

2016 BEACON AWARD WINNER



# City of Davis

Sustainability Best Practices Activities



**ILG** INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT<sup>SM</sup>  
*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.

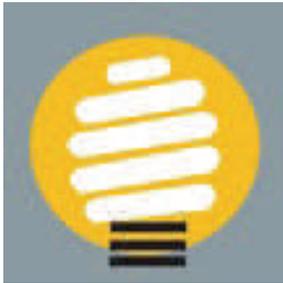


## SPOTLIGHT AWARD

Areas of Accomplishment

	SILVER LEVEL	GOLD LEVEL	PLATINUM LEVEL
Agency GHG Reductions			28%
Community GHG Reductions	7%		
Agency Energy Savings	5%		
Natural Gas Savings			
Sustainability Best Practice Activities			2016





## Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. In March 2016, the Davis City Council, along with Yolo County Board of Supervisors, unanimously agreed to form a Joint Powers Agency to purchase electricity for residents and businesses in the city and unincorporated area of the county through a community choice energy (aggregation) program. The JPA eventually will be open to other cities within Yolo County that wish to participate. <a href="http://www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/community-development-and-sustainability/sustainability-program/community-choice-energy">www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/community-development-and-sustainability/sustainability-program/community-choice-energy</a>	2016

Level	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In 2014 Davis approved a new outdoor lighting retrofit project. Starting in spring 2016, the city will install about 1200 park and greenbelt LED lights in more than 20 city parks and in 50 miles of greenbelts. The new lights will be bi-level lighting that saves more than 60% compared to an equivalent LED fixture and close to over 85% compared to the exiting high pressure sodium lighting system.</li> <li>2. In 2014, Davis began replacing 2650 city-owned cobrahead streetlights with LED light fixtures, reducing energy use more than 70 percent over the existing high pressure sodium streetlights (and 30% energy savings over standard LED fixtures). The project cost \$1.2 million and was completed in August 2015. As part of the project, the city is also evaluating the quality of the light from the LED fixtures, which has helped advance the understanding of the need to consider lighting quality when switching to LEDs. City staff have been contacted by other cities to learn more about this issue, including questions from Honolulu, Phoenix, Denver, Houston, Sebastopol, and Dundin, New Zealand.</li> </ol>	2016





# Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activity

Level	Energy Efficiency & Conservation Activities	Reported
<p><b>Platinum</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Working with volunteers from Cool Davis (a local non-profit dedicated to helping the city implement its Climate Action Plan), the City of Davis is developing a program designed to assist and encourage residents whose heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems need replacing to incorporate energy efficiency retrofits into HVAC repair or replacement decision and to install higher energy efficient HVAC units when the option works for the homeowner. The project also includes compiling a list of licensed HVAC contractors who offer HVAC (and/or energy efficiency) services to Davis residents and preparing consumer education information about questions to ask when contemplating an HVAC project. The city will play a key role in supporting the program including providing data on potential households for participation and serving as a neutral trusted third party for residents. This is the latest in a series of activities with Cool Davis related to promoting energy efficiency in the community.</li> <li>2. Using a grant from the California Energy Commission, Davis developed an energy efficiency and alternative energy roadmap for the city. Known as the Davis FREE (for Future Renewable Energy and Efficiency) project, it provides background demographic and building data to enable Davis to plan future energy efficiency and renewable energy projects that are relevant to the Davis community. The final report provides a plan to help Davis move from “where we are now” to “where we want to be in 2030.” <a href="http://www.energy.ca.gov/2016publications/CEC-500-2016-015/CEC-500-2016-015.pdf">www.energy.ca.gov/2016publications/CEC-500-2016-015/CEC-500-2016-015.pdf</a></li> <li>3. Davis participates in the Yolo PACE program, which offers Davis residents energy efficiency and water conservation financing through CaliforniaFIRST, HERO and YGreen.</li> <li>4. In the early 1990s, Davis was one of the first cities in the country to pilot and then retrofit its traffic signals to LEDs.</li> <li>5. In 2010-2011, Davis worked with the California Lighting Technology Center (CLCT) at UC Davis as an early tester to pilot using LEDs for street light fixtures. The city is currently working with CLCT on a project to test sensor activated streetlights on selected city streets.</li> </ol>	<p><b>2016</b></p>





