

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the Statutes of the State of Illinois and the Ordinances of the City of Highland Park, the next meeting of the Natural Resources Commission of the City of Highland Park is scheduled to be held at the hour of 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 14, 2016 at the City of Highland Park City Hall, 1707 St. Johns Avenue, Highland Park, Illinois, during which it is anticipated there will be a discussion of the following:

City of Highland Park NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Wednesday, September 14, 2016
Highland Park City Hall
1707 St. Johns Avenue
Highland Park, Illinois
6:30 p.m.

MEETING AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Approval of Minutes: June 8, 2016 and July 13, 2016

IV. Business from the Public

V. Old Business

- (a) Discussion of Municipally-Focused Programs related to Energy Efficiency
 - i. National League of Cities/SolSmart City Challenge and Designation
 - ii. GRC2 - Greenest Region Compact Framework
 - iii. STAR Community Rating System & Certification

VI. New Business

- (a) Commissioner Updates and Discussion for 2016 Work Plan Items
 - i. Updates on Education & Outreach for Steep Slope Issues (Q1/Q3)
 - ii. Policy Recommendations to Improve Recycling Output Community-Wide
 - i. Construction & Recycling Debris (Q1/Q2)
 - ii. Shoe Recycling and Off-Season Composting Programs (Q3)
 - iii. Improving Storm Water Management and Addressing Water Pollution
 - i. Recommendation for Coal Tar Sealant Ban (Q1)
 - iv. Policy Recommendations for Improving Air Quality Community-Wide
 - i. Recommendation on City Anti-Idling Policy (Q3/Q4)
 - v. Update on Community Garden Efforts (Q1)
 - vi. Update on Lighting Code Amendments
- (b) Consideration and Approval of Application for Award for Meritorious Service to the Highland Park Environment

VII. Other Business

- (a) Commissioner Comments
- (b) Administrative Items

VIII. Adjournment

Posted in City Hall on September 9, 2016

PLEASE RECYCLE

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK,
ILLINOIS**

MEETING DATE: June 8, 2016

MEETING LOCATION: Pre-Session Conference Room – Highland Park City Hall
1707 St. Johns Avenue, Highland Park, Illinois

CALL TO ORDER

At 6:32 p.m., Vice Chairman Wagenius called the meeting to order and Eric Olson called the roll.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Yates, Pagoria, LaCosse, Coyle, Wagenius (VC)

Members Absent: Nichols, Ross (C)

Vice Chairman Wagenius declared that there was a quorum of the Commission present.

Staff Present: Eric Olson, Planner

Also Present: Amalia Schwartz, Park District of Highland Park
Kim Stone, City Council Liaison

MINUTES

Commissioner Pagoria moved to approve the minutes for the May 11, 2016 meeting of the Natural Resources Commission. Commissioner Yates seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the minutes were approved.

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

There was no business from the public.

OLD BUSINESS

Vice Chair Wagenius stated that some agenda items would be considered out of order during the meeting, specifically, that the Steep Slope variation requests on the agenda would be heard first.

A. Steep Slope Variation Review – 116 Deere Park Court

Planner Olson provided a detailed presentation on a variation request to construct rebuild and expand a deck within the Steep Slope Zone at the property located at 116 Deere Park Court and a summary of the plan revisions submitted since the May 2016 NRC meeting. He also stated that the public hearing for this case is scheduled for the June 16, 2016 Zoning Board of Appeals meeting. Ms. Doreen Tho, resident of the subject property was also present.

Commissioner Pagoria stated that many of the required Basic Technical Standards were evaluated during last month's meeting. Planner Olson stated that through the standards were discussed during the previous meeting, the Commission still needs to vote to recommend or not recommend before the item will go to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Vice Chair Wagenius then entertained motions finding that the variation request meets the standards required by Code. Commission Coyle noted that in the past the Commission has voted on individual standards separately and also collectively. Vice Chair Wagenius then stated that the NRC would then discuss the standards as needed then vote afterward.

Commission Pagoria stated that the plan revisions directly address many of the comments made by the Natural Resources Commission during its previous meeting.

Commissioner Coyle then stated that she wanted the Engineering Division to take a stance on the requested Steep Slope variation, particularly with respect to Standard #7, related to the location of structures so that structure weight does not impact slope stability. Commissioner Pagoria agreed.

Vice Chair Wagenius then entertained motion to recommend approval. Commissioner Coyle moved to recommend approval of the requested variation as revised, as it meets all seven required Basic Technical Standards in the Section 150.1903(C) of the Zoning Code. Commissioner LaCosse seconded the motion.

Voting Yea: LaCosse, Pagoria, Yates, Coyle, Wagenius
Voting Nay:

The NRC voted unanimously voted to recommend approval of the variation request, as revised, for 116 Deere Park Court to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

B. Steep Slope Variation Review – 975 Sheridan Road

Commission Coyle that based on the earlier site visit, stated that the Commissions have several questions for the architect and that they may not be able to vote this evening.

Planner Olson then provided a detailed presentation on a variation request to construct a new single-family residence and pool the property located at 975 Sheridan Road, noting that the pool as proposed would encroach five feet into a special 10 foot pool setback from the 40 foot bluff Steep Slope Zone setback. He noted that the applicant's engineer stated that the proposal will have no negative impact on the bluff and that the City's Engineering Division issued a memo stating that the location of the Steep Slope Zone and the associated setbacks cannot be verified since the applicant did not submit a topographic survey of the property.

Vice Chair Wagenius then reiterated that based on the site visit and the lack of specific information, the NRC would not vote on the item during the meeting, but would instead provide feedback to the applicant that would help in the development of a more complete application for future consideration.

John Leonard and Monica Musialowski, of Morgante Wilson Architects, the architect of record for the property owner, explained the request to the Commission, stating that the overall variation request includes front setback relief as well as the pool encroachment. Mr. Leonard stated that the proposal reduced the amount of impervious surface on the property, and that they will bring a civil engineer and soils engineer into the project team to help them refine the plans.

Councilwoman Stone asked whether the property owner was in attendance during the meeting, but the architects stated that he was not.

Commissioner Coyle stated that a topographic survey and drainage and grading plan will be essential for appropriate review of the proposal. Commissioner LaCosse added that much of the slope in the area has been modified over the years and expressed uncertainty regarding the accuracy of the ravine delineation shown on the applicant's plans and that an updated topographic survey will be necessary.

Ms. Musialowski asked whether the Engineering Division determines the location of the Steep Slope Zone. Planner Olson then explained that applicants typically propose the location of the Steep Slope Zone based on supporting information including a topographic survey and then the Engineering Division will either concur upon review or require revisions.

Commissioner Pagoria stated that the structural engineer may be deficient in their analysis based on the claim regarding the weight of the pool water on the slope, since they appear to have disregarded the presence of the pool foundation. More information regarding the total soil load will be required. Commissioner LaCosse asked whether this analysis was already completed, but Ms. Musialowski was uncertain as to the specifics of the engineering calculations.

Ms. Musialowski asked about the deadlines for revised materials, and Planner Olson advised them to provide them as soon as possible to allow for the Engineering Division to review.

Ms. Musialowski then asked how a continuation at the NRC will impact their scheduled meeting for the Zoning Board. Planner Olson stated that if the plans are not changed, then the public hearing for the variation request will be opened and immediately continued to a future meeting of the Zoning Board.

Commissioner Pagoria then reiterated the importance of providing information on drainage and grading during plan revisions.

Commissioner Coyle then stated that if this item does not obtain a vote from an NRC during the July meeting, the applicants run the risk of having to wait until September, as the August meeting has been canceled in previous years.

Vice Chairman Wagenius then continued the meeting to the July 13, 2016 meeting.

C. Commissioner Updates on Q1 Work Plan Items

Policy Recommendations to Improve Energy Efficiency Community Wide

Councilwoman Stone stated that she discussed the NRC's community energy program ideas with Grace Rink of Quercus, the City's sustainability consultant. Ms. Rink then provided a presentation on community programs and award/competition program concepts intended to raise awareness among residents of the City's sustainability objectives and engage them as participants. Concepts included competition programs related to sustainable buildings, sustainable business practices and products, sustainable landscapes, and sustainable leadership.

Commissioner LaCosse stated that these competitive programs were an excellent way to draw residents into a more sustainable lifestyle.

Commissioner Coyle stated that she likes the idea but foresees issues during implementation. She stated that Highland Park has a high number of awards programs and that some programs have trouble getting applicants, and that a large number of new awards might be too much. She also noted that too many award programs dilutes the significance of the awards, so the scope might be better off limited. Each award or program would also need to be sufficiently unique to main relevance over time. Ms. Rink then provided some ideas as to how some of the award programs might be administered in a manner that addresses those concerns.

Councilwoman Stone stated that in her meetings with the Green Alliance, it was discussed that some of these programs and other City programming might adhere to a single theme, which would change each year. Ms. Rink stated that the City of Cleveland used that approach and that it was helpful in developing a sustainability plan over several years.

Vice Chair Wagenius then discussed the value of objective goals and data and then questioned how some of these competition and award programs will help the community meet those goals. Ms. Rink stated that she would look further into how these programs will provide useful data.

Commissioner Coyle discussed the value of metrics in competition with respect to energy use, recycling, waste management, and other areas of sustainability as well as how those might be used in messaging. Ms. Rink then discussed the data gathering efforts that have occurred to date regarding those efforts.

Commissioner Pagoria asked about the potential for incentives, rather than awards. Ms. Rink stated that it is a

challenging issue akin to a “chicken or egg” scenario, with respect to funding and organization. One would likely need to choose to form an organization and then pursuing funds, or have the City budget funds to use for organizational and programming purposes. Ms. Rink also discussed the potential for sponsorships from local businesses.

Update on Further Coal Tar Ban Research and Recommendation

Commissioner Coyle stated that she has not yet been able to finish her review of the draft recommendation materials, but will try to have it ready for July. Councilwoman Stone stated that she identified a pavement sealing contractor that advertises “no coal tar sealant” services. She added that she called them for more information, but they did not answer the phone. Vice Chair Wagenius then stated the item would be held off until next month’s meeting.

NRC Article on Microbeads in Highlander

Vice Chair Wagenius stated that an educational microbead article written by Commissioner Pagoria will be published in the next edition of the *Highlander* community newsletter. Planner Olson stated that he has not heard from the City Manager’s Office that any additional information would be needed and would

Bird-Friendly Windows – Task Force Update

Vice Chair Wagenius provided information on the upcoming Task Force meeting and stated he would not be able to attend. The NRC then stated that Chairman Ross might be able to attend and that members would e-mail him to see if he could participate.

Great Lakes & St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSCI) – Potential City Membership and Participation

Commissioner LaCrosse provided a summary of the GLSCI activities and Councilwoman Stone provided information on past membership. Vice Chair Wagenius stated that it would be very helpful to assess potential membership from a cost/benefit analysis, as funds could also be used for a number of other programs more specifically aligned with established goals. Commissioner Coyle stated that membership should be based on strong municipal support rather than the interest of a small number of interested citizens. Councilwoman Stone stated that the organization does good work but is uncertain that membership would be of great value to the community. Commissioner Coyle suggested that the City discuss this issue with the Park District next year since they own and control most of the public shoreline real estate in the community.

The Vice Chair then entertained a motion to recommend not joining/renewing GLSCI membership at this time. Commissioner LaCrosse made the motion as entertained. Commissioner Pagoria seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the Vice Chair declared that the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Recognition of Outgoing Student Commissioners

Vice Chair Wagenius noted that the outgoing student commissioners have already received formal recognition by the City.

B. Discussion of Recent Environment-Related Events

2016 Bike Fair & Film Screening

Councilwoman Stone discussed the bike fair and film screening event held on May 15, 2016. She noted that the Library was a good location and that it reached many people in the area as well as library patrons. She added that film viewership was low though that could possibly be attributed to a lack of information and excellent weather. She added that the Library would like to plan films with approximately a year notice to help with planning purposes. She then stated that it might be a good idea to align the films to an environmental theme. Vice Chair Wagenius then stated that the group could discuss potential themes at the next meeting.

Planner Olson stated that the used bike drive was very successful, and that after repairs, the bikes will be donated to those in need in Chicago and in Malawi.

Vice Chair Wagenius then stated that the group could discuss potential environmental themes at the next meeting, which could be used in the development of next year's film series.

Lake Michigan Beaches & Public Access Rights – Speaker Series

Commissioner LaCosse provided a summary of a speaker series event sponsored by Go Green Glencoe related to public access rights to beaches along the Lake Michigan shoreline. The speaker is a lawyer involved with the issue who stated that the high water mark is the approximate delineation between public and private property. He added that it is not always clear to property owners and the general public where that delineation is located.

