



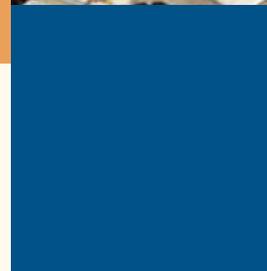
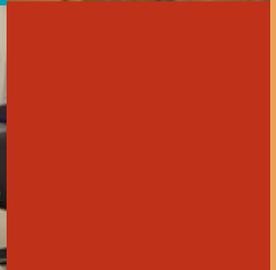
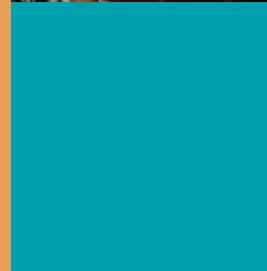
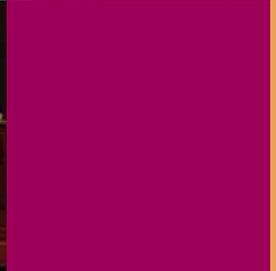
MEASURE PROGRESS

Demonstrate leadership through reporting and certification.

The STAR Community Rating System provides communities with a clear, data-driven approach to assessing local sustainability efforts. STAR's framework of goals, objectives, and evaluation measures provides a roadmap to evaluate and improve community performance and become healthier, stronger, and more resilient.

For local governments that are ready to start measuring progress, STAR Communities offers two ways to credibly and transparently benchmark your community's performance against national standards and best practices:

- **Annual Reporting:** The Leading STAR Community Indicators provide communities with a simple way to get started with sustainability metrics. Communities of all sizes and experience can report annual performance on a public dashboard and compare progress with participating communities.
- **Certification:** The STAR certification program provides a robust, independently verified assessment of your community's strengths and weaknesses across the rating system's framework of social, economic, and environmental performance areas. Certification is often a transformative process, serving as a springboard for civic engagement, cross-agency coordination, integrated budgeting, performance management, and more. It is a great way to jumpstart a community planning effort, measure progress towards an existing plan, and/or identify gaps and prioritize investment.



GET STARTED

When you are ready to start measuring progress, sign up online for the Full Access subscription to receive tools and resources to support data collection.

Get started with annual reporting using the **21 Leading STAR Community Indicators**. Developed in partnership with the Urban Sustainability Directors Network, the Leading Indicators are organized into an online platform where U.S. cities and counties can report annually on key sustainability metrics and compare their progress with other participating communities. View the dashboard at www.STARcommunities.org/indicators.

The **STAR Certification program** is open to U.S. cities and counties of all sizes and resource levels. There is no minimum or maximum community size for pursuing certification, however the city or county government must be the primary applicant. Communities as small as Charles City, IA (pop. 7,500) and as large as Houston, TX (pop. 2.2 million) have successfully achieved STAR certification.

Communities receive a rating based on the total cumulative score of points achieved from the 750 points available in the menu-based rating system. A robust, third party verification provides accountability and transparency.

CERTIFICATION LEVELS		Point Range
	3-STAR Community <i>Recognized for sustainability leadership</i>	250 - 449
	4-STAR Community <i>Recognized for national excellence in sustainability</i>	450 - 649
	5-STAR Community <i>Recognized as top tier achiever in national sustainability</i>	650+



NEED EXTRA SUPPORT?

Communities that would like additional technical assistance and training to support the certification process can apply to join the **Leadership STAR Community Program**, a one-year all-inclusive program that supports a cohort of local governments as they complete their first baseline community sustainability assessment using STAR. The Leadership Program runs one time a year, starting in September, and requires an application.

STAR Communities is a nonprofit organization that works to evaluate, improve, and certify sustainable communities. We administer the STAR Community Rating System, the nation's leading framework and certification program for local sustainability.