Bay-Friendly Landscaping Checklist

- Conserve water
- Landscape locally
- Nurture the soil
- Conserve energy
- Less to the landfill
- Water & air quality
- Wildlife habitat
1. **Landscape Locally**
   - 1. Evaluate climate, exposure and topography
   - 2. Assess the soil and test drainage
   - 3. Survey and protect flora & fauna
   - 4. Consider the potential for fire
   - 5. Use local, natural plant communities as models

2. **Landscape for Less to the Landfill**
   - 1. Select appropriate plants:
     - A. Choose plants to match the microclimate & soil conditions
     - B. Choose plants that can grow to their natural size in the space allotted them
     - C. Replace sheared hedges with plants that can grow to their natural shape & size
     - D. Do not plant invasive species
   - 2. Keep plant debris on site:
     - A. Grasscycle
     - B. Produce mulch from plant debris
     - C. Compost plant debris
   - 3. Prune selectively and properly
   - 4. Water and fertilize judiciously
   - 5. Use goats for controlling weeds and creating firebreaks
   - 6. Use salvaged items & recycled content materials
   - 7. Reduce and recycle construction waste
   - 8. Separate plant debris for clean green discounts

3. **Nurture the Soil**
   - 1. Remove and store topsoil during construction
   - 2. Protect soil from compaction
   - 3. Defend against erosion
   - 4. Amend the soil with compost before planting
   - 5. Grasscycle
   - 6. Mulch regularly
   - 7. Aerate compacted soils
   - 8. Feed soils naturally
   - 9. Avoid synthetic, quick release fertilizers
   - 10. Minimize the use of chemical pesticides

See chapter 4, Summary of Bay-Friendly Landscaping Benefits to view list of practices categorized by Design, Construction and Maintenance.
4 Conserve Water

- 1. Create drought resistant soils with compost & mulch
- 2. Grow California natives or Mediterranean plants
- 3. Minimize the lawn
- 4. Implement hydrozoning - group plants by water needs
- 5. Design for on-site rainwater collection, recycled water and/or graywater use
- 6. Design and install high efficiency irrigation systems
- 7. Install a dedicated meter to monitor landscape water use
- 8. Manage irrigation according to need
- 9. Maintain the irrigation system so every drop counts
- 10. Request an irrigation audit

5 Conserve Energy

- 1. Plant and protect trees to moderate building temperatures
- 2. Reduce the heat island effect: shade paved areas
- 3. Shade air conditioners
- 4. Design lighting carefully
- 5. Choose and maintain equipment for fuel conservation
- 6. Specify local products & suppliers

6 Protect Water & Air Quality

1. Use Integrated Pest Management:
   - A. Prevent pest problems
   - B. Train your staff to identify and monitor pest & beneficial populations
   - C. Educate your clients
   - D. Control pest problems with physical & mechanical methods
   - E. Control pest problems with biological controls
   - F. Control pest problems with the least toxic pesticide as a last resort
- 2. Eliminate high input decorative lawns
- 3. Keep soil covered
- 4. Choose and maintain your materials, equipment & vehicles carefully
- 5. Keep organic matter where it belongs
- 6. Minimize impervious surfaces
- 7. Plant trees
- 8. Maintain and manage the irrigation system carefully
- 9. Design a system to capture and treat water

7 Create & Protect Wildlife Habitat

- 1. Diversify
- 2. Choose California natives first
- 3. Provide water & shelter
- 4. Eliminate the use of pesticides
- 5. Conserve or restore natural areas & wildlife corridors