Bay-Friendly Menu of Best Practices
1. **Landscape Locally**
   - 1. Select and evaluate the site carefully
   - 2. Assess the soil and test drainage
   - 3. Survey and protect flora and 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 and 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 and 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 and recycled content materials
   - 7. Reduce and recycle waste
   - 8. Separate plant debris for clean green discounts

3. **Nurture the Soil**
   - 1. Remove and store topsoil before grading
   - 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
4 Conserve Water

- 1. Create drought resistant soils with compost and mulch
- 2. Grow drought tolerant California native 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. Shade buildings to moderate temperatures
- 2. Reduce the heat island effect
- 3. Shade air conditioners
- 4. Design lighting carefully
- 5. Choose and maintain equipment for fuel conservation
- 6. Specify low embodied energy materials

6 Protect Water and Air Quality

- 1. Use Integrated Pest Management:
  - A. Prevent pest problems
  - B. Train your staff to identify and monitor pest and beneficial populations
  - C. Educate your clients
  - D. Control pest problems with physical and 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. Minimize site disturbance
- 4. Choose and maintain your materials, equipment and vehicles carefully
- 5. Keep soil and organic matter where it belongs
- 6. Minimize impervious surfaces
- 7. Plant and protect trees
- 8. Maintain and manage the irrigation system carefully
- 9. Design a system to capture and treat water

7 Create and Protect Wildlife Habitat

- 1. Diversify
- 2. Choose California natives first
- 3. Provide water and shelter
- 4. Use organic pest management
- 5. Conserve or restore natural areas and wildlife corridors