Commissioner LaCosse then stated that he asked the Highland Park Police Department about the topic, and he stated that he received the response the Park District makes the policy and that the Police Department enforces it. Commissioner Coyle then stated that the Police Department was incorrect, as state, local, and Federal laws govern access to the shoreline.

Revitalizing Our Ravines: Community Workshop 2016

Commissioner LaCosse provided a summary of the ravine workshop event held at the Chicago Botanic Garden on June 1, 2016. He stated that it was an interesting event and that there were many knowledgeable speakers and businesses involved. Commissioner Pagoria asked whether there was a great deal of information sharing occurring at the event. Commissioner LaCosse said that there were many organizations there, though to some extent it appeared to serve as business development and marketing.

C. Commissioner Updates on Q1/Q2 Work Plan Items

Education & Outreach for Steep Slope Issues

Planner Olson stated that Chairman Ross and Commissioner Nichols were working to translate the ravine brochure into Spanish, and that they may be able to provide an update at next month's meeting.

Expansion of Construction & Demolition Debris Recycling

No updates available. Councilwoman Stone then stated that Lakeshore Recycling has recently purchased a construction debris recycling company, so that may be a resource in the future.

Policy Recommendations for Improving Air Quality Community-Wide

No updates available.

Community Garden Efforts

Commissioner Yates stated that the community gardens on the Park District properties are going very well, though they are small plots. The raised-bed plots are located at West Ridge Center. Survey efforts to gauge community interest in expansion have not yet materialized. Park District representative Schwartz stated that the Park District isn't interested in being the primary provider of community gardening at this time. Councilwoman Stone stated that the City may not have the land to have them and that most are located on Park District property. Vice Chairman Wagenius then added that the Glencoe community gardens are very impressive. The group then discussed whether the NRC might solicit community garden interest through a newsletter or whether it would be better done as a survey. Commissioners Yates and LaCosse then said they'd report back next month.

D. General Discussion of Upcoming Q3 Work

The group briefly reviewed third quarter work plan items and the assigned Commission members. Councilwoman Stone provided additional information on the Lighting Amendments issue, stating that the City Council will be considering dark sky lighting amendments on July 11, 2016.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Yates – Wanted to know who the best contact point would be for e-mails regarding community gardens.
 - Planner Olson stated that the City has communications staff that might be the ideal point of contact and that he can forward materials to the City Manager’s Office.
- Commissioner Pagoria – Stated that he received input from a resident regarding noise associated with landscaping equipment and wanted to know what regulations are in place. Councilwoman Stone stated that she was unsure and Vice Chair Wagenius added that unmuffled equipment is likely emitting above standards.
 - Commissioner Pagoria then added that he may miss next month’s meeting
 - Vice Chair Wagenius will also be away in July and August, but may be able to phone in if possible.
- Commissioner LaCosse stated that he had a wonderful time at the recent environmental events and agreed that landscaping noise is a nuisance.
- Councilwoman Stone discussed the presence of invasive species planted as a part of new development. She contacted the City Forester, who stated that there is no ordinance preventing it. She then suggested that NRC may wish to explore this issue next year.
 - Planner Olson stated that landscaping discusses invasive species during design review.
 - Vice Chair Wagenius stated that Illinois has an anti-noxious plant species law.

B. Administrative Items – *None*

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner LaCosse motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Coyle seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Wagenius adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Olson, Planner

MINUTES APPROVED BY THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION ON _____

- WITH NO CORRECTIONS ____
- WITH CORRECTIONS _____
(SEE MINUTES OF [_____] MEETING FOR CORRECTIONS)

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK,
ILLINOIS**

MEETING DATE: July 13, 2016

MEETING LOCATION: Pre-Session Conference Room – Highland Park City Hall
1707 St. Johns Avenue, Highland Park, Illinois

CALL TO ORDER

At 6:30 p.m., Chairman Ross called the meeting to order and Eric Olson called the roll.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Yates, LaCrosse, Coyle, Ross (C)

Members Absent: Nichols, Pagoria, Wagenius (VC)

Chairman Ross declared that there was a quorum of the Commission present.

Staff Present: Eric Olson, Planner

Also Present: Amalia Schwartz, Park District of Highland Park
Kim Stone, City Council Liaison

MINUTES

Chairman Ross stated that he was not present at the June 2016 NRC meeting and thus there were not enough members of the Commission present to vote on approval of the June 8, 2016 meeting minutes. He then declared that consideration of the draft minutes for the June meeting would be tabled to the August meeting.

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

Chairman Ross stated that Business from the Public would be moved to later in the agenda to allow for members of the public to arrive.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Staff Update on Recent Steep Slope Variation Requests

Planner Olson provided an update on several Steep Slope variation requests, including those for 381 Woodland Road, 116 Deere Park Court, 975 Sheridan Road, and 65 Vine Avenue. The update included outcomes for those requests for which recommendations were provided to the Zoning Board of Appeals and general updates for those variation requests which were considered and continued by the Natural Resources Commission and the applicants did not return.

B. Bird-Friendly Windows – Task Force Update

Planner Olson provided a status update on the task force that was convened by the City regarding potential Bird-Friendly Window regulations. The update summarized the third meeting of the Task Force during which the Task Force discussed LEED Pilot Credit 55 though they did not come to a final recommendation. Councilwoman Stone stated that there was not consensus among the Task Force members and that the group

may be dissolved. She then added that it may be worth polling the Task Force members to determine whether they wish to modify the scope of the recommendation.

C. Future Great Lakes & St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSCI) membership discussion

Planner Olson summarized the discussion and recommendation made by the NRC during the June 2016 meeting, specifically the recommendation not to renew membership at this time. He then stated that the Vice Chairman stated during the June meeting that the group should further evaluate how GLSCI membership aligns with the goals of the group and City and weigh the costs and benefits of membership against those of other programs and organizations in which the City might be involved. Councilwoman Stone then discussed the City's previous membership in the Great Lakes Compact.

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

Dave Neu, Executive Director for Conserve Lake County, addressed the Natural Resources Commission. He provided a summary of the organization's history and its current focus and programming. He then stated that the organization is looking to build a wide range of partnerships throughout Lake County with municipalities and public and private organizations.

Chairman Ross asked Mr. Neu about the municipality certification criteria that his organization applies. Mr. Neu stated that his group would evaluate several issues, including the types of trees that the City would promote planting, whether the City allows prairie-type yards for residential properties, whether the City requires permits to remove buckthorn, and whether the City is involved in de-icing training.

Chairman Ross then invited Mr. Neu to review the NRC's annual work plan and provide feedback as to how the NRC might make a greater impact. Mr. Neu stated that the organization has worked with several communities, including Grayslake and Mettawa. His group has helped those communities to establish rebate programs for residents engaging in sustainability programs.

Chairman Ross then discussed recent news from Los Angeles, California, stating that their Code had made it difficult to plant native species in residential yards but that it now incentivizes native plantings by residents. Mr. Neu added that his organization may be able to help find grants for conservation projects in Highland Park.

Commissioner Coyle stated that she appreciates that Mr. Neu made the time and effort to attend the meeting and engage the NRC. She stated that the group will need to think about partnering with Conserve Lake County and wants to know the organization will help bring conservation projects and events to Highland Park.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Staff Update on Recent Steep Slope Variation Requests

Education & Outreach for Steep Slope Issues

Chairman Ross stated that he and Commissioner Nichols still intend to translate the ravine brochure into Spanish during the third quarter.

Policy Recommendations to Improve Recycling Output Community-Wide

With respect to construction debris recycling, Commissioner Stone stated that Code requires recycling for projects of a certain size and stated that it may be effective to reduce the size requirements to make more development projects subject to the recycling requirements. She then stated that she will contact SWALCO for further information. Commissioner Coyle stated that whatever action the NRC takes on this topic must be a very considered decision. Chairman Ross then stated that it will be interesting to see how recycling costs compare for projects of varying sizes.

With respect to shoe recycling, Commissioner Coyle stated that it is a matter of contacting SWALCO to move forward with the issue.

Policy Recommendations to Improve Energy Efficiency Community Wide

Chairman Ross stated that there are no updates at this time, as the NRC members assigned to work on the action plan item were not present at the meeting.

Improving Storm Water Management and Addressing Water Pollution

Commissioner Coyle stated that she has not yet completed review and revision of the draft coal tar ban recommendation and that she anticipates that it will be completed by the August or September meetings.

Commissioner LaCosse stated that he received marketing materials from Kaplan Paving, a local contractor that provides pavement sealing services, and that the materials indicate that the company provides “100% Coal Tar Free” sealing services. Chairman Ross stated that coal tar may be less available than in the past as it is a by-product of metals manufacturing and that the metals manufacturing industry is in a period of low demand and production.

Commissioner LaCosse then asked whether Highland Park residents are allowed to have gravel driveways for new construction. The group was uncertain whether or not it is permitted.

Policy Recommendations for Improving Air Quality Community-Wide

Chairman Ross stated that he has discussed anti-idling policies with a member of the organization Go Green Highland Park. He then stated that there is a section of the Illinois Diesel Code that may apply. He stated that he is looking for additional information on idling restrictions in other states and restrictions that apply to vehicles of varying sizes. Councilwoman Stone stated that many anti-idling regulations may be at the state-level. Chairman Ross stated that it is true, though several communities have the own anti-idling regulations that are more restrictive than the state-level regulations.

Councilwoman Stone stated she recently saw a member of City staff that left their municipal vehicle idling while not inside the vehicle and asked Planner Olson to discuss the issue with the Director of Community Development and request that an e-mail be sent to staff reminding them not to leave vehicles idling.

Commissioner Coyle asked how communities might enforce anti-idling regulations. Chairman Ross stated that several communities issue fines to offending parties.

Councilwoman Stone stated that many landscapers and public buses, particularly those service and shuttles for Ravinia Festival, idle their vehicles for extended periods of time in the community. Planner Olson added that many buses also idle for long periods in queues at the Public Works campus as it is the location where they refuel their vehicles. Councilwoman Stone then stated that many of the Ravinia shuttle buses are provided by PACE and are the oldest buses in the fleet. They are reportedly started in the afternoon and not turned off as there are no mechanics available to service them in the situation that they cannot be restarted. Chairman Ross stated that such idling may be in violation of state statutes. Councilwoman Stone then stated that she will try to get information on bus management from the Department of Public Works and asked whether Ravinia Festival and PACE could provide funds for mechanical services so that the buses will not idle so long.

Councilwoman Stone then stated that she recently spoke at the College of Lake County and met an individual that is associated with Nissan. She stated that Nissan provides a deal on Nissan Leaf electric cars and that a free charging station is provided free with the purchase of two vehicles. She stated that the City purchased two Nissan Leaf vehicles for the Fire Inspection division. She then stated that the City replaced its community service “SMART” cars with sports-utility vehicles as the community service vehicles must carry a lot of equipment, though an analysis of the City’s fleet shows that approximately 50% of the City’s fleet consists of green/hybrid vehicles. Commissioner Coyle added that SMART cars have poor fuel economy, but that the vehicles driven by City employees says a lot about a community’s attitude and focus on environmental issues.

Update on Community Garden Efforts

Planner Olson provided a brief summary of the discussion of community garden efforts from the June meeting. Park District representative Amalia Schwartz then stated that she will get information on demand and wait list for community garden plots on Park District property.

Commissioner LaCosse stated that he recently visited the Libertyville soccer complex, which has about two acres of land dedicated to community gardens and appear to be very active. Commissioner Coyle stated that it will be more difficult to have a comparable garden in Highland Park as the City itself does not have enough land. The Park District owns most of the real estate in the City where public community gardens would be feasible.

Lighting Code Amendments

Planner Olson stated that the dark sky lighting Code amendments were recently considered by the City Council at a Committee of the Whole meeting held on July 11, 2016. Councilwoman Stone stated that there is not consensus on the issue and that some Council members want additional information, so there will be some more education to be done for those Council members.

Councilwoman Stone stated that some of the issues that were discussed during the Committee of the Whole meeting and may need to be addressed further included safety, regulation on the types of lights homeowners can purchase, cost, color temperature, the proximity of the community to Chicago and the impact that new regulations in Highland Park can make on light pollution, the ownership of the light poles in the public right-of-way, and how the amendments address LEDs and current lighting technology.

Commissioner Coyle stated that it may be helpful to address the size of Highland Park in terms of area, as it is one of the largest communities in the North Shore in square miles and that lighting over such a large area will make a difference.

Councilwoman Stone stated that Council had questions regarding the impact that will be made if the proposed amendments were only applicable to new construction. Chairman Ross stated that the impact would be made over time.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner LaCosse stated the NRC may find value in increasing its interaction with community-level organizations in Highland Park and those like Go Green Glencoe.