# Water & Wastewater Systems Activity

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activity	Reported
Silver	<p>1. Davis offers free water conservation workshops for residents and businesses. These include topics such as: The ABCs of sustainable landscaping, turf removal, plant selection, optimizing irrigation systems and other topics. For part of this effort, the city partners with the UCD Arboretum to offer workshops on drought tolerant gardening.</p> <p><a href="http://www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/public-works/water/water-conservation/city-water-conservation-efforts">www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/public-works/water/water-conservation/city-water-conservation-efforts</a>.</p>	2016

Level	Water & Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Gold	<p>1. For homeowners who take the “home water conservation pledge,” the city offers free “Save Davis Water” yard signs. <a href="http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DavisWaterPledge">www.surveymonkey.com/r/DavisWaterPledge</a></p> <p>2. The city’s public works department offers residences and businesses assistance through its free leak detection program. <a href="http://www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/public-works/water/water-conservation/leak-detection">www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/public-works/water/water-conservation/leak-detection</a></p>	2016

Level	Water and Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
Platinum	<p>1. Davis has completed or is underway with a number of activities designed to reduce water use at city parks, greenbelts, other open space areas and streetscapes the city maintains. These include implementing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A deficit based watering rather than optimum irrigation system, which results in less overall water consumption and less frequent watering in parks and greenbelts.</li> <li>• A cycle soak program for irrigation systems which results in a slower application of water over a longer period of time to reduce run-off and allow more time for absorption.</li> <li>• Installation of standalone controllers with SMART or central based controllers, as well as implementing a weather-based system. Nearly one-half of the city’s 285 irrigation controllers are central-based.</li> <li>• Flow sensing to many existing city irrigation controllers to help manage water consumption in real time, as well as automatically shutting down irrigation systems for large line and mainline breaks.</li> </ul>	2016





# Water & Wastewater Systems Activity

Level	Water and Wastewater Systems Activities	Reported
<p><b>Platinum</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. In 2014, Davis implemented the WaterInsight program, provided by WaterSmart software. For households that want to participate, the personalized program reports detailed household water use and compares it to homes of similar size, helping residents gain a clear understanding of how water use reductions can be made.</li> <li>3. In 2014, Davis passed an ordinance allowing installation of grey water systems in Davis homes. Grey water is water collected from sinks (excluding the kitchen sink), showers, bathtubs or washing machines that can be recycled for uses such as landscape irrigation or toilet flushing. <a href="http://www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/public-works/water/water-conservation/saving-water-indoors/grey-water">www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/public-works/water/water-conservation/saving-water-indoors/grey-water</a></li> <li>4. The city has continuously implemented a policy to improve the energy efficiency of the pumps and motors throughout the city's water system, thus saving energy and making the system run more efficiently.</li> <li>5. Davis has an integrated storm water retention system that uses storm water runoff to recharge the groundwater and improve urban wildlife habitat and provide recreational opportunities for Davis residents. These include the West Davis and Northstar ponds.</li> </ol>	<p><b>2016</b></p>





# Green Building Activity

Level	Green Building Activity	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Davis has been a national and state pioneer in promoting green buildings, energy efficiency and sustainability. In 1972, the city adopted the Davis Energy Conservation Building Code, designed to reduce heat gain in the summer and heat loss in the winter. New homes in Davis were required to include green building features such as ceiling and wall insulation (a novel requirement at the time), north-south orientation, and limited unshaded windows. The Davis building code became the model for California's subsequent Title 24 building code. <a href="http://www.cityofdavis.org/home/howdocument?id=788">www.cityofdavis.org/home/howdocument?id=788</a></li> </ol>	<b>2016</b>

