



DATE: May 10, 2018

TO: Programs & Administration Committee

FROM: Pat Cabrera, Administrative Services Director

BY: Kelly Schoonmaker, Program Manager

SUBJECT: Bay-Friendly Rated Landscape Update

SUMMARY

The Bay-Friendly Rated Landscape system recognizes excellence in sustainable landscape design, construction and maintenance. Administered by ReScape California (formerly the Bay-Friendly Landscaping and Gardening Coalition), it applies to public, commercial, institutional and multifamily landscape projects, providing a flexible, systematic framework for creating healthy, drought-tolerant and environmentally sound landscapes. At the May 10 meeting, Lakshmi Gunanayagam, Program Manager at ReScape California, will present an overview of the Rated Landscape program.

DISCUSSION

ReScape California recently launched Version 4 of the Bay-Friendly Rated Landscape system (“Rated Landscapes”). Version 4 is the first significant update to the Rated Landscapes since 2008. Updates include many new best practices recommended by local sustainable landscape experts. Additional revisions ensure that projects earning the Bay-Friendly Rating will meet and exceed requirements of the updated California Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (WELO).

With the update complete, ReScape CA is expanding implementation of the Rated Landscapes throughout the Bay Area, working with cities to adopt policies similar to those adopted in Alameda County that incentivize or require landscape projects to achieve the Bay-Friendly Rating. As part of this regional launch, ReScape CA is developing a stakeholder committee, reaching out to cities, and giving presentations on the benefits of Rated Landscapes to organizations in the Bay Area.

In addition to simplifying code compliance, Rated Landscapes save water, keep waste out of landfill, reduce pesticide and fertilizer use, and help slow climate change. Since 2005, 76 rated projects have been completed, totaling over 339 acres, with the following results:

- 78 million gallons of water saved annually
- 184,246 tons of construction waste diverted from landfills

- Up to 5,002 tons of avoided greenhouse gas emissions

Currently, 28 Rated Landscape projects are in the planning, design or construction phase, 24 of which are in Alameda County. StopWaste has supported the Rated Landscapes by providing grants and technical assistance to Rated Landscape projects in Alameda County, providing over \$250,000 in grants since 2005. As of Fiscal Year 2018-19, StopWaste will no longer offer grants, but will continue to offer technical assistance for Rated Landscapes. This change is largely due to the growth of the program, but also because grantees have found the technical assistance more valuable than the grants themselves.

For more information on Rated Landscapes, visit: <https://rescapeca.org/rated-landscapes/>

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for information only.

Bay-Friendly Rated Landscapes



Lakshmi Gunanayagam
Program Manager – Rated Landscapes, ReScape California
Lakshmi@ReScapeCA.org

What is Bay-Friendly Landscaping?

- A holistic approach to landscaping

- Landscape locally
- Less to the landfill
- Nurture the soil
- Conserve water
- Conserve energy
- Water and air quality
- Wildlife habitat



The Bay-Friendly Rated Landscapes Program

- Recognizes excellence in sustainability
- Eligible projects must:
 - Public, institutional, commercial or multi-family residential properties
 - New landscape design and construction or major renovation
 - Minimum irrigated area of 2,500 square feet

The Rated Landscapes Scorecard

Bay-Friendly Scorecard for Civic, Commercial and Multifamily Landscapes



This scorecard tracks Bay-Friendly features incorporated into the design and construction of new landscapes. Use drop-down boxes in Column A to indicate targeted measures for your project. "Goal" points appear in column I. "Achieved" points appear in column J once all verification measures have been completed in the "Rater Checklist" worksheet. The recommended minimum requirements for a Bay-Friendly Landscape are: earn a total of 60 points or more and complete the 14 required practices indicated in red text on the checklist. Submit planning stage Scorecard with Initial Submittal and final Scorecard at Final Submittal.

	Possible	Goal	Achieved
A. SITE PLANNING			
1. Complete the Bay-Friendly Site Analysis before beginning construction documents.	2	0	0
2. Locate the project within an infill, urban growth boundary, TOD or designated redevelopment site.	3	0	0
3. Avoid prime farmland and environmentally sensitive sites.	3	0	0
4. Clean up a brownfield site.	3	0	0
5. Locate the project within walking distance of public transit.	2	0	0
6. Locate project 1 mile in bicycling distance from a:			
6.1. Class I bike path.	2	0	0
6.2. Class II or Class III bicycle route.	1	0	0
7. Provide parking for bicycles.	2	0	0
8. Designate areas for mulch storage and/or leaf repositories.	1	0	0
9. Reuse trees that are identified for removal on site.	2	0	0
10. Compost plant debris on site with the capacity of:			
10.1. 1 to 3 cubic yards. (1 point)	1	0	0
10.2. More than 3 cubic yards. (total 2 points)	1	0	0
11. Install covered recycling collection receptacles.	2	0	0
12. Provide water and/or shelter for wildlife.	1	0	0
13. Preserve and protect 80% of existing mature, healthy, non-invasive trees.	2	0	0
14. On previously developed sites, restore vegetation and hydrology.	3	0	0
15. Increase open space by 30% or connect to adjacent open space.	2	0	0
16. Create or protect diverse, low-maintenance plant buffer along all creeks, shorelines and monoculture areas.	2	0	0
Site Planning Subtotal, out of 35 possible points:	35	0	0
B. STORMWATER AND SITE DRAINAGE			
1. Install permeable paving for:			
1.1. 33% of total paved area. (2 points)	2	0	0
1.2. 50% of total paved area. (total 4 points)	2	0	0

- 14 required practices
- +60 additional points (minimum)
- 200+ available points
- Supplements current codes
- Awards points for exceeding minimum codes
- Awards points for innovation

Who are Bay-Friendly Raters?