- Commissioner Coyle stated that it may be better for the NRC to be involved in more parallel interaction with municipal-level groups, and that Go Green Highland Park would find more value interacting with other community-level groups.
- Chairman Ross stated that it may be worth reaching out to NRC-equivalent groups in other area municipalities to compare work plans and share information.

B. Administrative Items

Planner Olson stated that it will soon be necessary to review and submit a work plan and budget for 2017, so commissioner should start thinking about how the work plan will evolve for next year. Based on discussions during previous meetings related to an annual environmental “theme” to which the NRC will align its work, there may be a shift to planned activities for next year.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner LaCosse motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Coyle seconded the motion. Chairman Ross adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Olson, Planner

MINUTES APPROVED BY THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION ON _____

- WITH NO CORRECTIONS _____
- WITH CORRECTIONS _____
(SEE MINUTES OF [_____] MEETING FOR CORRECTIONS)

DRAFT



NATIONALLY DISTINGUISHED. **LOCALLY POWERED.**

PROGRAM GUIDE

PHOTO COURTESY OF NREL

VERSION 1.0
APRIL 2016

WHAT IS SOLSMART?

SolSmart is a new national designation program, funded by the U.S. Department of Energy through the Solar Powering America by Recognizing Communities (SPARC) initiative, designed to recognize communities that have taken key steps to address local barriers to solar energy and foster the growth of mature local solar markets. The SolSmart program primarily seeks to address “solar soft costs,” or business process or administrative costs that can increase the time and money it takes to install a solar energy system — costs which are then passed on to solar customers. While only certain local government policies and processes (such as permitting, planning, and zoning) are the source of some soft costs, local governments are in a unique position to reduce soft costs and take action to promote the use of solar locally.

The SolSmart designation program will provide high-profile, national recognition for communities that have made it cheaper and easier for solar customers to invest in solar energy. In addition, achieving designation will send a signal to solar companies that a community is “open for business,” attracting new businesses and helping designees share in the economic development benefits attached to the solar industry.

Interested communities can apply for designation at www.solsmart.org using a simple online intake form (“application”). Upon receipt of this application, the Designation Program Administrator (led by the International City/County Management Association) will conduct a baseline assessment to determine which criteria the community currently meets based on previous efforts and which actions are still required before designation can be granted. Communities committed to pursuing SolSmart designation will be eligible for no-cost technical assistance (“TA”) from the Technical Assistance Provider (led by The Solar Foundation) and its team of national solar and local government experts to help communities meet the criteria for designation.

DESIGNATION PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDER
INTERNATIONAL CITY/COUNTY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION	THE SOLAR FOUNDATION
National Civic League	National Renewable Energy Laboratory
Home Innovation Research Labs	Meister Consultants Group
Meister Consultants Group	National League of Cities
The Solar Foundation	National Association of Counties
	Solar Energy Industries Association
	Regulatory Assistance Project
	Electric Power Research Institute
	Brooks Engineering

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

Benefits of Addressing Soft Costs

Addressing soft costs and other barriers can deliver a number of valuable benefits for key local stakeholders.

- Reducing soft costs can deliver an **increased return on investment for solar customers**. Complex or poorly-defined permitting processes can add significantly to the average cost of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems. For a typical five kilowatt (kW) system, onerous permitting processes can increase prices for solar customers by up to \$700. Combined with other local regulatory policies and processes, the total price impact of local government “red tape” surrounding solar can be as high as \$2,500 for a typical installation.¹
- Reducing red tape and more efficient approval processes can result in a **time and money savings for local governments**, representing a more productive use of constrained budgets and limited taxpayer resources. Improving access to information on technical and process requirements can decrease the volume of questions or requests for information from installers and the number of incomplete permit applications, reducing demands on staff time.²
- Improving the processes and policies giving rise to some soft costs can result in **improved business prospects for solar companies**. More than 33% of installers say there are at least three communities they avoid because of permitting difficulties.³ Those communities are missing out on local revenue and affordable solar. Addressing these and other local regulatory issues can open your community for solar business, resulting in **positive impacts on jobs and economic development**.
- Lowering soft costs encourages more residents to go solar and dramatically **reduces greenhouse gas emissions**. A five kW solar photovoltaic system can reduce carbon dioxide emissions equivalent to that produced from 500 gallons of gasoline (nearly as much consumed by a typical passenger vehicle in a single year) or the amount of carbon dioxide sequestered by nearly four acres of U.S. forests each year.

1. Burkhardt, J., Wiser, R., Darghouth, N., Dong, C.G., Huneycutt, J. (2014). *How Much Do Local Regulations Matter? Exploring the Impact of Permitting and Local Regulatory Processes on PV Prices in the United States*. Retrieved April 15, 2016 from https://emp.lbl.gov/sites/all/files/local_regulations_and_pv_report.pdf

2. Interstate Renewable Energy Council. (2012). *Sharing Success: Emerging Approaches to Efficient Rooftop Solar Permitting*. Retrieved April 15, 2016 from <http://www.irecusa.org/publications/sharing-success/>

3. Clean Power Finance. (2012). *Nationwide Analysis of Solar Permitting and the Implications for Soft Costs*. Retrieved April 15, 2016 from https://solarpermit.org/media/CPF-DOE_Permitting_Study_Dec2012_Final.pdf

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

Benefits of Designation

Pursuing SolSmart designation through actions to reduce soft costs and foster a positive solar market environment can provide communities with a number of more specific benefits, including:

- **National recognition** on the SolSmart website, through media campaigns, and other means.
- An opportunity to **receive awards for exceeding basic program requirements** and further distinguish your community from its peers.
- The ability to apply to host a SolSmart Advisor, **fully-funded temporary staff** assigned to between 30 and 40 communities for up to six months to help communities achieve SolSmart designation.

What We Can Achieve Together

The U.S. Department of Energy SunShot Initiative has set a goal to reduce the installed cost of residential solar to \$1.50 per watt by the year 2020. Though costs have declined dramatically over the last decade (and by over 40% since 2010), the national average cost for residential solar is still around \$3.50 per watt — suggesting much still needs to be done to achieve the SunShot goal. Further complicating this issue is the fact that much of the observed reductions in installed costs over the last few years have come from declines in hardware costs. Soft costs have yet to experience the reductions required to maximize the affordability of solar.

Fortunately, local governments are in a prime position to address soft costs and enhance the affordability of solar for customers in their jurisdiction. While a single local government taking action may only have a local impact, the SolSmart goal of designating at least 300 U.S. communities by 2018 will allow these collective impacts to be felt across the nation.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND TIMELINE

Process

The SolSmart designation program is focused on recognizing communities that have worked to improve the solar friendliness of their community and encourage solar market development. The first step for communities pursuing SolSmart designation is to establish a vision and concrete goals for the adoption of solar within the community via a **formal letter of commitment** and commitment to tracking key metrics. Details on requirements for the letter of commitment can be found in the designation criteria document and the help sections of the online application.

Secondly, communities complete actions in two **Foundational Categories**: Permitting and Planning, Zoning and Development. These two categories are areas where local governments can have significant influence on the ease, time, and cost to go solar. Previous SunShot Initiative projects have confirmed that transparency and clarity in local regulations are building blocks that set the stage for subsequent progress on soft cost reductions.

There are two prerequisites in the Permitting and Planning, Zoning and Development categories which communities must complete to receive SolSmart Bronze (create a permit checklist and conduct a review and develop a memo on existing barriers to solar in the zoning code). To receive SolSmart Silver, there are additional prerequisites in the Planning, Zoning and Development category, and the Inspection category. In addition to completing the SolSmart Silver prerequisites, there is a prerequisite in Permitting for SolSmart Gold.

Communities can earn points by taking actions across **Special Focus Categories** of their choice, which also encourage solar cost reductions. These categories include: Inspection, Construction Codes, Solar Rights, Utility Engagement, Community Engagement, and Market Development and Finance. **Special Awards** are available for communities that demonstrate significant achievement in any of these categories. Communities can submit projects that are not listed under the pre-determined designation criteria to receive Innovation points. These programs or policies will be eligible for credit as determined by a panel of experts and can potentially be selected to be showcased on the SolSmart website.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND TIMELINE

Timeline

The SolSmart program will accept applications on a rolling basis. Upon receipt, applications will be sent to a designation review team. Within one week of submission, the team will provide a confirmation that a community's application is under review. This process of review may take up to two weeks. Upon completion, SolSmart will inform the community whether they have earned designation.

Following receipt of a community's application status, both designated and non-designated communities can proceed towards these next steps:

- If a community is deemed **not ready for designation**, the review team will inform the applicant and connect the program's TA lead with the community to help address areas of improvement based on the original application.
 - Upon completion of TA, communities that were deemed not ready for designation will be encouraged and better positioned to re-submit their application for review.
- If a community is deemed **ready for designation**, a final check-in process will include the review team's formalization of your designated status and an announcement that your community has satisfied all program requirements via press release, social media and website announcement.
 - Additionally, communities deemed ready for designation will receive a tiered designation and recognition at the annual SolSmart award ceremony.
 - All communities who are deemed ready for designation will also be given the opportunity to access TA through the program to continue improving local solar market conditions.

ACCESSING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Each community committed to pursuing SolSmart designation will be eligible to receive no-cost TA from the Technical Assistance Provider and its team of national solar and local government experts. As the goal of this TA is to help communities achieve designation, any assistance provided must be directed toward attaining of one or more SolSmart designation criteria.

Communities can access TA in two distinct ways. First, communities that apply to the program but that do not meet the requirements for designation upon initial review will be able to access TA services to help them achieve SolSmart designation. Members of the Technical Assistance Provider team (see the full list of organizations on page 1) will work with communities to meet the program prerequisites and address any additional actions necessary to achieve the points required to earn designation. Alternatively, communities that have already satisfied enough criteria to achieve the Bronze or Silver level of designation may indicate during the application process whether TA in achieving a higher level of designation is desired. While communities seeking higher levels of designation are eligible for TA, communities that have yet to achieve any level of SolSmart designation will be prioritized for service.

Communities can receive TA on any of the following actions to help them achieve SolSmart designation:

- Overall program prerequisite actions
- SolSmart Bronze prerequisite actions listed in the Permitting and Planning, Zoning, and Development categories
- SolSmart Silver prerequisite actions
- SolSmart Gold prerequisite actions
- Additional actions within any of the eight criteria categories
- Approved innovation actions

ACCESSING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

SolSmart Advisors Program

In addition to the standard no-cost TA services offered through the SolSmart program, communities pursuing designation can also apply to host a SolSmart Advisor – temporary, fully-funded staff provided through SolSmart to help host communities achieve designation. Advisors will evaluate existing local government policies and processes, develop plans for guiding their host communities toward designation, and apply proven industry-leading best practices in the execution of these plans. SolSmart Advisors will assist communities through engagements lasting up to six months.

Host communities will be selected through a highly competitive process. Factors for selection include: level of community need (based on benchmarking results from the designation application process) balanced with the achievability of what the applicant hopes to accomplish through an Advisor; potential for impact (based on population served; smaller communities can apply as a group or through a regional organization such as a Council of Governments or Regional Planning Commission); a plan for efficient use of the Advisor; geographic and socioeconomic diversity; previous engagements with the SolSmart program (e.g., Early Adopter status), and; commitment to attaining SolSmart designation. Additional factors — including long-term opportunities for Advisors in the community and an ability and willingness to cost share — are not required but will help make the community a more competitive applicant.

Applications for the first round of host communities will be accepted through the end of June 2016.