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In the 1980s Davis purchased the old Davis school district headquarters building and retrofitted and restored it to serve as the new Davis city hall. An innovative "re-use" project for its time, green building features included energy efficient lighting, re-use of the existing building roof tiles combined with new tiles, water efficient features and landscaping. The old city hall (located in the downtown business district) was then re-purposed, initially to be the city police department headquarters. It subsequently became a restaurant (after the police headquarters moved elsewhere to a larger facility).</li> <li>2. Since the early 2000s Davis has required new development projects to exceed Title 24 by 25% (also known as a reach code).</li> </ol>	<b>2016</b>

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Davis adopted a green building ordinance in in the early 2000s that exceeded state standards. The city has since adopted Tier 1 of CalGreen and is considering adopting a Zero Net Energy reach code for new construction in advance of the state's 2020 standard.</li> <li>2. Davis has helped to create a community and government climate that supports innovative building design and construction by local developers and residents. For example, the retrofit of the old downtown Dairy Queen restaurant now hosts a state of the art energy efficient building used by local architecture and renewable energy firms that features passive heating and cooling, re-use of construction materials and solar PV.</li> </ol>	<b>2016</b>





# Green Building Activity

Level	Green Building Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	<p>3. The city supports and encourages innovative green building design efforts by local architects, engineers and contractors that feature alternative heating and cooling systems, such as ground source heat pump that uses natural cooling for radiant heating and cooling. This includes “Parkview Place,” an innovative home that won the Cool Davis Climate Solutions Award. <a href="http://www.cooldavis.org/wp-content/uploads/climate-solution-award-for-Parview-Place-for-website.pdf">www.cooldavis.org/wp-content/uploads/climate-solution-award-for-Parview-Place-for-website.pdf</a></p> <p>4. As part of the upgrade of the multi-modal train station (see Efficient Transportation), Davis used straw bale construction for seating outside of the building. This was part of a civic arts project at the hub, funded through the city’s art in public places program.</p>	<b>2016</b>





# Waste Reduction and Recycling Activity

Level	Waste Reduction Activity	Reported
Silver	<p>1. Davis is a pioneer in promoting reduce, reuse and recycle. In 1974, Davis was one of the first cities in California to offer residents curbside recycling. Decades before California adopted broad recycling requirements for cities and counties (and their residents and businesses), Davis city residents and businesses have enjoyed single and multi-family and business recycling opportunities, as well as curbside organics collection. The city's exclusive franchise with its local solid waste company, Davis Waste Removal, has provided flexibility to implement these types of programs over the years. <a href="http://www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/public-works/solid-waste-and-recycling">www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/public-works/solid-waste-and-recycling</a></p>	2016

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Gold	<p>1. As a college town, Davis provides an important service at the end of the school year for students living in apartments. Since 2001, the city's recycling program teams up with local apartment association and apartment managers to encourage reuse of items and reduce the amount of waste that happens during the annual August move-out. Davis Recycling department staff sets up donation stations at participating apartment properties, and residents donate items they no longer want or need. Local non-profit groups and other apartment residents stop by and take the items they want. The end result is that good, usable items are kept out of the trash. There is also a possibility of waste disposal savings for apartment managers. Many participating apartment properties experience a reduction in generated waste during turnover. <a href="http://www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/public-works/solid-waste-and-recycling/multi-family-programs/apartment-move-out-waste-reduction-program">www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/public-works/solid-waste-and-recycling/multi-family-programs/apartment-move-out-waste-reduction-program</a></p> <p>2. In May 2011, the City of Davis Recycling Program and Davis Waste Removal started a pilot program to test food scrap collection program to carefully evaluate all aspects of collecting food scraps from commercial customers in Davis and to determine the feasibility of a larger commercial program. The program is scheduled to expand citywide in July 2016 as part of the city's new organic waste program. <a href="http://www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/public-works/solid-waste-and-recycling/compost/commercial-food-scrap-collection">www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/public-works/solid-waste-and-recycling/compost/commercial-food-scrap-collection</a></p>	2016





