



STAR
COMMUNITIES

SUSTAINABILITY
TOOLS FOR
ASSESSING &
RATING COMMUNITIES



Sustainability & Environmental Education Division
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Objectives



- What is STAR Communities program?
- Benefits
- Costs
- Impact on Staff time

STAR Communities



- “**Sustainability Tools for Assessing & Rating**” Communities
- Nation’s first standardized framework for evaluating the sustainability of U.S. cities and counties – released October 1, 2012

Background



- Comprehensive set of local environmental, economic and social metrics
- Designed to evaluate sustainability efforts of U.S. cities and counties
- Developed by more than 200 technical experts over a 4-year period

Background



- Formal development partnership included: ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, U.S. Green Building Council, National League of Cities, Center for American Progress
- Approach supported by: U.S. Conference of Mayors, International City/County Management Association, Urban Land Institute, National Environmental Health Association, American Planning Association

Features



- A rating system drives continuous improvement and fosters competition
- Online tool gathers, organizes, analyzes and presents information required to meet sustainability goals
- Community of committed sustainability leaders who learn from each other

Rating System



Built Environment	Climate & Energy	Education, Arts & Community	Economy & Jobs	Equity & Empowerment	Health & Safety	Natural Systems
Ambient Noise & Light	Climate Adaptation	Arts & Culture	Business Retention & Development	Civic Engagement	Active Living	Green Infrastructure
Community Water Systems	Greenhouse Gas Mitigation	Community Cohesion	Green Market Development	Civil & Human Rights	Community Health & Health System	Invasive Species
Compact & Complete Communities	Greening the Energy Supply	Educational Opportunity & Attainment	Local Economy	Environmental Justice	Emergency Prevention & Response	Natural Resource Protection
Housing Affordability	Industrial Sector Resource Efficiency	Historic Preservation	Quality Jobs & Living Wages	Equitable Services & Access	Food Access & Nutrition	Outdoor Air Quality
Infill & Redevelopment	Resource Efficient Buildings	Social & Cultural Diversity	Targeted Industry Development	Human Services	Indoor Air Quality	Water in the Environment
Public Spaces	Resource Efficient Public Infrastructure		Workforce Readiness	Poverty Prevention & Alleviation	Natural & Human Hazards	Working Lands
Transportation Choices	Waste Minimization				Safe Communities	

Certifications & Recognitions

- **Certified 5-STAR Community** (600+ points)
 - Recognized as top tier achiever in national sustainability
- **Certified 4-STAR Community** (400-599 points)
 - Recognized for national excellence
- **Certified 3-STAR Community** (200-399 points)
 - Recognized for sustainability leadership
- **Reporting STAR Community** (50-199 points)
 - Registered intent to report & exhibited progress in all 7 goal areas
- **Participating STAR Community**
 - Registered intent to use the Rating System

Benefits & Value

- Provides framework for addressing citywide sustainability, wellness and community resilience
- Provides the tools and resources necessary for city departments to determine and implement sustainability initiatives
- Allows recognition and credit for past sustainability efforts

Benefits & Value

- Specifically designed for local government at city and county level
- Allows us to evaluate gaps, assess opportunities and measure future progress against established best management practices
- Assigns dedicated STAR communities staff member to us (Leadership level)

Benefits & Value

- Provides flexibility for deploying initiatives and advancing at our own speed.
- Provides framework for process improvement and efficient use of resources resulting in cost savings and operational effectiveness
- Provides national certification standard

Benefits & Value

- Helps us shape mission and agenda for Sustainability Advisory Council
- Enhances grant and resource development opportunities
- Provides media and communication services promoting Plano as an innovative, national leader
- Helps align our culture and operations with the 2012 Strategic Vision Statement

Cost



- Dependent on subscription level
- \$500 to access technical guide and checklist with no reporting or certification
- \$1500 for technical tools and online reporting system with no certification
- \$3000 for the above plus 3 year certification

OR

- \$7500 for Leadership STAR Community Program and 3 year certification

Staff Impact



- Time spent coordinating program (Yarcus)
- Time in Leadership STAR Community if selected (Heather & Yarcus)
- Data collection – provided by participating departments as appropriate
- Bi-monthly meeting of Sustainability Advisory Council – 2 hrs/month (12 hours of management level time per year)
- Oversight of Sustainability Advisory Council (Heather/Yarcus)

Self-Assessment Checklist

Built Environment		Climate & Energy		Economy & Jobs	
◎ COMPLETED	88.1/100	◎ COMPLETED	84.9/100	◎ COMPLETED	75.8/100
Ambient Noise & Light	2.1/5	Climate Adaptation	11/15	Business Retention & Development	16/20
Community Water Systems	15/15	Greenhouse Gas Mitigation	18.4/20	Green Market Development	10.4/15
Compact & Complete Communities	16.4/20	Greening the Energy Supply	10.5/15	Local Economy	3.8/15
Housing Affordability	13.8/15	Industrial Sector Resource Efficiency	7.8/10	Quality Jobs & Living Wages	20/20
Infill & Redevelopment	8.8/10	Resource Efficient Buildings	14.2/15	Targeted Industry Development	12.4/15

Reporting Tool: Evaluation Measures

Submit your application for certification through the online Reporting Tool, our user-friendly data entry platform.

Ambient Noise & Light

Community Water Systems

Compact & Complete Communities

Housing Affordability

Infill & Redevelopment

Public Spaces

Transportation Choices

OUTCOMES

ACTIONS

PRELIMINARY OBJECTIVE SCORE 15/15

COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS

1. Drinking Water Quality [Enter response »](#)

Option A: Demonstrate that the community is not in violation of EPA's 5% standard for coliform bacteria in water pipes AND Demonstrate that the water supplied to residents is not in violation of EPA standards for turbidity and water pathogens.

Option B: Demonstrate that the community is not in violation of EPA's 5% standard for coliform bacteria in water pipes AND Decrease the amount of all regulated contaminants over time. (Partial credit applies)

Bonus: Jurisdiction or water provider participates in EPA water quality research on emerging contaminants.

2. Secure Water Supply [Enter response »](#)

Help Tips

Important Notes:

- Check the [Built Environment Corrections & Interpretations Document](#) for additional details.
- Key words are defined in the [STAR Glossary](#).
- Due to the availability of partial credit of the Outcome(s), the maximum number of Outcome points will not be awarded until

STAR Pilot Program



- Albany, NY
- Atlanta, GA
- Austin, TX
- Broward County, FL
- Chandler, AZ
- Chattanooga, TN
- Cleveland, OH
- Davenport, IA
- Des Moines, IA
- El Cerrito, CA
- Evanston, IL
- Fort Collins, CO
- Indianapolis, IN
- King County, WA
- Lee County, FL
- Northampton, MA
- Portland, OR
- Riverside, CA
- Rockingham County, NC
- Santa Fe, NM
- Santa Monica, CA
- St. Louis, MO
- Seattle, WA
- Tacoma, WA
- Tucson, AZ
- Washington, DC
- Woodbridge Township, NJ

Summary



- Recommend City adopts STAR Community Program
 - Cost-effective and flexible approach
 - Comprehensive nationally recognized sustainability framework
 - System monitors and drives continual improvement
 - Platform will work well across our City departments as well as in the larger community
 - Technical guidance and support, as well as media support to tell our story is provided

Actions



- Complete STAR Community application – Leadership level
- Encourage area city colleagues to attend Stewardship Forum to learn about STAR
- Brief Council about STAR Communities
- Attend Stewardship Forum
- Brief Executive Team about STAR
- City Manager memo to Department Directors
- Implement Sustainability Advisory Council
- Attend STAR Communities training if selected