HOW TO GET HELP

For questions about the designation program, please contact:

Phone: 202-962-3622

Email: SolSmart@icma.org

For questions about technical assistance, please contact:

Phone: 703-828-4531

Email: phaddix@solarfound.org

Page		Points	Yes we do	Maybe-High	Maybe-Low	No, we can't or highly unlikely	Notes
1	Other solar awards/recognition earned by community					X	No awards or recognition specific to solar
1	kW of installed solar or number of installations					X	There is no solar on City facilities
2	Our solar statement		X				Letter drafted, under review
3	Permitting						
	Create and make available an online checklist detailing the steps of your community's solar permitting process (Required).	Req					There is no special process just for solar, projects go through regular building and electrical permit and review process. City is open to creating a summary sheet specific to solar.
	Provide a streamlined permitting pathway for small PV systems with turn-around time of no more than 3 days (Required for Gold).	20			20		There are no special paths for any type of permit, all are reviewed in the order received.
	Distinguish between systems qualifying for streamlined or standard review.	5			5		Not applicable, see above.
	Require no more than one application form for a residential rooftop PV project.	5				5	Solar projects will require Building and Electrical permit applications which are separate forms.
	Review of solar permit fees for residential and commercial solar	5	5				There are no fees specific to solar
	Earn additional points: Revise or demonstrate that permit fees reflect national best practices (e.g. \$400 or less for residential, and based on cost-recovery for commercial).	5	5				Applicable existing fees appear to be under the \$400 goal, not including re-inspection fees: Building permit fee = \$100 + 1% of constr. cost; Accessory structure review - \$75; Roofing Work - \$75; Electrical Permit - \$75; Wiring Openings - \$0.50 each; Electrical Fixtures - \$0.50 each
	Review permitting process for efficiency improvements and reduce processing time to 10 days or fewer.	10			10		This could be a long-term goal for permits in general, current process is longer than 10 days.
	Adopt a standard solar permit form aligned with best practices (e.g. Solar ABCs).	10			10		City is open to evaluating need for new permit forms after experiencing a number of solar applications.
	Train permitting staff on best practices for permitting solar PV and/or solar and storage systems	10			10		City is willing to conduct training on solar systems
	Train fire and safety staff on solar PV.	10			10		City is willing to conduct training on solar systems
	Develop a regular communication schedule to solicit recommendations from the solar installer community regarding procedural changes	10		10			City is open to considering this
	Offer an online process for permitting submission and approval	20	20				The City has an online presence with respect to scheduling inspections and checking on permit status. The "Online process" as described would likely be resisted due to potential issues of incomplete applications, difficulty in communication, and non-payment
	Share open source permit data with fire, safety, and other key third parties	20		20			City does not have an open source data sharing process, although the Fire Department and Police Department could get data from Building Division through EDEN
	Sub-total	130	30	30	65	5	
4	Planning, Zoning, and Development						
	Review zoning requirements and remove restrictions that intentionally or unintentionally prohibit PV development. Compile findings in a memo, and commit to reducing barriers to PV during next zoning review. (Required). Examples include: height restrictions; set-back requirements; allowing solar "by-right" in residential and commercial zones without requiring a conditional use permit.	Req					2015 review of current code found no language that specifically prohibits solar. Where it might be constructed as an accessory structure in a required setback it is treated like any other accessory structure that would have to go to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a variation.
	Allow solar by-right and as an accessory use in all major zones, and implement any zoning ordinance adjustments identified through the zoning review to improve solar-friendliness. (Required for Silver and Gold)	20				20	Long process and it is estimated that the Council would be more likely to allow relaxed standards for a zoning variation than to make solar by right.
	Review existing planning documents and identify new opportunities (not already included) to integrate PV into planning goals.	5	5				2015 review of current code identified opportunities to further enable solar.
	Provide clear guidance for solar in historic and special-use districts	10		10			City is open to providing such guidance
	Integrate solar and/or shared solar into relevant local plans (e.g. energy plan, climate plan, comprehensive plan).	10	10				Support for solar is in the sustainability plan
	Include considerations for active and passive solar in development regulations (e.g. providing guidance for orientation of structures in subdivision regulations).	10			10		Providing 'Guidance' is not difficult, but 'in development regulations' would be.
	Provide development incentives for solar within the subdivision or zoning process, or as part of other development incentives (e.g., density or height bonuses for buildings that plan to install solar or tax-increment financing)	20			20		City is willing to explore but expects a long process

	Encourage or incentivize solar development on parking lots, vacant lots, landfills, buffer lands around uses with nuisances (e.g. refineries, wastewater plants), brownfields or formerly contaminated lands, airport safety zones (with FAA approval), and non-building structures.	20			20		City is willing to explore but expects a long process
	Sub-total	95	15	10	50	20	
5	Inspection						
	Provide cross-training of inspection and permitting staff on solar PV via in-person or online resources. (Required for Silver and Gold).	20		20			City is willing to consider implementing a staff training program
	Eliminate excess inspections and consolidate inspection trips for solar PV	10	10				The current inspection process is not onerous
	Offer inspection appointment times in lieu of appointment windows.	10	10				Appointment times are managed via an online portal.
	Make inspection requirements for PV available online	10	10				Appointment times are managed via an online portal.
	Have a fixed time frame between inspection requests and scheduling of inspections of no more than 10 days.	10		10			Timeframe is dependent on the volume of requests at any one time.
	Provide an online process for scheduling and responding to inspection requests.	20	20				City permit process is managed online: https://webapps.cityhpil.com/Default.asp?Build=PM.PermitsHome&ClearErrors=Y
	Sub-total	80	50	30	0	0	
	Construction Codes						
	Develop and provide Solar Ready Construction Guidelines for developers to enable lower cost installation of future solar installations on buildings within the permitting office and online.	10		10			City would be open to utilizing an existing document, not likely to have funding to develop one.
	Earn additional points: Include guidance for solar on parking lots and other types of non-traditional structures.	10		10			Same as above
	Require or incentivize new construction to be solar ready to complete future installations at lower cost	10			10		City is not likely to impose new requirements on developers, but might consider incentives.
	Offer design guidelines for PV aligned with National Electrical Code and fire code	20		20			City would be open to utilizing an existing document, not likely to have funding to develop one.
	Adopt the most recent codes from the International Code Council	20			20		City code would need to be updated to include this language.
	Sub-total	70	0	40	30	0	
6	Solar Rights						
	Conduct review of state policies related to protecting rights of property owners to install solar and solar system owners' right to sunlight on their property. Make this information available to residents.	5		5			City has a very stringent tree protection ordinance which likely conflicts with concept of 'right to sunlight.' City is open to informing residents of how solar and trees can co-exist.
	Provide consumer protection resources on solar	5			5		City is open to sharing information from outside sources, not likely to provide these services directly.
	Develop local process to enable solar rights through a solar access ordinance	10				10	Long process to create new ordinance and existing tree ordinance is likely to conflict.
	Offer procedure for recording solar easements for property owners	10		10			City is open to considering long-term tracking process.
	Engage homeowners and neighborhood associations and discourage unnecessarily restrictive requirements for PV through meetings with leadership	10	10				City is open to engaging residents through existing channels i.e., Natural Resources Commission, Neighbor-2-Neighbor, etc.
	Earn additional points: Encourage subdivisions to consider shared solar allowances	5		5			City is open to sharing information tailored for subdivisions/HOAs.
	Earn additional points: Work with homeowners associations to develop appropriate guideline documents for solar PV	5		5			City is open to sharing information tailored for subdivisions/HOAs.
	Sub-total	50	10	25	5	10	
	Utility Engagement						
	Review best practices for integrating interconnection with electrical inspections and share best practices with staff.	5		5			City is open to utilizing such guidelines from existing sources
	Discuss community or shared solar programs with the local utility	10		10			City is open to having this discussion
	Engage and communicate with the utility on community goals for solar, net metering, and interconnection processes.	10		10			City is open to having this discussion
	Earn additional points: Coordinate with regional organizations or other local governments to engage utilities.	10		10			City would work with the municipal aggregation collaborative
	Coordinate utility and city inspections for solar PV, reducing the total number of inspections needed.	20		20			This is possible but would be case by case
	Launch and support a utility-provided community solar program.	20				20	ComEd is not supportive of community solar
	Sub-total	75	0	55	0	20	

7	Community Engagement					
	Host a solar workshop open to the general public and/or local government staff explaining PV opportunities and policies.	5		5		City has strong history of community engagement
	Create and distribute educational materials at relevant community events and through local government channels	5		5		City has strong history of communicating with the community
	Establish partnerships with local non-profits or organizations on solar with multi-year goal or planned initiatives.	5			5	City encourages but does not tend to engage in formal partnerships of this type
	Publicly encourage community solar projects or solar projects on community facilities	5			5	Depends on upcoming projects, whether or not solar is planned or feasible.
	Engage the community in robust, ongoing discussion around climate, energy, or sustainability plans.	5	5			City has strong history of communicating with the community
	Create a solar landing page on local government's website with information on the community's solar goals and local resources for solar development.	10		10		City is open to adding this to the sustainability section of City website
	Convene an active energy task force or solar working group that meets at least three times per year	10		10		The NRC can fill this role
	Encourage solar on non-profit or community facilities through fee waivers, technical assistance, or other support.	10			10	Fee waivers and technical assistance are not common practices for the City
	Conduct feasibility analysis for solar on brownfields, landfills, formerly contaminated lands and/or other under-utilized properties.	10			10	City does not have parcels that qualify
	Install or lease land for solar development on brownfields, landfills, formerly contaminated lands and/or other under-utilized properties.	20			20	City does not have parcels that qualify
	Support or host a community-group purchase program (e.g., Solarize).	20			20	City is willing to explore this
	Earn additional points: Design program or create financing support options to encourage low-to-moderate income participation in community solar initiatives.	10			10	Not a common practice for the City
	Create and publish job training and placement opportunities for solar in coordination with local community colleges.	20			20	Not a common practice for the City
	Engage with regional organizations on advancing solar policies in the region including, but not limited to, unified permitting processes and group procurement opportunities	20		20		Could be incorporated into City's current collaboration efforts
	Demonstrate activity in state-level conversations regarding solar PV.	20		20		City is willing to explore this
	Create and share an interactive solar map for your community	20			20	City is willing to explore this
	Sub-total	195	5	70	45	75
8	Market Development and Finance					
	Provide resources on active solar installers and/or local incentives for solar	5		5		City would consider publishing a non-endorsed list similar to landscape contractors
	Make solar metrics publicly available	5		5		City is willing to do this for City-owned facilities
	Provide information to consumers about different solar PV financing options, including commercial options, such as Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing	5		5		City is willing to add such information to the sustainability section of the website.
	Conduct feasibility analysis for solar PV installations on public facilities.	10		10		This could be done for facilities slated for major renovation over the next 10 years.
	If applicable, provide PACE financing in your community.	10			10	Not applicable
	Install solar capacity on local facilities.	20			20	City is willing to consider this for facilities slated for major renovation over the next 10 years.
	Provide local incentives (i.e. permit fee waivers or rebates) or locally-enabled finance (e.g., a revolving loan fund) for solar	20			20	Fee waivers could be possible but require Code amendments.
	Engage local banks, credit unions, foundations and/or community funds about lending for solar PV projects through in-person meetings, discussions, and/or workshops	20		20		City may be willing to hold such meetings
	Demonstrate that the community's installed per capita capacity is above top 20% of states (>99 watts/person)	20			20	Possible but will take time
	Integrate solar with other distributed or emerging technologies such as storage, combined heat and power systems or electric vehicles in at least one installed or proposed project	20			20	City is willing to consider for a future EV charging station, or at water plant
	Develop feasibility analysis or planning for resilient solar technologies for critical facilities and emergency planning such as solar and storage	20			20	Possible but other priorities for consulting time likely outweigh this
	Sub-total	155	0	45	100	10
	SUMMARY					% Yes
	Permitting	130	30	30	65	5
	Planning, Zoning, and Development	95	15	10	50	20
						23%
						16%

Inspection	80	50	30	0	0	63%
Construction Codes	70	0	40	30	0	0%
Solar Rights	50	10	25	5	10	20%
Utility Engagement	75	0	55	0	20	0%
Community Engagement	195	5	70	45	75	3%
Market Development and Finance	155	0	45	100	10	0%
Grand Total	850	110	305	295	140	13%

AWARDS

Bronze = Required actions in Permitting & Planning + 20 points each in those categories, + 20 points across all other categories						Achievable but need to create (a) solar-specific permit checklist and (b) guidance on historic/special districts.
Silver = Bronze + 100 points across all other categories						
Gold = Bronze + 200 points across all other categories						
Special Recognition = Communities that earn 60% of the points in a given category are eligible for special recognition						Achievable in Inspection category



The Framework



March 2016

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The Framework

The details of the Framework are organized around the 10 categories and 49 consensus goals of the Compact.

The 10 categories are:



Climate



Economic Development



Energy



Land Use



Leadership



Mobility



Municipal Operations



Sustainable Communities



Water



Waste & Recycling

The Greenest Region Compact 2 presents consensus goals for environmental sustainability to be addressed by local municipalities, yet will have coordinated, positive impacts on a much larger scale.

Municipalities throughout the region are invited to formally endorse the Greenest Region Compact 2 and work in concert to achieve its goals. *(See the complete Greenest Region Compact 2 and sample municipal resolution in the Appendix.)*

The Greenest Region Compact 2 (GRC2) Framework is the companion document that provides suggested objectives, strategies and tools to help communities achieve consensus goals of the Greenest Region Compact 2.