# Waste Reduction and Recycling Activity

Level	Waste Reduction Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Davis offers workshops for residents on topics such as backyard composting and vermiculture to reduce waste and promote healthy living.</li><li>2. Through the city's franchise with Davis Waste Removal, Davis residents can drop off and recycle "bulky items" such as couches, appliances and other hard to get rid of items.</li><li>3. Adopted in 2007, the city's Construction and Demolition (C&amp;D) ordinance requires all applicable construction, renovation and demolition projects to divert at least 50% of C&amp;D waste from the landfill through recycling, reuse and/or waste reduction. <a href="http://www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/public-works/solid-waste-and-recycling/recycling/construction-demolition-materials">www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/public-works/solid-waste-and-recycling/recycling/construction-demolition-materials</a></li><li>4. In 2013, Davis adopted a single-use carry out (plastic) bag ordinance.</li><li>5. Davis implemented a program to reduce city employee paper use by 25% by using duplex printing, reducing the number of printing devices available and evaluating employee education needs.</li></ol>	2016





# Climate-friendly Purchasing Activity

Level	Climate-Friendly Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Davis purchases 100% recycled content paper for all city use.	2016

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Beginning in about 2005, Davis eliminated using paper for city council agenda packets.</li> <li>2. Since the early 1990s Davis has required consultants responding to RFPs to use paper with minimum recycled content.</li> </ol>	201

Level	Climate-Friendly Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The city has a policy not to purchase single serving bottles of water for city events or facilities.</li> <li>2. Where feasible the city encourages vendors and caterers of city events to use compostable plates and utensils.</li> <li>3. Davis implemented a green fleet program beginning in the 1980s with the purchase of fuel efficient vehicles. Currently, the city has more than 20 alternative fuel vehicles in its fleet.</li> </ol>	2016





# Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activity

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Davis installed a solar photovoltaic (PV) system at the city's waste water treatment plant in 2010 and a PV system on the Veteran's Community Center in the early 2000s. The waste water treatment plant array consists of 3,500 solar panels, covering about six acres and produces 1.7 million kWh, enough to run most of the plant's electricity demand per year. The Community Center array is approximately 12kW and off sets a majority of the building's electricity use.</li> </ol>	<b>2016</b>

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In 2001, Davis entered into an agreement with the PVUSA solar array (located on the city's old wastewater treatment plant in northeast Davis) to off-set the electricity use on over 45 city electricity accounts, including City Hall and many of the city's municipal water wells. The PVUSA site was designed as the 1<sup>st</sup> grid tied utility scale solar plant and continues to serve as an important research facility providing data on solar panel performance and longevity.</li> <li>2. Since the early 1990s, instead of natural gas, the city's wastewater treatment plant uses methane gas generated at the plant to help power the plant's digesters.</li> </ol>	<b>2016</b>

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Working with volunteers from Cool Davis and representatives from the local solar contractor community, Davis is developing a program to target potential homeowners interested in installing solar photovoltaic systems on their roofs. The program was kicked off at an event June 5, 2016, featuring the movie "Capture the Sun" and displays by local solar contractors. As part of the effort, Davis and Cool Davis are preparing consumer education information about items to consider when installing solar PV. This is the latest in a series of community outreach activities with Cool Davis related to solar.</li> <li>2. Davis, in cooperation with Cool Davis, is compiling a list of local area contractors that provide solar photovoltaic and solar thermal services for Davis residents. The online list will provide basic information about the contractors, including services offered and contact information. The list will be located on the City of Davis and Cool Davis websites as a service to the community and local contractors.</li> </ol>	<b>2016</b>





# Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activity

Level	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Fuels Activity	Reported
<p><b>Platinum</b></p>	<p>3. In 2014, Davis adopted an ordinance that requires certain new residential housing and duplexes built after January 1, 2015 to install solar photovoltaic systems. The ordinance generally applies to any new development that requires a tentative map approval. As of the end of 2015, 2152 rooftop solar installations occurred since 1999, with 1717 installs since 2011, including 442 in 2015. (See Davis Municipal Code, beginning with Chapter 8, Article 8.20; <a href="http://www.qcode.us/codes/davis/">www.qcode.us/codes/davis/</a>).</p> <p>4. The Davis Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, adopted in 2010, set a goal of producing 5% of the peak electricity used in Davis (2.6Mw) from local renewable energy sources by 2015. The community exceeded this goal by installing over 2,000 solar PV systems in the last five years that generate 29.6 Mw (about 10 times the goal set in the CAAP). The city, in partnership with Cool Davis and the local solar companies, have determined that market conditions and the execution of a local campaign to drive adoption in the next five years can continue these trends. Thus, in May 2016, the Davis city council adopted a new CAAP renewable energy goal for single family owner occupied roof-top solar PV as follows: (a) double the number of single family household roof top systems by the end of 2020 to approximately 4,500 systems; and (b) Double the total power production capacity of single family household roof top systems by the end of 2020 to approximately 21 Mw. <a href="http://documents.cityofdavis.org/Media/Default/Documents/PDF/CityCouncil/CouncilMeetings/Agendas/20160524/05G-Solar-Goals-Update.pdf">http://documents.cityofdavis.org/Media/Default/Documents/PDF/CityCouncil/CouncilMeetings/Agendas/20160524/05G-Solar-Goals-Update.pdf</a></p>	<p><b>2016</b></p>





# Efficient Transportation Activity

Level	Efficient Transportation Activity	Reported
Silver	1. Davis has been a pioneer in promoting bicycle use and building a network of connected bike paths within the city. In 1967, Davis unveiled the first bike lanes in the country. Recognized for its leadership, Davis was the first city to receive the Platinum level friendly community award from the League of American Bicyclists. It received the designation again in 2016.	2016

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the mid-1990s, Davis was the first city in the country to install bicycle signal heads on traffic signals at key intersections.</li> <li>In 2014, Davis adopted its new Bicycle Action Plan, called "Beyond Platinum Bicycle Action Plan." <a href="http://www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/public-works/bike-pedestrian-program/bike-plans">www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/public-works/bike-pedestrian-program/bike-plans</a></li> </ol>	2016

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Since the 1970s, Davis has partnered with the University of California, Davis student association (ASUCD) in providing transit service for students and city residents. Called "Unitrans" the service initially utilized two vintage red double-decker London buses. The vehicle fleet now includes 48 more traditional buses (painted red) that travel over 19 routes throughout the entire city and helps reduce car use by students living off campus in apartments and other Davis residents. UCD undergraduate students, city employees, seniors (over 60) and others ride Unitrans for free with valid identification and permits. The city passes through a portion of the federal transportation funds it receives to pay its share of Unitrans. <a href="http://www.unitrans.ucdavis.edu/">www.unitrans.ucdavis.edu/</a></li> <li>The city offers a commuter bike loan program for city employees.</li> <li>In 2014, Davis completed a new bicycle lane program on city streets to better integrate bicycle traffic with vehicular traffic. The city has about 110 miles of bike lanes on all major streets, numerous grade separations for bicycles and pedestrians, and several bicycle and pedestrian only undercrossing and overcrossings to assist bicyclists cross railroad tracks and freeways, including Interstate 80 and State Highway 113, both of which run through the city.</li> </ol>	2016





