



**S**USTAINABILITY  
**T**OOLS FOR  
**A**SSESSING &  
**R**ATING COMMUNITIES

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

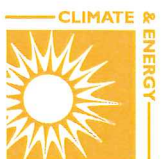
**SET GOALS. MEASURE PROGRESS. IMPROVE YOUR COMMUNITY.**

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

## **STAR 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 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**



*"The STAR Community Rating System has been a powerful and valuable tool for our city to assess the progress of our sustainability efforts. It will also help us identify gaps and hold us accountable for improving the quality of life for our residents."*

**Marilyn Strickland, Mayor  
City of Tacoma, WA**

**[www.STARcommunities.org](http://www.STARcommunities.org)**



# The STAR Community Rating System

## 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?

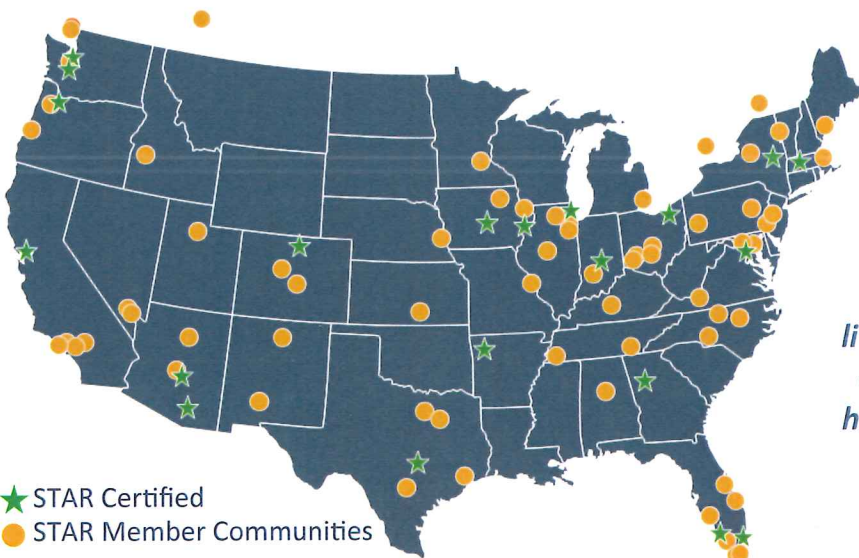
STAR Communities is a nonprofit organization that works to advance a national framework to evaluate and certify sustainable communities in North America. We rate communities on 44 objectives including economic, environmental and social performance measures, for both local governments and the broader 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.



## GET STARTED TODAY!

### Download the RATING SYSTEM.

Access the FREE STAR Community Rating System at [www.STARcommunities.org](http://www.STARcommunities.org) to guide local operations.

### Become a STAR Member Community!

Demonstrate your commitment to local sustainability by becoming a STAR Member Community. You'll receive support from the STAR network and tools to help you get started.

### Add the Reporting Tools package.

Track and report your community's progress and pursue certification with our custom reporting tool.

### Apply to the Leadership Program!

Join a cohort of communities in this year-long program designed to help you get STAR Certified. The program begins on March 1 and September 1 each year.

Go to [www.STARcommunities.org](http://www.STARcommunities.org) for member benefits, pricing and details.

*There are more than 40 million people living 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](http://www.STARcommunities.org)**