Introduction

The Framework is built on 30 sustainability plans and guiding documents already in use by Illinois municipalities. It also incorporates more than 10 documents from regional, national or global organizations that are widely used to guide sustainable municipal actions *(See Appendix)*. More than 1150 actual sustainability goals and objectives are synthesized into this Framework resulting in a broad and comprehensive guidance for municipal sustainability. Fundamentally, the Framework is built from goals and actions that are broadly applicable and suited to municipal action.

Dozens of partners, advisors and stakeholder groups contributed additional objectives, strategies and tools support of the consensus GRC2 goals, and for this we are grateful. *(See Appendix)* These contributions help connect the consensus goals to achieve greater positive impacts at the regional, state, national and global levels. Many of the partner programs cited in the Framework offer assistance and guidance to help municipalities achieve GRC2 objectives, thus creating a synergy between local efforts and existing resources.

For more information on the GRC2 methodology, see the full report: [Greenest Region Compact, Opportunities + Impact, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, 2014.](#)

How to Use the GRC2 Framework

The Framework can guide municipalities of all sizes and strengths towards sustainability actions. For communities with no formal sustainability plan, the extensive Framework offers a menu of options that could be used to construct a local, tailored sustainability plan. Communities can begin by assessing actions already accomplished and underway. Then they may choose priority objectives and strategies on which they will begin work. The Framework is broadly applicable to most communities so users will need to refine and tailor objectives and strategies to suit. Municipalities may choose as many of the goals and objectives as they wish and address them on their own timeline.

Communities currently guided by their own sustainability plans will likely recognize specific goals and elements of their own plans in the Framework. The Framework may offer additional options for achieving their established goals, or suggestions for updating an existing plan.

Framework Structure

The following pages are formatted to prompt self-assessment and guide preliminary selection of priority objectives and strategies.

The Framework is structured to expand on the GRC2 Compact goals in each category (column C). **Objectives** are adjacent (column E) to each GRC2 goal and are labeled for reference, i.e., E10 is the tenth objective in the Energy (E) category.

Strategies are preceded with the symbol ">" and labeled with an additional letter, i.e. E10b as they relate to the numbered objective. Not every objective is paired with specific strategies.

Advanced strategies are preceded with the symbol "+". These are extra, progressive steps, usually suggested by stakeholders, that communities may wish to take to advance certain GRC2 goals.

Links to resources, such as certification programs or model ordinances, which may be considered tactics, are offered for some objectives and strategies. These are indicated by the hyperlink, "Y" in column M-O.

Assessment of the relevance and priority of each objective and strategy may be guided by prompts in columns F-L.

Because the nature of sustainability is its interrelationship of social, economic and environment elements, objectives and strategies are also interrelated. Actions to improve land stewardship will improve water resources; improved active transportation choices will enhance healthy lifestyles and more. Therefore, actions with complementary outcomes may be found in different sections of the Framework. Policy, Stewardship and Outreach and Education are common elements in nearly every category.

Acknowledgements

The Greenest Region Compact 2 and companion Framework have been made possible due to the generous support of the Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust. The Environment Committee of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, under the leadership of John Ostenburg, Mayor, Village of Park Forest and Barre Pedersen, Mayor, Franklin Park, has guided this work. The Executive Board is gratefully acknowledged for leading the Caucus staff and committees.

Greenest Region Compact 2 and the Future Sustainability Network

The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus plans future supportive programs and resources to accelerate community actions in pursuit of the GRC2 consensus goals. A future Sustainability Network will develop pathways and leveraging strategies to develop capital sustainability projects. Future metrics, a reporting mechanism, and recognition for participating communities, is also planned.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M			
1	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M			
2		Goal Category			OBJECTIVE	Already achieved	In Progress	Planned for next 6 months	Planned for next 12-18 months	Interested in pursuing	Not planned	Not relevant	Link to Resource			
3				> STRATEGY												
4				GOAL	+ ADVANCED STRATEGY											
5																
6	CLIMATE	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	C1	Establish a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reduction target:											
7				C1a	>Utilize US EPA's Local Climate Action Framework to plan and evaluate climate strategies										Y	
8				C2	Measure and monitor GHG emissions											Y
9				C2a	>Measure and monitor GHG from municipal operations											
10				C2b	>Measure and monitor GHG community wide											
11				C+3	+ Verify and report climate action to Carbonn Climate Registry											Y
12				C+4	+ Participate in carbon offset program											
13				C+5	+ Commit to the Compact of Mayors											Y
14		Air Quality	Maintain clean and healthful air	C6	Regulate burning of landscape waste											
15				C7	Facilitate compliance of federal air quality standards by businesses											
16				C8	Participate in Illinois Partners for Clean Air										Y	
17				C9	Discourage the use of high-emitting small engines, such as for landscaping											
18	C10			Reduce volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions for municipal operations by using low VOC cleaners, paints, and paving practices												
19	Resiliency	Develop resiliency to climate change impacts	C11	Establish policies to meet Illinois Dept of Public Health Indoor Air quality standards									Y			
20			C12	Coordinate resiliency efforts with federal, state and regional planning agencies												
21			C12a	>Prepare Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan										Y		
22			C13	Collaboratively manage urban heat islands												
23			C+14	+ Assess infrastructure and public safety threats from extreme weather events											Y	
24	Education & Outreach	Engage the community in climate change mitigation and adaptation	C+15	+ Develop a resiliency plan to protect assets, public health, and provide essential services through natural and man-made disasters									Y			
25			C16	Educate the public about climate change										Y		
26			C17	Participate in Cool Communities										Y		
				C18	Inform the community about air quality index and air pollution action days								Y			

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	Goal Category	 GOAL	OBJECTIVE		Already achieved	In Progress	Planned for next 6 months	Planned for next 12-18 months	Interested in pursuing	Not planned	Not relevant	Link to Resource			
			> STRATEGY												
			+ ADVANCED STRATEGY												
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	Workforce Development	<i>Promote innovation and a competitive workforce</i>	ED1	Connect local businesses with education training, and jobs related to sustainability								Y			
			ED2	Advocate for the development of a competitive 'green workforce'											
			ED3	Advocate for new opportunities in the clean energy industry										Y	
	Innovation		ED4	Encourage green innovation among residents and local businesses											
			ED5	Collaborate to support innovation centers										Y	
	Green Economy		<i>Cultivate local and sustainable development, jobs, and businesses</i>	ED6	Attract and retain businesses that practice and promote sustainability										
				ED7	Recognize and support businesses who practice and promote sustainability										Y
				ED8	Promote local goods and services										
				ED9	Create and promote a community brand featuring natural resources or cultural characteristics of community										Y
	Policy			ED10	Promote tourism featuring natural and cultural assets of the community									Y	
				ED11	Promote the economic prosperity of the community										
				ED12	Advocate for expanded job opportunities and sufficient wages										

ENERGY

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M			
				OBJECTIVE											
				> STRATEGY											
		GOAL		+ ADVANCED STRATEGY	Already achieved	In Progress	Planned for next 6 months	Planned for next 12-18 months	Interested in pursuing	Not planned	Not relevant	Link to Resource			
ENERGY	Energy Efficiency	<i>Use energy for building and facilities efficiently</i>	E1	> Conduct energy audits of municipal facilities								Y			
			E2	Support energy audits and retro-commissioning studies of residential, commercial and institutional facilities									Y		
			E3	> Conduct retro-commissioning studies to optimize public facility performance										Y	
			E4	> Implement operational changes recommended in the retro-commissioning study											
			E5	Implement energy efficiency measures that have a short-term payback (i.e. lighting, occupancy sensors)										Y	
			E6	Implement energy efficiency measures that have a longer-term payback											
			E7	Collaborate with utilities and other agencies to upgrade streetlight equipment and integrate smart technologies											
			E8	Achieve ENERGY STAR certification for municipal buildings											Y
			E+9	+ Utilize performance contracts to finance large energy efficiency projects											Y
			E+10	+ Demonstrate extreme energy efficiency with a model Passivhaus building											Y
			E+11	+ Budget and plan for long-term energy efficiency equipment upgrades											
ENERGY	Renewable Energy	<i>Advance renewable energy</i>	E12	Install and operate renewable energy systems at municipal facilities											
			E12a	> Use power purchase agreements, leasing and other strategies to finance renewable energy systems									Y		
			E13	Support the adoption of renewable energy technologies in the community											
			E13a	>Adopt codes and permitting practices that support renewable energy systems in the community											
			E13b	> Facilitate access to renewable energy systems through collaborative purchasing for residents and business										Y	
			E14	Procure renewable energy for public facilities										Y	
			E14a	>Become a US EPA Green Power Community										Y	
			E15	Support procurement of renewable energy through community choice aggregation											Y
E16	Develop renewable energy capacity targeting underutilized public properties (i.e. brownfields)														
			E+17	+ Collaborate to provide access to community solar								Y			

ENERGY

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M		
ENERGY	Goal Category	 GOAL		OBJECTIVE > STRATEGY + ADVANCED STRATEGY	Already achieved	In Progress	Planned for next 6 months	Planned for next 12-18 months	Interested in pursuing	Not planned	Not relevant	Link to Resource		
	Energy Management		Reduce energy consumption	E18	Power down equipment when possible									
				E19	Participate in demand response programs									
		E20		Track and benchmark energy consumption through ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager										Y
		E21		Utilize energy management expertise (i.e. Building Operator Certification and Certified Energy Manager)										Y
		E22		Participate in energy management challenges and programs										Y
		E+23		+ Utilize performance contracts to finance energy efficiency projects when feasible										Y
	Policy	Enact policies that support clean energy	E24	Adopt current Illinois Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and report compliance									Y	
			E25	Facilitate the adoption of renewable energy technologies (i.e. solar, geothermal) by adapting building and zoning codes										
			E+26	+ Collaborate to advance Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) policies										Y
			E+27	+ Adopt 'stretch codes' setting higher standards for energy efficiency than IECC										Y
			E+28	+ Enact an ordinance requiring periodic benchmarking for large energy users										Y
	Education & Outreach	Engage the community in clean energy practices	E30	Partner with electric and gas utilities to promote energy efficiency programs to the community									Y	
E31			Promote the use of ENERGY STAR certified appliances and equipment									Y		
E32			Publicly recognize institutional and private buildings that achieve a specific energy efficiency targets											
E33			Collaborate to educate the community about clean energy options										Y	

LAND

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	
LAND	Goal Category	 GOAL		OBJECTIVE	Already achieved In Progress Planned for next 6 months Planned for next 12-18 months Interested in pursuing Not planned Not relevant Link to Resource								
				> STRATEGY									
				+ ADVANCED STRATEGY									
	Sustainable Development	Encourage strategic development that upholds sustainability principles	L1	Reduce sprawl by promoting infill development to reduce adverse impacts on natural resources and infrastructure demands									Y
			L1a	>Encourage the development of compact and complete residential neighborhoods									
			L1b	>Protect greenfields and open space									
			L1c	>Redevelop underutilized or contaminated properties									Y
			L2	Prioritize redevelopment projects and infrastructure investment for transit-served locations									Y
			L2a	>Pursue transit oriented development and transit-supportive land uses in new development									
			L2b	>Seek public-private partnerships to create transit-oriented developments									
			L3	Collaborate with neighboring communities to jointly create sustainable developments									
			L4	Encourage conservation design to protect natural resources									Y
			L5	Promote Sustainable Sites Certification for commercial and institutional landscapes									Y
L6	Integrate resiliency into land development decisions									Y			
L7	Support local food production by assuring access to affordable land												
L8	Evaluate proposed developments for on groundwater levels and water quality.												

