STAR Communities helps cities and counties achieve meaningful sustainability through the first framework and certification program for community sustainability, built by and for local governments and the communities they serve.

SET GOALS. MEASURE PROGRESS.

STAR is organized around the following 7 key sustainability themes:

**BUILT ENVIRONMENT**
Quality, Choice & Access
Where We Live, Work & Play

**CLIMATE & ENERGY**
Increase Efficiency, Reduce Impact

**ECONOMY & JOBS**
Quality Jobs, Shared Prosperity

**EDUCATION, ARTS & COMMUNITY**
Vibrant, Connected & Diverse Culture

**EQUITY & EMPOWERMENT**
Inclusion & Access for All Community Members

**HEALTH & SAFETY**
Strong, Resilient & Safe

**NATURAL SYSTEMS**
Protect & Restore the Resources of Life

THE STAR COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM HELPS COMMUNITIES:

- Identify new strategies & best practices for community sustainability
- Track sustainability performance across the environment, economy & society
- Achieve national recognition for local efforts
- Increase transparency & accountability for elected officials & citizens
- Communicate resilience & risk management to investors, insurers & bond agencies
- Build & strengthen partnerships throughout the community

“STAR helps us create an active roadmap for a sustainable community and allows us to measure our progress along the way. With the help of this tool, we are making more informed decisions that have a big impact on our community.”
Shannon Parry, Sustainability Officer, City of Santa Monica, CA

“STAR lets us promote all the great things that we have done to make our community strong and resilient. It is positive feedback that lets our residents, taxpayers, businesses, investors, and community partners know that we are on the right track.”
David Narkewicz, Mayor City of Northampton, MA

www.STARcommunities.org
WHAT IS A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY?
A sustainable community promotes a healthy environment, a strong economy and well-being for all residents, now and for future generations.

WHAT IS THE STAR COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM?
The STAR Community Rating System is the nation’s first framework and certification program for community sustainability, built by and for local governments and the communities they serve.

WHAT IS STAR COMMUNITIES?
STAR Communities is a nonprofit organization that works to advance a national framework to evaluate and certify sustainable communities in North America. We rate communities on 44 objectives including economic, environmental and social performance measures, for both local governments and the broader community. STAR’s rating criteria are designed to assess local sustainability efforts in a clear and data-driven way.

WHY IS STAR NEEDED?
Sustainability means different things to different people, so STAR provides a clear, data-driven approach to assessing community sustainability efforts. STAR helps communities assess their efforts in 7 key areas and define sustainability for themselves. This robust framework is necessary for communities to credibly track their progress toward overall sustainability objectives and to allow communities to compare progress with each other.

WHO DEVELOPED THE RATING SYSTEM?
STAR was developed for local governments by local governments. Nearly 200 volunteers representing 50 cities and counties, state and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, national associations, universities, utilities and private corporations contributed thousands of hours and diverse expertise to the development of the rating system.

As of summer 2014, over 34 million people currently live in a STAR Community! There are 85+ active communities and 20 communities have received certification. For a full list of STAR communities, go to: www.STARcommunities.org

*Orange dots denote current STAR Communities as of August 2014.
Green stars denote certified communities. See the website for full list.