- Qualified Bay-Friendly Professionals
 - Qualified Bay-Friendly Raters
 - Project team guidance
 - Public agency verification
 - Promote sustainable practices
-
- Find a Bay-Friendly Rater at: www.ReScapeCa.org/directory/

Who benefits from Rated Landscapes?

City of Hayward Revamps Roadway with Remarkable Success

Route 238 Corridor Improvement Project, Hayward, CA



Hayward's five-mile long capital improvement project features Bay-Friendly landscaping with nearly 700 new trees and 50,000 new shrubs and other plants.

2.1 million
Gallons water saved annually

5+ acres
Sheet mulched to improve soil

362 tons
Greenhouse gas emissions avoided

- ✓ Property owners
- ✓ Municipalities
- ✓ Landscape architects/designers
- ✓ Landscape contractors
- ✓ Conservation agencies
- ✓ The landscape industry
- ✓ The public



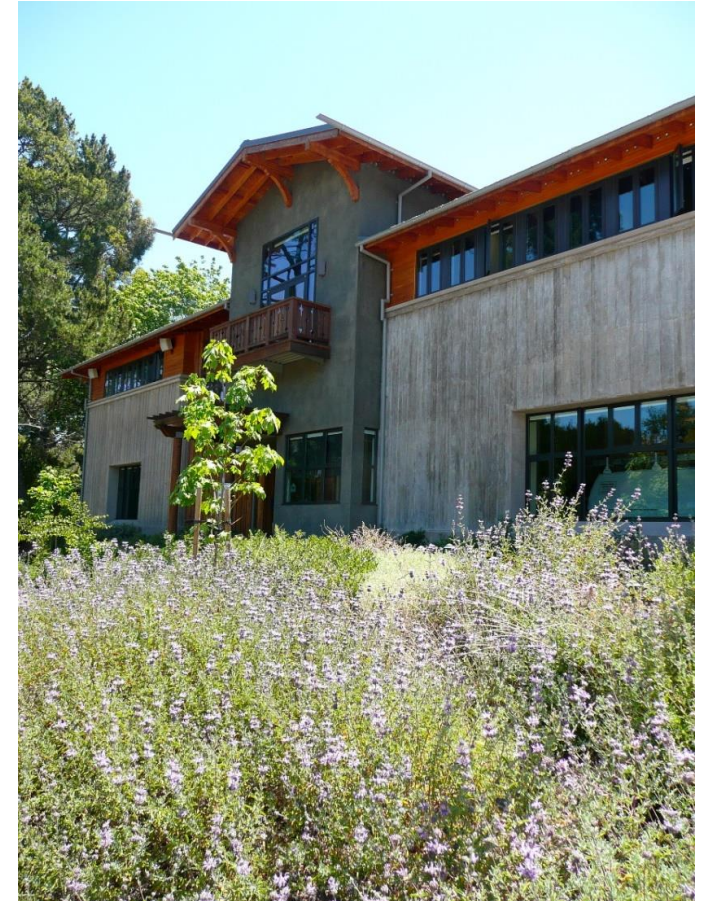
**LANDSCAPE
SUCCESS STORIES**

STOPWASTE
at home • at work • at school

RESCAPE
CALIFORNIA

Benefits for Cities

- ✓ Recognition as leaders in sustainability
- ✓ Savings on water and other resources
- ✓ Maintenance cost savings
- ✓ Quality assurance
- ✓ Meet climate action plan goals
- ✓ Streamlined WELO verification
- ✓ Streamlined review and permitting



Environmental Benefits



- ✓ 50-90% water savings
- ✓ 70-80% reduced runoff
- ✓ Reduced GHG emissions
- ✓ Reduced waste
- ✓ Increased recycling
- ✓ Fewer chemicals
- ✓ Healthier landscapes

Comparisons

- Focuses on local and statewide issues
- Focuses exclusively on landscaping best practices
- Projects do not have to include the construction or renovation of a building
- Easy for new green builders to understand
- Verification process is streamlined
- Timeline for Rating approval is shorter
- Greater responsiveness to individual project needs



Bay-Friendly Rated Projects

- First Rated project: Pleasanton Fire Station (2005)
- 76 completed Rated Landscape projects:
 - 339+ acres
 - 78+ million gallons of water saved annually
 - 5,000+ tons of reduced GHG emissions
 - 184,000+ tons of waste diverted from landfills
- 28 pending projects
- StopWaste has provided grants and technical assistance to many Rated projects in Alameda County

Bay-Friendly Rated Projects

I-880/State Route 92 Reliever Route



108 Points

- Bio-swales capture 100% stormwater runoff
- Low water use plantings for beneficial insects
- Energy-efficient LED street lights

Bay-Friendly Rated Projects

Bishop O'Dowd High School

Oakland



136 Points

- Rain water harvesting
- Mulch from local arborists and on-site plant debris
- Branches from felled trees donated to Oakland Zoo for animal play material

Tools and Resources

- Main page: www.ReScapeCA.org
- Bay-Friendly Rated Landscapes:
www.ReScapeCA.org/rated-landscapes
- Find a Bay-Friendly Rater:
www.ReScapeCA.org/directory
- Educational opportunities:
www.ReScapeCA.org/events

Lakshmi Gunanayagam
Program Manager – Rated Landscapes
Lakshmi@ReScapeCA.org



Questions?