LAND

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	
	Goal Category	 GOAL		OBJECTIVE	Already achieved In Progress Planned for next 6 months Planned for next 12-18 months Interested in pursuing Not planned Not relevant Link to Resource								
				> STRATEGY									
				+ ADVANCED STRATEGY									
LAND	Land Preservation	Conserve restore and enhance natural features and ecosystems	L9	Using data such as the Green Infrastructure Vision and the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory, watershed plans, identify key natural assets, landscape features, parcels with high value for connectivity and ecosystem function								<u>Y</u>	
			L10	Conserve key natural assets and open space									
			L10a	>Through direct acquisition and management									<u>Y</u>
			L10b	>Through collaborations and cooperative agreements such as conservation easements									<u>Y</u>
			L11	Guide future development to conserve natural topography, views, drainage patterns, existing vegetation, and historic or cultural assets									
			L12	Prioritize the acquisition, dedication and management of lands to create connected greenways									<u>Y</u>
			L13	Prioritize the acquisition of land to protect groundwater recharge areas									
			L14	Manage public and private landscapes to optimize ecosystem services and support biodiversity									<u>Y</u>
			L14a	>Collaborate to restore prairie, wetland, forest and other important ecosystems in the community									
			L14b	>Monitor and control invasive species in natural areas and throughout the community									<u>Y</u>
			L14c	>Ensure long-term maintenance and management of protected natural areas within Conservation Design development									
			L15	Protect and restore soil integrity									
L15a	>Enforce soil erosion and sediment control regulations for construction sites												

LAND

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M		
	Goal Category	 GOAL		OBJECTIVE	Already achieved In Progress Planned for next 6 months Planned for next 12-18 months Interested in pursuing Not planned Not relevant Link to Resource									
				> STRATEGY										
				+ ADVANCED STRATEGY										
LAND	Parks & Open Space	<i>Support networks of accessible, well-used and enjoyable parks</i>	L16	Develop a park and open space master plan										
			L17	Maximize the amount of public spaces and parks accessible to residents										
			L17a	>Collaborate to provide access to under-utilized land (i.e. utility right of ways) for trails, community gardens, and sustainable landscapes										
			L17b	>Optimize linkages between parks and open spaces										
			L17c	>Work with developers to integrate and develop open space reserves and trails in developments										
			L17d	>Collaborate with private property owners to create vibrant public gathering spaces (placemaking)										<u>Y</u>
			L18	Enhance parks, open space, and recreational opportunities accessible to all residents										
			L18a	>Collaborate with park and forest preserve districts										
			L18b	>Collaborate to create and maintain hiking, biking, canoe and other recreational trails										
			L18c	>Collaborate to provide accessible recreational services involving parks and open space										
			L19	Foster healthy community relationships through the use of open space										

LAND

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M		
	Goal Category			OBJECTIVE	Already achieved	In Progress	Planned for next 6 months	Planned for next 12-18 months	Interested in pursuing	Not planned	Not relevant	Link to Resource		
		GOAL	> STRATEGY											
			+ ADVANCED STRATEGY											
LAND	Urban Forestry	<i>Sustain a robust urban forest canopy</i>	L20	Conduct a community wide urban tree canopy assessment or collaborate on a regional study										
			L21	Conduct an inventory and assessment of trees on public right of ways										
			L22	Develop and implement a management plan to assure a long term vitality of the urban forest									<u>Y</u>	
			L23	Maintain the health and integrity of existing trees										
			L23a	>Maintain the health of trees on public right of ways										
			L23b	>Collaborate with utilities to maintain trees compatible with overhead powerlines										<u>Y</u>
			L23c	>Practice integrated pest management to sustain urban forest health										<u>Y</u>
			L23d	>Assess structural integrity of trees and proactively mitigate risks through strategic removal and other actions										<u>Y</u>
			L24	Plant trees to sustain and renew the urban forest										<u>Y</u>
			L24a	>Continually plant hardy, site-appropriate trees to meet tree canopy goals										<u>Y</u>
			L24b	>Engage resident in public stewardship through cost-share planting programs										
			L24c	>Using canopy analysis data, strategically plant trees to optimize public health and stormwater benefits										
			L25	Diversify the urban forest for long term resilience										
			L26	Earn recognition for urban forest stewardship as a Tree City USA										<u>Y</u>
			L27	Harvest and utilize high value wood products from trees that must be removed										<u>Y</u>
L+28	+ Optimize tree planting and protect existing trees for maximum carbon storage/sequestration and energy savings										<u>Y</u>			

LAND

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	
	Goal Category	 GOAL		OBJECTIVE	Already achieved In Progress Planned for next 6 months Planned for next 12-18 months Interested in pursuing Not planned Not relevant Link to Resource								
				> STRATEGY									
				+ ADVANCED STRATEGY									
LAND	Landscapes	<i>Sustain beautiful landscapes that provide ecosystem services</i>	L29	Manage traditional, cultivated landscapes sustainably									
			L29a	>Replace turf with sustainable landscaping alternatives									
			L29b	>Manage lawns using natural products and low-impact practices									
			L29c	>Encourage community-wide use of integrated pest management to reduce impacts from fertilizers and pesticides									
			L29d	>Use integrated pest management strategies for municipal landscapes to reduce impacts from fertilizers and pesticides									<u>Y</u>
			L30	Increase the quality and amount of sustainable landscaping in the community									
			L30a	>Use native and sustainable landscaping on municipal properties									
			L30b	>Promote native and sustainable landscaping initiatives community wide by connecting residents to plants and information									<u>Y</u>
			L30c	>Increase the amount of sustainable landscaping in the community through subdivision and development codes									
			L30d	>Encourage planting and registering of pollinator gardens through the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge									<u>Y</u>
			L31	Maintain beautiful landscapes and streetscapes to enhance gateways, business districts and important public spaces									<u>Y</u>

LAND

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	
	Goal Category		GOAL	OBJECTIVE	Already achieved	In Progress	Planned for next 6 months	Planned for next 12-18 months	Interested in pursuing	Not planned	Not relevant	Link to Resource	
				> STRATEGY									
				+ ADVANCED STRATEGY									
LAND	Policy	Achieve greater livability through sustainable land use and housing policies	L32	Adopt codes and incentives that guide sustainable development that maximizes social benefits and minimizes infrastructure demands									
			L32a	>Modify zoning and building regulations to allow mixed-use									
			L32b	>Use zoning and development regulations in strategic locations to increase walkability									
			L32c	>Promote site design that encourages the development of vibrant, walkable, commercial areas									
			L33	Enact and enforce land use policies that protect valuable natural assets and support resiliency									
			L33a	>Enact and enforce land-use policies that preserve open space									
			L33b	>Enact and enforce policies that preserve and restore functioning wetlands									
			L33c	>Enact policies that require conservation design best management practices to protect natural resources									<u>Y</u>
			L33d	>Protect sensitive aquifer areas via land use regulations									
			L33e	>Protect key natural assets and open space through zoning and planned unit developments									
			L33f	>Enact and enforce a tree preservation ordinance to protect valuable trees on private property									
			L34	Integrate resiliency strategies into development policies and plans									<u>Y</u>
			L35	Facilitate the retention of farms and other working lands									
			L36	Enact an ordinance that requires ample sustainable tree and landscape planting for new development and redevelopments									
L37	Collaborate with state and federal partners to prepare for and respond to invasive pest threats									<u>Y</u>			

LAND

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	
	Goal Category	 GOAL		OBJECTIVE	Already achieved In Progress Planned for next 6 months Planned for next 12-18 months Interested in pursuing Not planned Not relevant Link to Resource								
				> STRATEGY									
				+ ADVANCED STRATEGY									
LAND	Education, Outreach & Engagement	Cultivate a conservation ethic in the community	L38	Engage the community in programs and special events to celebrate nature, such as Arbor Day and Earth Day								Y	
			L39	Educate the community about the value of trees, native and sustainable landscaping									
			L40	Engage community volunteers in land stewardship activities on public and shared landscapes									Y
			L41	Educate city staff about forest, wetlands and prairie best management practices									
			L42	Encourage beautiful, sustainable landscaping on private property									Y
			L43	Enlist volunteer groups to help in acquisition and stewardship of public lands									Y
			L44	Engage residents through a natural resources, conservation and/ or tree commission									
			L45	Educate planning commissioners about sustainable development principles and conservation strategies									
			L46	Engage local farmers to adopt conservation practices									

LEADERSHIP

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	
	Goal Category	 GOAL		OBJECTIVE > STRATEGY + ADVANCED STRATEGY	Already achieved	In Progress	Planned for next 6 months	Planned for next 12-18 months	Interested in pursuing	Not planned	Not relevant	Link to Resource	
LEADERSHIP	Leadership		<i>Enlist support for GRC2 goals through regional, state and national leadership</i>	L1	Engage with academia and non-governmental organization to support the GRC2								
				L2	Engage with state and national municipal associations to align actions with GRC2								
		L3		Report local and regional environmental data to advance national and international collaborative efforts (e.g., GHG reporting, water supply planning)									
		L4		Share information about municipal leadership in sustainability broadly in the community and externally									
		L5		Seek recognition for community sustainability achievements									<u>Y</u>
	Advocacy	<i>Advocate for policies that align with and advance the GRC2</i>	L6	Advocate for state policies and investment that support municipal advances in sustainability									
			L7	Advocate for federal policies and investment that support municipal advances in sustainability									
			L8	Seek collaboration with the business sector to support municipal sustainability, (e.g., product stewardship)									<u>Y</u>
	Collaboration	<i>Work collaboratively towards a sustainable region</i>	L9	Partner with other local governments to achieve efficiency and sustainability									
			L10	Participate with regional, state and federal initiatives to plan and achieve sustainability									
			L11	Partner with non-governmental organization to advance sustainability in the community and regionally									

MOBILITY

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M		
MOBILITY	Goal Category			OBJECTIVE										
		GOAL		> STRATEGY		Already achieved	In Progress	Planned for next 6 months	Planned for next 12-18 months	Interested in pursuing	Not planned	Not relevant		
				+ ADVANCED STRATEGY								Link to Resource		
		Bike and Pedestrian	<i>Support safe and effective active transportation</i>	M1	Identify gaps in pedestrian and the bicycle networks and barriers to active modes of travel								Y	
				M2	Create a bicycle and pedestrian plan to improve connectivity in the community and beyond									
				M3	Implement recommendations from the bicycle and pedestrian plan									Y
				M3a	>Earn Bicycle Friendly Community designation									Y
				M3b	>Earn Walk Friendly Community designation									Y
				M4	Collaborate with regional partners to connect on-and off-road bicycle facilities with existing and planned regional trail networks									
		M5	Provide bicycle parking at municipal facilities, business districts and transit stations and in neighborhoods										Y	
		Transportation Infrastructure	<i>Maintain a diverse, safe and efficient transportation network</i>	M6	Maintain streets and sidewalks for efficiency and safety without harming natural resources									
				M7	Maintain efficient traffic flow within and around the community									
				M8	Synchronize traffic signals to reduce vehicle idling									
				M9	Incorporate sustainable roadways into capital improvement planning, proactively plan for major transportation infrastructure improvements									
	M10			Collaborate to develop transportation infrastructure with context sensitivity									Y	
	M11			Coordinate with regional transportation agencies to maximize bicycle, pedestrian, vehicular transit, and rail connectivity and mobility										
	M12			Collaborate to provide alternative fuel infrastructure at public sites										
	M13			Incorporate trees and other green infrastructure elements into roadway design and maintenance for functionality and aesthetics										
	M+14	+ Use the Envision checklist and infrastructure sustainability rating system to guide project development										Y		

MOBILITY

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M		
	Goal Category			OBJECTIVE										
		GOAL		> STRATEGY		Already achieved	In Progress	Planned for next 6 months	Planned for next 12-18 months	Interested in pursuing	Not planned	Not relevant		
				+ ADVANCED STRATEGY								Link to Resource		
MOBILITY	Stewardship	<i>Support efficient transportation that uses resources wisely</i>	M15	Support regional transportation innovation										
			M16	Support coordinated investment to improve efficiency in passenger and freight railroads										
			M17	Collaborate to support a network of alternate fueling infrastructure										
			M18	Advocate for broad adoption of clean fuel fleets (i.e utilities, businesses, other agencies etc.)										
			M19	Support strong national fuel efficiency standards										
			M20	Seek both public and private partnership to finance transportation system improvements										
			M21	Strategically manage parking policies and priorities to advance sustainability										Y
			M22	Create Safe Routes to School										Y
	Policy	<i>Integrate sustainability into transportation policies, programs and regulations</i>	M23	Enact and enforce anti-idling policies for public fleet vehicles										
			M24	Designate no idling zones at schools, transit stations etc.										
			M25	Adapt engineering standards to incorporate sustainable practices into roadway construction and maintenance while assuring public safety										
			M26	Adapt building codes to accommodate and encourage alternate fuel infrastructure										
			M27	Adopt a Complete Streets policy to benefit all road users										Y
			M28	Revise subdivision code to promote active transportation, i.e., street sanctions that require bicycle facilities and sidewalks										Y
	Shared-use Mobility	<i>Promote public and sustainable transportation choices</i>	M29	Collaborate to maintain and enhance transit facilities										
			M30	Collaborate to expand regional transit capacity and improve service										
			M31	Expand local transit connections to meet identified needs										
			M32	Collaborate to provide multi-modal transportation options to resolve the first and last mile barrier										
			M33	Encourage municipal employees to use alternative modes of transportation to commute to work										
	Education & Outreach	<i>Promote public and sustainable transportation choices</i>	M34	Encourage residents and visitors to walk and bike									Y	
			M35	Promote the availability of regional transit options									Y	
			M36	Collaborate with the community's largest employers to offer flex scheduling, telecommuting, public and active transportation										
M37			Educate the community on the negative impacts of car idling											
M38			Advocate for mass transit funding											
M39			Encourage active transportation and community building in an open streets event										Y	

MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M		
	Goal Category	 GOAL		OBJECTIVE > STRATEGY + ADVANCED STRATEGY	Already achieved	In Progress	Planned for next 6 months	Planned for next 12-18 months	Interested in pursuing	Not planned	Not relevant	Link to Resource		
MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS	Lead by Example	<i>Lead by demonstrating sustainable values and practices</i>	MO1	Support or create an interdisciplinary team to coordinate internal sustainability efforts										
			MO2	Dedicate staff to direct sustainability initiatives										
			MO3	Leverage state/federal and private grants and resources to advance sustainability										
			MO4	Educate and train staff on sustainability practices										
			MO5	Achieve third party certification for sustainable public facilities										Y
			MO5a	>Achieve LEED or Green Globes certification for public buildings										Y
			MO5b	>Achieve Sustainable Sites Certification for public landscapes										Y
			MO5c	>Achieve ENVISION certification for public infrastructure										Y
			MO6	Formalize sustainability goals and plans										
			MO6a	>Adopt the Greenest Region Compact 2										Y
			MO6b	>Use the GRC2 Framework to create a sustainability plan and formally adopt it										Y
			MO+7	Consolidate and/or share the delivery of public services with other local governments										Y
			MO+8	+ Establish municipal finance practices to re-invest cost savings into sustainability initiatives										
Sustainable Operations	<i>Integrate sustainability into all municipal operations</i>	MO9	Adopt an environmental purchasing policy									Y		
		MO10	Extend useful life of physical assets											
		MO11	Manage special events sustainably									Y		
		MO+12	Integrate sustainability into capital planning											
		MO+13	Inventory, assess and manage municipal assets sustainably											

MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M		
	Goal Category	 GOAL		OBJECTIVE > STRATEGY + ADVANCED STRATEGY	Already achieved	In Progress	Planned for next 6 months	Planned for next 12-18 months	Interested in pursuing	Not planned	Not relevant	Link to Resource		
MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS	Municipal Fleet	<i>Operate a safe, clean and efficient fleet</i>	MO14	Operate a safe, clean and efficient fleet										
			MO14a	>Conduct baseline fleet analysis									<u>Y</u>	
			MO14b	>Optimize fleet performance by reconciling tasks and vehicle types										
			MO14c	>Increase fleet efficiency through driver education and training										
			MO14d	>Modify and retrofit vehicles to increase fleet to alternate fuel vehicles										<u>Y</u>
			MO14d	> Migrate fleet to alternate fuel vehicles										<u>Y</u>
			MO15	>Certify as an IEPA Illinois Green Fleet										<u>Y</u>
			MO15	>Join Chicago Area Clean Cities Coalition and report reduction of petroleum fuel consumption annually										<u>Y</u>
			MO+17	+ Collaborate with businesses, industry leaders and other agencies to develop alternative fuel infrastructure										
			Data Management	<i>Collect and manage data to advance sustainability</i>	MO18	Track, analyze and manage data to advance sustainability goals								
MO18a	>Establish performance metrics													
MO18b	>Collect and organize data													
MO18c	>Report and share data													
MO18d	>Continue to track and monitor data over time													
MO+10	+ Use 'smart' technology to efficiently manage waste, water, fleet, air and energy data													

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	
	Goal Category			OBJECTIVE									
		GOAL		> STRATEGY	Already achieved	In Progress	Planned for next 6 months	Planned for next 12-18 months	Interested in pursuing	Not planned	Not relevant	Link to Resource	
				+ ADVANCED STRATEGY									
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES	Arts and Culture	<i>Promote cultural vibrancy in the community</i>	SC1	Preserve and maintain the community's historic assets									
			SC2	Integrate historical and cultural assets through community programming									
			SC3	Formalize support for culture and the arts									
			SC4	Engage community volunteers through an arts/culture-oriented citizen advisory group									
			SC5	Foster understanding of diverse cultural traditions									<u>Y</u>
			SC6	Promote beauty and livability in community design, stewardship, and through partnerships									
	Health & Safety	<i>Foster a culture of health, safety and wellness</i>	SC7	Protect all residents from the effects of pollution									
			SC8	Create a community that is resilient and well-prepared for disaster									
			SC9	Connect community members to existing services that support health and wellness									
			SC10	Ensure high quality essential human services programs are available and utilized									
			SC11	Collaborate with state and federal partners to prepare for and respond to pest and disease threats to public health									
			SC12	Collaborate to offer active and healthy lifestyle programs to residents									
			SC+13	+ Support balanced, active play for families									<u>Y</u>
			SC+13a	>Become recognized as a Playful City USA									<u>Y</u>
			SC+14	+ Prioritize safe practices and collaborate to reduce accidental injuries and death									
SC+14a	>Become certified as a Safe Community									<u>Y</u>			
SC+15	+ Integrate planning, policies and programs to accommodate residents of all ages and abilities												

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	
	Goal Category			OBJECTIVE									
				> STRATEGY	Already achieved	In Progress	Planned for next 6 months	Planned for next 12-18 months	Interested in pursuing	Not planned	Not relevant	Link to Resource	
		GOAL		+ ADVANCED STRATEGY									
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES	Local Food	<i>Increase access to sustainably grown local food</i>	SC16	Educate and engage the community in a sustainable food culture									
			SC17	Incorporate local and healthy options into public food-service procurement and events									
			SC18	Support and promote family and community gardens									
			SC+19	+ Analyze and asses the current food system									
			SC+20	+ Support innovative technologies for food production and distribution									
	Social Justice	<i>Sustain community principles that are welcoming, inclusive and equitable</i>	SC21	Cultivate and preserve a welcoming and inclusive community character									
			SC22	Support social justice and equity throughout the community									
			SC23	Promote diversity of housing stock accessible to diverse residents									Y
			SC24	Distribute public services and resources equitably in the community									
	Sustainable Community	<i>Promote a sustainable identity for the community</i>	SC25	Promote third party certification for sustainable private facilities									
			SC25a	>Promote green certification for private buildings									Y
			SC25b	>Promote ENVISION certification for private infrastructure									Y
			SC26	Develop and maintain a community brand that highlights sustainability									Y
			SC26a	>Participate in the Green Office Challenge									Y
			SC+27	+ Assess sustainability achievements relative to comparable cities									
			SC27a	>Participate in the STAR Community Rating System									Y
	SC28	Incentivize green building in new construction and re-construction										Y	
	Policy	<i>Assure local policies and codes support sustainability</i>	SC29	Identify existing Code impediments sustainable building and site best practices									
			SC30	Develop housing policies, programs, and regulations designed to support and promote sustainability									
			SC31	Revise and/or develop codes to promote sustainable building and site practices									
			SC32	Enact policies to preserve dark skies									Y
			SC+33	+ Incentivize green building in new construction and re-construction									Y
			SC+34	+ Require third-party green building certification for appropriate new construction									

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M			
	Goal Category			OBJECTIVE											
				> STRATEGY	Already achieved	In Progress	Planned for next 6 months	Planned for next 12-18 months	Interested in pursuing	Not planned	Not relevant	Link to Resource			
	GOAL			+ ADVANCED STRATEGY											
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES	Education	<i>Cultivate community values based on principles of sustainability</i>	SC35	Educate the community about sustainability initiatives using existing municipal communication outlets (i.e., cable TV, newsletters)											
			SC36	Assure community education messages are accessible in all languages and formats											
			SC37	Use community festivals, lectures, workshops and other events to share information about sustainability											
			SC38	Distribute sustainability information and resources provided by other allied organizations and government agencies										Y	
			SC39	Collaborate to incorporate sustainability into school curricula											
			SC40	Collaborate to assure equitable access to quality education in the community											
			SC+41	+ Formalize an environmental education strategy											
			SC+42	+ Develop/ distribute a green building manual											
	Outreach and Engagement		SC43	Utilize strategic partnerships with other community organizations to promote sustainability											
			SC44	Participate in regional and national sustainability networks											
			SC45	Encourage the community to participate in sustainability initiatives and events											
			SC46	Establish or strengthen an inter and intra/agency Green Team											
			SC47	Engage residents in sustainability initiatives through an environmentally-focused citizen advisory group											
			SC48	Foster positive communication and collaboration among local and regional institutions											
			SC49	Reach out and remove barriers to include all residents in civic affairs											
			SC50	Host environmentally focused event(s)											
			SC51	Encourage residents and businesses to contribute their time and resources to sustain the community											Y
			SC52	Promote green building practices to residents, businesses and developers											Y
			SC+53	Create an award or recognition program to encourage and report sustainable behaviors for residents at home											Y
			SC+54	Create an award or recognition program to encourage and report sustainable actions by local businesses											Y

WASTE

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M		
	Goal Category			OBJECTIVE										
		GOAL		> STRATEGY		Already achieved	In Progress	Planned for next 6 months	Planned for next 12-18 months	Interested in pursuing	Not planned	Not relevant		
				+ ADVANCED STRATEGY								Link to Resource		
WASTE & RECYCLING	Waste Reduction	Support sustainable material management	WR1	Set a specific waste reduction goal:										
			WR1a	> Set a waste reduction goal for municipal operations										
			WR1b	> Set a waste reduction goal for the community										
			WR2	Promote and practice waste reduction & recycling in municipal operations										
			WR3	Reduce the use of paper in municipal offices										
			WR4	Conduct waste audits to identify waste reduction opportunities										Y
			WR5	Support exchange of goods and services among residents (i.e. Rummage Sale, Sporting Goods Swap)										
			WR+6	+ Adopt a Pay-As-You-Throw program										
	WR+7	Support by-product synergies among industries										Y		
	WR+8	Make public events "zero waste"										Y		
	Recycling	Recycle materials across all sectors	WR9	Establish and strive for specific recycling goals:										
			WR9a	> Establish and strive for a residential recycling goal										
			WR9b	> Establish and strive for a multi-family recycling goal										
			WR9c	> Establish and strive for a commercial & institutional recycling goal										
			WR10	Provide curbside recycling for residents										
WR11	Provide access to recycling infrastructure and services at public places													
WR+12	Support regional efforts for developing a food scrap composting services										Y			
Waste Diversion	Divert waste from landfills	WR13	Collaborate to Support proper disposal of:											
		WR13a	> Support proper disposal of household hazardous waste											
		WR13b	> Support proper disposal of pharmaceutical and personal care product waste											
		WR13c	> Support proper disposal of fats, oils and grease (FOGs)											
		WR13d	> Support proper disposal of electronic waste											
		WR14	Collaborate to provide recycling service for items not suitable for curbside pickup e.g. clothing, shoes, Christmas											
WR15	Facilitate biosolid re-use in the community (e.g. landscaping)										Y			

WASTE

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	
	Goal Category	 GOAL	OBJECTIVE		Already achieved	In Progress	Planned for next 6 months	Planned for next 12-18 months	Interested in pursuing	Not planned	Not relevant	Link to Resource	
			> STRATEGY										
			+ ADVANCED STRATEGY										
WASTE & RECYCLING	Policy	<i>Enact policies that cause sustainable material management</i>	WR16	Require commercial & multi-family recycling								Y	
			WR17	Establish a construction & demolition recycling policy									
			WR18	Eliminate policy barriers to on-site composting									
			WR19	Engage with Solid Waste agencies to manage waste sustainably									Y
			WR20	Ban or discourage the use of products resulting in unmanageable waste (e.g. plastic bags)									
	Education & Engagement	<i>Engage the community in waste reduction and recycling</i>	WR21	Educate the community on recycling and composting practices									Y
			WR22	Educate the community to reduce waste by consuming less and reusing									Y
			WR23	Discourage fly dumping and littering									
			WR24	Organize a community wide clean-up day									
			WR25	Engage community volunteers in recycling education and events									

WATER

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	
WATER	Goal Category	 GOAL	OBJECTIVE > STRATEGY + ADVANCED STRATEGY		Already achieved	In Progress	Planned for next 6 months	Planned for next 12-18 months	Interested in pursuing	Not planned	Not relevant	Link to resource	
	Water Conservation	Use and distribute water efficiently	W1	Reduce community water consumption per capita									
			<i>W1a</i>	>Implement water efficiency measures at all municipal facilities									
			<i>W1b</i>	>Encourage residents and businesses to identify and mitigate water loss									<u>Y</u>
			W2	Designate a staff Water Conservation Coordinator to manage water conservation programs									
			W3	Participate in regional efforts and programs to conserve water									
			<i>W+4</i>	Provide customer incentives to retrofit using high efficiency, Water Sense appliances and fixtures									<u>Y</u>
			<i>W+5</i>	Provide water use audits to customers									
	<i>W+6</i>	Collaborate with energy utilities to integrate water conservation into energy audits for residential customers											
	<i>W+7</i>	Collaborate to encourage commercial, industrial and institutional customers to conserve water										<u>Y</u>	
	Water Quality	Protect and improve water quality	W8	Protect surface and groundwater from runoff and contamination									
<i>W8a</i>			>Avoid the use of coal tar sealants on municipal property									<u>Y</u>	
<i>W8b</i>			>Resolve to eliminate unnecessary landscape pesticides and fertilizer use on municipal property									<u>Y</u>	
<i>W8c</i>			>Use sensible salting strategies to reduce chloride contamination									<u>Y</u>	
W9			Collaborate to identify sensitive aquifer recharge areas									<u>Y</u>	
W10			Support post-development runoff reduction and mitigation										
W11			Inventory and inspect septic systems										
W12	Collaborate with regional initiatives to protect Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River												
W13	Label storm drains indicating the destination of discharge												

