve a Beacon Award.

Additional background information is available at <http://www.ca-ilg.org/beacon-award-local-leadership-toward-solving-climate-change>.

In order to participate in the Beacon Award, cities and counties must complete a simple application and do the following:

- Adopt a resolution by the governing body committing the agency to participate in the program;
- Designate a lead staff person as a point of contact;
- Prepare, or commit to prepare, a baseline greenhouse gas emissions inventory for agency facilities and the community as a whole (previously completed inventories using a commonly accepted methodology will be accepted);
- Prepare, or commit to prepare, a climate action plan that includes actions in each of the Best Practice Areas (previously completed plans using a commonly accepted methodology will be accepted);
- Demonstrate compliance with AB 939, the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989; and
- Achieve specified measurable greenhouse gas reductions and energy savings in agency facilities, and achieve measurable greenhouse gas reductions and promote energy conservation activities in the community.

Participating cities and counties will be recognized with a Silver, Gold and Platinum Beacon Award for achieving specified measureable reductions. The program will also recognize participants for interim accomplishments. Awards are achieved through the tiered scale of criteria below:

<i>Silver Beacon Award</i>	
Agency Facilities & Operations	
GHG Reduction:	5 percent in agency facilities & operations
Energy Savings:	5 percent in agency facilities & operations from energy efficiency retrofits
Community	
GHG Reduction:	5 percent in the community as a whole
Energy Savings:	1 activity that promotes energy efficiency in the community

Best Practice Areas:	1 activity in each of the ten Best Practice Areas
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Gold Beacon Award

Agency Facilities & Operations

GHG Reduction:	10 percent in agency facilities & operations
Energy Savings:	10 percent in agency facilities & operations from energy efficiency retrofits

Community

GHG Reduction:	10 percent in the community as a whole
Energy Savings:	2 activities that promote energy efficiency in the community
Best Practice Areas:	2 activities in each of the ten Best Practice Areas

Platinum Beacon Award

Agency Facilities & Operations

GHG Reduction:	20 percent in agency facilities & operations
Energy Savings:	20 percent in agency facilities & operations from energy efficiency retrofits

Community

GHG Reduction:	20 percent in the community as a whole
Energy Savings:	4 activities that promote energy efficiency in the community
Best Practice Areas:	3 activities in each of the ten Best Practice Areas

The ten Best Practice Areas referenced are from ILG's California Climate Action Network's Best Practices Framework which offers suggestions for action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in each of the areas, for both agency facilities and the community at large. The ten Best Practice Areas are:

1. Energy Efficiency & Conservation
2. Water & Wastewater Systems
3. Green Building
4. Waste Reduction & Recycling
5. Climate-Friendly Purchasing
6. Renewable Energy & Low-Carbon Fuels
7. Efficient Transportation
8. Land Use & Community Design
9. Open Space & Offsetting Carbon Emission
10. Promoting Community & Individual Action

Participants will receive special recognition at League of California Cities and California State Association of Counties events, be highlighted on the Beacon Award website, and receive certificates and other materials to display in agency facilities. They may also receive other appropriate and visible public tributes acknowledging their accomplishments.

DISCUSSION:

Participating in the Beacon Award program will increase the County's visibility within our region and statewide. It is an opportunity for the County to showcase its existing efforts to promote sustainability and save energy, even while we are working towards one of the three award levels. Much of the staff effort required to participate in the program will be provided by RICAPS and Office of Sustainability staff. The County has already completed and adopted a GHG inventory and Climate Action Plan for both Government Operations and for the unincorporated community, which contain a significant amount of the data needed to qualify for a Beacon Award.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the resolution as to form.

SHARED VISION 2025:

Participation in the Beacon Award program contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of an Environmentally Conscious Community by illustrating the County's commitment to improving energy efficiency and conservation; reducing water usage; reducing waste generation and landfilling; improving transportation efficiency; and reducing its greenhouse gas emissions.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no net county cost to participate in the Beacon Award Program.