

# Measuring Comprehensive Sustainability with the STAR Community Rating System



Andrea Peet, STAR Program Manager



# The path to sustainability . . .



is different for every community.

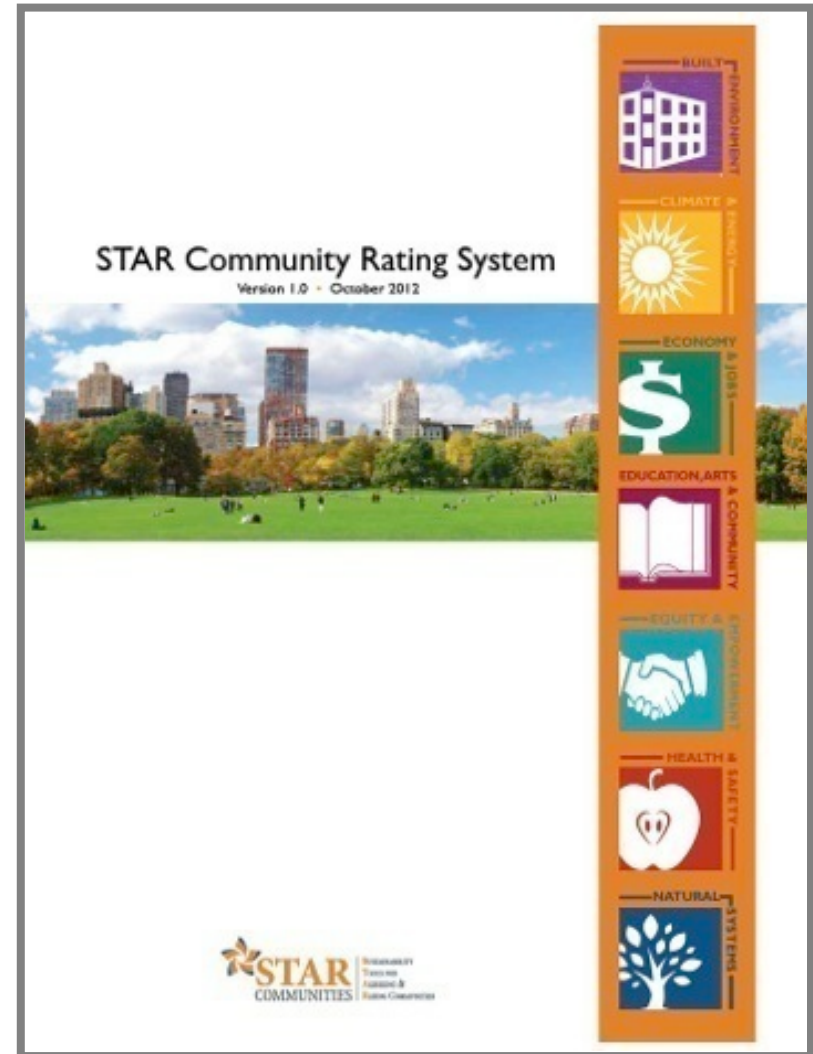
# The path to sustainability . . .

- a **healthy environment**
- a **strong economy**
- the **well-being of the people** in the community



has **common goals** in every community.

The **STAR Community Rating System** is the first national framework and certification program for measuring community sustainability.



# Built **by and for** local governments

- Led by ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, the U.S. Green Building Council, National League of Cities, and the Center for American Progress
- 200+ volunteers from cities and counties, state and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, national associations, universities, utilities, and private corporations



# STAR Communities Network



# The STAR Community Rating System

*Goal Areas & Objectives are mapped and rated in the online system, helping local leaders set goals and measure progress across areas.*

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

# Parts of the STAR Rating System

## GOALS

*Sustainability themes with comprehensive community-level aspirations*

## OBJECTIVES

*A clear, desired outcome intended to move the community toward the goal*

## OUTCOME MEASURES

*Community-scale results: measurable aim or purpose of each Objective*

## ACTION MEASURES

*The steps a community takes to move the needle towards sustainability*





## Waste Minimization

*Reduce and reuse  
material waste  
produced in the  
community*

*15 points*

## **EVALUATION MEASURES** *Community-level Outcomes*

### **Outcome: Total Solid Waste**

Demonstrate incremental progress towards achieving a 100% reduction by 2050 in total solid waste generated within the jurisdiction that is disposed of via landfill or incinerator