# Efficient Transportation Activity

Level	Efficient Transportation Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. In the 1990s, Davis completed a multi-modal hub at the old train station. Complete with local art and seating made with recycled material, the hub hosts transit services from Amtrak (including the Capitol Corridor train between Sacramento and San Francisco), Unitrans, Greyhound, Yolo Bus, and Regional Transit. The hub also provides parking for hundreds of bicycles, thus encouraging UC Davis students and others to bike to the hub when using the hub's transit services.</li> <li>5. Davis has installed public electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in various locations in the city to encourage the adoption and use of electric vehicles. The city is completing an EV charging plan funded by the California Energy Commission that will include requirements and guidance for public and private development projects that include EV charging stations.</li> <li>6. Davis has several programs to promote safe bicycle and walking programs by youth and older residents, including "Street Smarts" and "Safe Routes to Schools." <a href="http://cityofdavis.org/city-hall/public-works/bike-pedestrian-program/street-smarts">http://cityofdavis.org/city-hall/public-works/bike-pedestrian-program/street-smarts</a> <a href="http://cityofdavis.org/city-hall/public-works/bike-pedestrian-program/street-smarts/print-download-safe-routes-to-school-resources">http://cityofdavis.org/city-hall/public-works/bike-pedestrian-program/street-smarts/print-download-safe-routes-to-school-resources</a></li> <li>7. Davis and Unitrans offer a "Safe Routes to Sports" program, which encourages students and city residents to use Unitrans buses to go to the city's numerous sports fields ("along with 'your stuff'). The program's motto is "Let the bus carry your gear for you." <a href="http://www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/public-works/bike-pedestrian-program/safe-routes-to-sports">www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/public-works/bike-pedestrian-program/safe-routes-to-sports</a></li> <li>8. The city's "Request a Bike Rack Program" allows downtown businesses to request that the city install a bike rack in front of the business (on the city managed sidewalk and rights of way), thus supporting a pedestrian and bike friendly community and economic development at the same time. <a href="http://cityofdavis.org/city-hall/public-works/bike-pedestrian-program/request-a-bike-rack">http://cityofdavis.org/city-hall/public-works/bike-pedestrian-program/request-a-bike-rack</a></li> <li>9. In 2015, the city and Cool Davis formed a transportation planning task force with representatives of local and regional transportation organizations, including the University of California, Davis, the city of Davis, local non-profits, businesses, Yolo Bus, and Regional Transit. The purpose of the task force is to identify mutual goals and gaps in programs and services. The goal is to develop funding and collaborative structures to reach the mutual goals to reduce single vehicle occupancy travel, increase the use of transit and active transportation modes and reach common greenhouse gas reduction goals.</li> <li>10. In 2015, Davis opened a redesigned "complete street" section of a major cross city artery that runs through the downtown area. The "road diet" redesign enables autos, bicycles and pedestrians to travel more safely and efficiently.</li> </ol>	2016





# Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activity	Reported
Silver	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For more than 50 years, Davis has been a pioneer in sustainable land use and community design policies and practices. For example, Davis has pursued a land use and development pattern to encourage reduction of transportation miles by locating shopping centers, schools, and other common destinations within neighborhoods. To this end, the city and the Davis school district have worked together over the years to locate schools in neighborhoods in ways that encourage biking and walking to schools by students.</li> </ol>	2016

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Since the mid-1970s, the city has required new residential projects to be oriented north-south to take advantage of cooling breezes in the evening.</li> <li>In the 1970s, Davis approved Village Homes, a sixty-acre development that includes 242 single and multi-family residences. Considered to be the first sustainable development in the world, Village Homes includes innovative design features, such as passive solar in homes, narrow streets (to limit heat producing asphalt), communal gardens and open space, and two large communal parks, north-south orientation of homes, walking paths, community gardens, orchards and natural drainage infrastructure. Village Homes has influenced the design of subsequent neighborhoods in Davis, as well as in other California and U.S. communities, and internationally.</li> </ol>	2016

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To address pedestrian, vehicle and bicycle congestion, Davis implemented the Third Street improvement plan. The area of Third Street, between A and B Streets, functions as a primary access point connecting the University of California, Davis with downtown Davis and the plan was needed to accommodate the over 4000 bicycles per day and large number of pedestrians using the area.</li> <li>The city rezoned a former tomato processing plant for an infill multi- mixed use development project. The Cannery, which bills itself as California's first "farm to table community," will eventually include 547 homes with energy efficient and "Livable Design" features. All homes will be within 300 feet of a park or a trail that connects to Davis' bicycle network. <a href="http://www.livecannerydavis.com/">www.livecannerydavis.com/</a></li> </ol>	2016





# Land Use and Community Design Activity

Level	Land Use and Community Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	3. In order to reduce potential air quality and noise impacts of the proposed expanded Hwy 113 that runs north south through the city, Davis officials worked with Caltrans to make the final project below grade and not elevated. Highway 113 is major north south route in west Davis and is a heavily traveled highway for residents commuting to Sacramento, the San Francisco Bay Area and north to Woodland.	<b>2016</b>





# Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
<b>Silver</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2000, Davis voters approved the Open Space and Protection Special Tax Fund, which provides is a stable source of long-term local funding to protect open space lands in the Davis Planning Area. Approved as Measure O by 70% of Davis voters, the parcel tax allows the city to acquire and maintain open space. The 30-year tax began July 1, 2001 and remains in effect until June 30, 2031. The tax can be extended or re-authorized by Davis voters prior to that date. This parcel tax provides “revenue for the acquisition, operation, and maintenance of lands and easements for open space, habitat and agricultural uses and preservation in the areas surrounding the city.” For the purposes of this funding source, open space is defined as “land in a predominantly natural state or altered for natural resources based uses (i.e., farming, parks), and may include, but is not limited to riparian areas, agricultural lands, watersheds, forests, floodplains, and habitat areas.” <a href="http://www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/community-development-and-sustainability/open-space-program/policy-framework">www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/community-development-and-sustainability/open-space-program/policy-framework</a></li> </ol>	<b>2016</b>
Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
<b>Gold</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the 1980s, Davis amended its general plan and zoning code to require new developments to include greenways and greenbelts.</li> <li>In the mid-1970s, Davis was one of the first cities in California to host a farmers market. Located at the downtown Davis Central Park, the thriving market is open on Saturday mornings all year and Wednesday afternoons and evenings during the summer and evenings in the fall. It attracts participants from local and regional farms, as well as thousands of customers. <a href="http://www.davisfarmersmarket.org/">www.davisfarmersmarket.org/</a></li> </ol>	<b>2016</b>
Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
<b>Platinum</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Davis has offered community garden space, administered by the city’s parks and community services department, to residents for many years. The community gardens located at various sites in east Davis. There are currently 116 rentable plots, as well as a garden center, herb plot, perennial plot and donation garden. The annual rental fee allows the city to provide land, water and limited facility maintenance and administrative staff support to gardeners. <a href="http://www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/parks-and-community-services/parks-and-open-space/community-gardens">www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/parks-and-community-services/parks-and-open-space/community-gardens</a></li> </ol>	<b>2016</b>





# Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activity

Level	Open Space Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities	Reported
Platinum	<p>2. Since 1995, Davis has partnered with The Yolo Land Trust to facilitate more than a dozen successful conservation easements with private property owners. A conservation easement is a contract that the property owner enters into to permanently restrict the use of the property, such as for open space or agriculture or wildlife habitat. Davis has used Measure O funds to purchase conservation easements outright from a property owner or to leverage other funds to secure the conservation easement. Davis also partners with Solano County Land Trust for easements within Solano County. In some cases, the city co-holds the easements with The Yolo Land Trust for farmland mitigation for development within the city, pursuant to its Farmland Preservation Ordinance. As of 2016, Davis holds outright or co-holds more than 2500 acres in conservation easements to permanently restrict the use of the property as open space, agriculture or wildlife habitat. <a href="http://www.theyololandtrust.org/">www.theyololandtrust.org/</a></p> <p>3. The 400 acre Davis Wetlands Project is part of a growing effort throughout the Central Valley to preserve and restore native habitats and the wildlife they support. The Wetlands is one of the city's most valuable open space resources. It provides wildlife habitat, flood control, wastewater and stormwater treatment, recreation, and environmental learning opportunities. Docent lead tours are offered the first Saturday of each month. The Davis wetlands are located in north east Davis, adjacent to the wastewater treatment plant. <a href="http://www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/public-works/wastewater/davis-wetlands">www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/public-works/wastewater/davis-wetlands</a></p>	2016





# Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Silver	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2015, Davis signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Cool Davis, a local non-profit. The purpose of Cool Davis is to help the city implement its Climate Action Plan and sponsor activities designed to help Davis residents reduce greenhouse gas emissions. <a href="http://www.cooldavis.org">www.cooldavis.org</a> Since 2010, the collaboration has resulted in numerous activities, including: participation in the Georgetown University Energy Prize project, the 2016 Sustainability Summit, the Solar Project Launch, joint development of an online list of local solar, HVAC and energy efficiency contractors, co-sponsorship of the annual Cool Davis Festival, and the Cool Davis Climate Action Work Day. MOU between Cool Davis and City of Davis: <a href="https://www.cooldavis.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/City-CD-2016-17-MOU-12-15-signed-3.pdf">https://www.cooldavis.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/City-CD-2016-17-MOU-12-15-signed-3.pdf</a></li> </ol>	2016

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Gold	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On May 26, 2016, Davis and Cool Davis collaborated to host a sustainability summit to bring together community non-profit groups engaged in different sustainability activities. The goal of the summit is to help the diverse groups make connections to promote collaboration, as well as provide information on projects and resources offered by the city. The summit was attended by about 100 people.</li> <li>The city's public information office uses social media, such as the NextDoor platform, to engage residents about sustainability opportunities, including workshops, public forums, and other resources. The city's website provides residents and business owners with a wealth of information about sustainability policies, resources, workshops and links to related resources.</li> </ol>	2016

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2009, Davis adopted a resolution, the Green Schools Partnership, to work with schools to promote sustainability. <a href="http://www.cityofdavis.org/home/showdocument?id=788">www.cityofdavis.org/home/showdocument?id=788</a> In 2010, Davis established a Green Business Partner Program. <a href="http://www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/public-works/stormwater/partners-for-a-greener-davis/become-a-green-business-partner">www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/public-works/stormwater/partners-for-a-greener-davis/become-a-green-business-partner</a></li> <li>Since 2010, the city and Cool Davis have co-sponsor the annual "Cool Davis Festival." Attended by several thousand residents, the festival offers attendees with tips and advice on how to reduce their impact on the environment and save money at the same time. The festival is also a showcase for Davis businesses and organizations working on sustainability and showcases many local artists, musicians and volunteers.</li> </ol>	2016





# Promoting Community and Individual Action Activity

Level	Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities	Reported
Platinum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Since the 1990s, the city has awarded an annual Environmental Recognition Award to deserving businesses, organizations and individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary care for the environment. For the last five years, the Davis City Council has honored and recognized at a council meeting Low Carbon “Eco Heroes”, selected by Cool Davis. Cool Davis gives annual awards to individuals, businesses and groups in Davis for their actions and achievements in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.</li> <li>4. Davis participates in the Yolo Climate Compact, organized by Yolo County. The Compact brings together representatives from the county, the four Yolo County cities, the University of California, Davis, and PG&amp;E for bi-monthly meetings to share information and talk about cutting edge issues.</li> <li>5. In 1980 and 1981, Davis was one of six cities to participate in a PG&amp;E sponsored pilot program designed to engage the community to reduce peak energy use. With leadership from a community advisory committee that included residents and business owners, the Davis community reduced electricity use by twenty percent over the two-year period, compared to electricity use in 1979. In addition, in recognition for the “Prime Time Program” (as it was called) Davis won the first ever League of California Cities sponsored Helen Putnum Award for Excellence.</li> <li>6. For the first year of the Cool California Challenge (2012-2013), Davis was “crowned” the California’s Coolest City by the California Air Resources Board out of eight cities that began the competition. This entailed recruiting the most households to sign up and record energy use and transportation data during a twelve month period. <a href="http://www.arb.ca.gov/newsrel/newsrelease.php?id=468">http://www.arb.ca.gov/newsrel/newsrelease.php?id=468</a></li> <li>7. The city has actively pursued partnerships with local community based organizations to implement sustainability related projects and programs, including Cool Davis, Valley Climate Action Center, Yolo Land Trust, Solano Land Trust, Davis Bicycles, and many more. This form of social innovation has allowed the city to accomplish far more that would have been possible acting alone.</li> </ol>	2016



Notes:





# INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT<sup>SM</sup>

*Promoting Good Government at the Local Level*

© 2016 by Institute for Local Government  
1400 K Street, Suite 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-658-8208  
[www.ca-ilg.org](http://www.ca-ilg.org)