<b>Baseline Year</b>	<b>Years to 2050</b>	<b>Reduction per Year</b>
2000	50	2.00%
2005	45	2.22%
2010	40	2.50%



## Waste Minimization

*Reduce and reuse  
material waste  
produced in the  
community*

*15 points*

## ***EVALUATION MEASURES***

### ***Local Actions***

1. Create a Waste Management Plan
2. Adopt specific product bans that will significantly advance progress towards waste reduction goals
3. Create a public education campaign or a targeted outreach effort for residents and businesses
4. Develop or participate in a regional coalition that enhances jurisdiction's ability to address waste management targets
5. Implement incentives or enforce regulations ensuring that residents and businesses work toward reductions targets
6. Provide services to enable residents and businesses to recycle and reduce their waste footprint
7. Collaboratively create and run at least 2 targeted recycling programs at key locations throughout the community
8. Operate at least two specific waste management programs for critical waste stream types found in the community
9. Create a waste-to-energy conversion system

# STAR Reporting Tool



## CLIMATE & ENERGY ► GREENING THE ENERGY SUPPLY

Transition the local energy supply for both transportation and non-mobile sources toward the use of renewable, less carbon-intensive, and less toxic alternatives

**REQUEST REVIEW**

Climate Adaptation

Greenhouse Gas Mitigation

Greening the Energy Supply

Industrial Sector Resource Efficiency

Resource Efficient Buildings

Resource Efficient Public Infrastructure

Waste Minimization

**OUTCOMES**

ACTIONS

PRELIMINARY OBJECTIVE SCORE **11.8/15**

APPROVED OBJECTIVE SCORE **0/15**

### GREENING THE ENERGY SUPPLY

1.  Green Vehicles [Edit »](#)

**Bonus:**  Demonstrate a decreased percentage of residents who own motor vehicles.

2.  Electrical Energy Supply [Enter response »](#)

### Help Tips

**Key Words in [Glossary](#):**

- Alternative fuel
- Emissions
- Feed-in tariff

# Learn from a Common Framework

Lee County, FL used STAR as the framework for the county's first sustainability plan.

*Goal Area*  
CLICK HERE TO see what we have already accomplished!

BE - BUILT ENVIRONMENT	CE - CLIMATE & ENERGY	EJ - ECONOMY & JOBS	EE - EQUITY & EMPowerMENT	Hs - HEALTH & SAFETY	Ns - NATURAL SYSTEMS
BE-1 Ambient Noise & Light	CE-1 Climate Adaptation	EJ-1 Business Retention & Development	EE-1 Civic Engagement	Hs-1 Active Living	Ns-1 Green Infrastructure
BE-2 Community Water Systems	CE-2 Greenhouse Gas Mitigation	EJ-2 Green Market Development	EE-2 Civil & Human Rights	Hs-2 Community Health & Health System	Ns-2 Invasive Species
BE-3 Compact & Complete Communities	CE-3 Greening the Energy Supply	EJ-3 Local Economy	EE-3 Environmental Justice	Hs-3 Emergency Prevention & Response	Ns-3 Natural Resource Protection
BE-4 Housing Affordability	CE-4 Industrial Sector Resource Efficiency	EJ-4 Community Cohesion	EE-4 Arts & Culture	Hs-4 Food Access & Nutrition	Ns-4 Arts & Community

*Prioritized Objective*  
CLICK HERE to review how

Legend:

- Goal Area Acronym
- Goal Area
- Goal Icon
- Prioritized Objective (objectives we plan to tackle in this plan)
- Goal Objective
- Objective Number
- Goal Objective (not a current plan priority)

# Compile Sustainability Data

Davenport, IA is coordinating data collection of sustainability metrics across departments



# Pathways to STAR Certification

An introductory package to decide whether certification is right for your community

**Participating  
STAR  
Community**

Subscription packages for communities that are ready to gather data and pursue certification

**Reporting  
STAR  
Community**

**Leadership  
STAR  
Community**

# Leadership STAR Communities Program

STAR is currently seeking communities to participate in its 2014 Leadership Program.



Applications due October 15.

Financial assistance is available.

Visit [www.starcommunities.org](http://www.starcommunities.org) for more information.

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