WATER

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M			
	Goal Category	 GOAL		OBJECTIVE > STRATEGY + ADVANCED STRATEGY	Already achieved	In Progress	Planned for next 6 months	Planned for next 12-18 months	Interested in pursuing	Not planned	Not relevant	Link to resource			
WATER	Water Infrastructure	Manage water system assets sustainably	W14	Operate an efficient water utility that delivers clean, healthful, water											
			W14a	>Control water loss by auditing water supply system using AWWA protocols									Y		
			W14b	>Periodically detect system leaks and develop a strategic plan for repair										Y	
			W15	Comprehensively and sustainably manage water infrastructure											
			W15a	>Develop a water infrastructure asset management plan to sustain the system										Y	
			W15b	>Implement the water infrastructure asset management plan to sustain the system											
			W15c	>Meter 100% of customers with automated reading technology											
			W15d	>Implement sub-metering for multi-family housing customers											
			W15e	>Detect and repair water system leaks											
			W15f	>Repair and replace inefficient water supply infrastructure											
			W15g	>Support property owners in timely repair of service lines through third-party warranty program											Y
			W16	Invest water revenues into sustaining water infrastructure											
			W17	Coordinate street, utility and water infrastructure projects											
			W18	Seek both public and private financing partnerships for infrastructure improvements											
			W19	Riparian communities: Collaborate with other agencies to assess dam performance and support removal when feasible											Y

WATER

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M		
	Goal Category	 GOAL		OBJECTIVE	Already achieved In Progress Planned for next 6 months Planned for next 12-18 months Interested in pursuing Not planned Not relevant Link to resource									
				> STRATEGY										
				+ ADVANCED STRATEGY										
WATER	Stormwater Management and Green Infrastructure	<i>Optimize the use of natural and built systems to manage stormwater</i>	W20	Participate in the Community Rating System for flood mitigation and planning								<u>Y</u>		
			W21	Participate in the National Flood Insurance Program allowing residents to access flood insurance										
			W22	Implement green infrastructure best management practices on municipal properties										
			W22a	>Build or retrofit paved surfaces with permeable materials										
			W22b	>Install and maintain bioswales, filter strips, trees, rain gardens, and other functional landscapes										
			W23	Encourage residents and businesses to adopt green infrastructure practices										
			W23a	>Collaborate to provide rain barrels, plants and other resources to allow resident to capture and store rainwater										
			W24	Encourage residents and businesses to reduce flood risks on their property										
			W24a	>Incentive overhead basement sewer conversion										
			W24b	>Encourage property owners to disconnect downspouts from sewers and direct flow to landscaping										
			W25	Enhance natural features of stormwater detention and retention systems										
			W26	Collaborate to enhance wetlands for improved ecosystem services										
			W27	Collaborate with regional and state agencies to sustainably manage stormwater										
			W+28	+ Use USEPA Water Quality Scorecard to develop a systems approach to optimize stormwater										<u>Y</u>
			W+29	+ Establish a stormwater utility funding mechanism										<u>Y</u>

WATER

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M			
	Goal Category	 GOAL		OBJECTIVE > STRATEGY + ADVANCED STRATEGY	Already achieved	In Progress	Planned for next 6 months	Planned for next 12-18 months	Interested in pursuing	Not planned	Not relevant	Link to resource			
WATER	Policy	Enact policies to protect water resources	W30	Conduct a water rate study to determine sustainable rate structure											
			W31	Adopt full-cost pricing policies for water service									Y		
			W32	Amend code to require water efficiency and conservation in commercial and residential development										Y	
			W33	Incorporate conservation practices into new development guidelines and incentives											
			W34	Adopt a water conservation policy and/or plan inclusive of all customers and municipal operations										Y	
			W34a	>Enact and enforce regulation to control of wasteful water practices											
			W34b	>Enact and enforce outdoor watering regulations responsive to drought conditions											Y
			W34c	>Regulate or incentive water efficiency for customers managing large landscapes											
			W35	Update stormwater ordinance to integrate Illinois State Model Local Stormwater Ordinance											Y
			W36	Adopt codes that enable rainwater harvesting for non-potable uses											
			W37	Adopt a resolution supporting the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact											
			W38	Review and adopt codes to eliminate barriers to green infrastructure BMPs including cisterns, green roofs, bioswales, permeable paving											
			W39	Allow flexibility (off-site management, payment-in-lieu) to allow developments to meet stormwater management requirements sustainably											
			W40	Enact codes that protect surface and groundwater from runoff and contamination											

WATER

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	
	Goal Category	 GOAL		OBJECTIVE > STRATEGY + ADVANCED STRATEGY	Already achieved	In Progress	Planned for next 6 months	Planned for next 12-18 months	Interested in pursuing	Not planned	Not relevant	Link to resource	
WATER	Stewardship	<i>Practice stewardship of water resources</i>	W41	Sustain supply of high-quality public water									
			W42	Ensure drinking and wastewater systems are operating efficiently									
			W43	Utilize treated effluent as a valuable water resource									
			W44	Participate in watershed planning and stewardship efforts									<u>Y</u>
			W45	Implement municipal recommendations from watershed plan									
			W46	Allow public access and encourage stewardship of community waterways									
			W47	Support regional and statewide water supply planning and stewardship									<u>Y</u>
			W48	Contribute local data on water supply, quality and operations to support state and regional stewardship									<u>Y</u>
			W+49	+ Enact a water offset policy for water neutral community growth									<u>Y</u>
	Education and Outreach	<i>Engage the community in water stewardship</i>	W50	Educate and support the community to conserve water								<u>Y</u>	
			W51	Educate the community on the value of clean and safe drinking water									
			W52	Promote tap water over bottled water									<u>Y</u>
			W53	Educate the community on practices that reduce contamination of water resources									<u>Y</u>
			W54	Support private well-owners in water quality monitoring and stewardship									<u>Y</u>
			W55	Educate customers about public water supply and wastewater operations through media and events									
			W56	Educate the community on benefits and practices of green infrastructure									<u>Y</u>
			W57	Educate and support the community in preparing for and managing floods									<u>Y</u>
			W58	Collaborate to teach water conservation and stewardship in schools									
			W59	Collaborate to raise watershed awareness and foster stewardship									

Contributors to the Greenest Region Compact 2 and GRC2 Framework

- 360 Energy Group
- Active Transportation Alliance
- AECOM
- Alliance for the Great Lakes
- America in Bloom
- American Planning Association - Illinois
- Argonne National Laboratory
- CB&I
- Center for Neighborhood Technology
- Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development
- Chicago Area Clean Cities Coalition
- Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
- Chicago Wilderness
- Citizens Utility Board
- ComEd
- Cook County
- Deerpath Garden Club
- Delta Institute
- DuPage County
- Elevate Energy
- Energy Resources Center
- Engineering Enterprises, Inc.
- Environmental Law and Policy Center
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Great Lakes Clean Communities Network
- Grand Victoria Foundation
- Green Ways 2Go
- Huff and Huff
- Illinois Association of Wastewater Agencies
- Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation
- Illinois Climate Action Table
- Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- Illinois Emergency Management Agency
- Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
- Illinois Parks and Recreation Association
- Illinois Recycling Association
- Illinois Second American Water Works Association
- Illinois Sustainable Technology Center
- Illinois Wood Utilization Team
- Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant
- Local Government Education and Information Network
- Meadows Center for Water and the Environment
- Metropolitan Planning Council
- Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
- Midwest Ecological Landscape Alliance
- Midwest Pesticide Action Center
- Morraine Valley Community College
- National League of Cities
- Nicor
- Northwest Water Planning Alliance
- Openlands
- Prairie State Network
- Seven Generations Ahead
- Sierra Club
- Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County
- South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium
- South Shore Clean Cities Coalition
- South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association
- STAR Technical Advisory Group
- The Chicago Community Trust
- The Morton Arboretum
- The Power Bureau
- University of Illinois, Environmental Law Department
- US Conference of Mayors
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- US Green Building Council
- Will County
- Woodlands Garden Club

Appendix

Municipal Sustainability Plans Analyzed and Integrated in the GRC2 Authoring Organization

Village of Algonquin	<i>Environmental Action Plan</i>	2010
City of Aurora	<i>Sustainability Plan</i>	2008
City of Batavia	<i>Environmental Identity</i>	2013
Village of Buffalo Grove	<i>Environmental Plan</i>	2014
City of Chicago	<i>Sustainable Chicago</i>	2012
City of Des Plaines	<i>Sustain Des Plaines</i>	2011
Village of Elburn	<i>Comprehensive Plan, Sustainability Chapter</i>	2013
City of Elgin	<i>Sustainability Action Plan</i>	2013
City of Elmhurst	<i>Comprehensive Plan, Sustainability Chapter Climate</i>	2009
City of Evanston	<i>Action Plan</i>	2008
City of Highland Park	<i>Sustainability Strategic Plan</i>	2010
Village of Hoffman Estates	<i>Sustainability Plan</i>	2013
Village of Homer Glen	<i>Green Vision</i>	2004
Village of La Grange Park	<i>Sustainability Plan</i>	2012
Lake County	<i>Strategy for Sustainable Lake County</i>	2009
Village of Lombard	<i>Local Climate Action Plan</i>	2012
Village of Millbrook	<i>Comprehensive Plan</i>	2009
Village of Monee, Peotone, University Park	<i>Green Communities Vision</i>	2009
City of Naperville	<i>Environmental Sustainability Plan</i>	2010
Village of Niles	<i>Environmental Action Plan</i>	2013
City of Normal	<i>Community-Wide Sustainability Plan</i>	2010
Village of Northbrook	<i>Strategic Sustainability Plan</i>	2013
Village of Oak Park/ River Forest	<i>Sustainability Plan</i>	2011
Village of Orland Park	<i>Comprehensive Plan, Sustainability Chapter</i>	2013
Village of Park Forest	<i>Sustainability Plan</i>	2012
Village of Robbins	<i>Green Communities Vision</i>	2004
Village of Schaumburg	<i>Comprehensive Green Action Plan</i>	2008
Village of Sleepy Hollow	<i>Green Communities Vision</i>	2004
Village of Winnetka	<i>Environmental & Forestry Commission, Strategic Plan</i>	2010
City of Woodstock	<i>Environmental Plan</i>	2010

Regional, National, Global Sustainability Guiding Documents Analyzed and Integrated into the GRC2

CMAP	<i>Green Practices Survey</i>	2008
CMAP	<i>Go To 2040</i>	2010
CMAP	<i>Sustainability White Paper</i>	2015
CMAP	<i>Water 2050</i>	2010
Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure	<i>Envision</i>	2014
STAR Communities, ICLEI, National League of Cities	<i>STAR Community Rating System</i>	2012
US Conference of Mayors	<i>Mayors Climate Protection Agreement</i>	2005
Metropolitan Mayors Caucus	<i>Greenest Region Compact</i>	2007
Illinois Parks and Recreation Association	<i>Model Environmental Policy & Toolkit</i>	2008
Smart Cities Council	<i>Smart Cities Index</i>	2014

Municipal Sustainability Guiding Documents Also Referenced

Village of Arlington Heights	<i>Green Initiatives</i>	2008
DuPage County	<i>Environmental Policy & Cool DuPage</i>	2010
Village of Glencoe	<i>Sustainability Study</i>	2015
Village of Glenview	<i>A Plan for Nature</i>	2010
Village of Hainesville	<i>Comprehensive Plan, Sustainability Chapter</i>	2014
Village of Chicago Heights, South Chicago Heights	<i>Green Community Vision Plan</i>	2012
Village of Meawa, Lincolnshire & Bannockburn	<i>Green Infrastructure Plan</i>	2005
Village of Montgomery & Oswego	<i>Green Community Vision Plan</i>	2007
Village of Round Lake	<i>Comprehensive Plan, Sustainability Chapter</i>	2008
Village of Wheeling	<i>Sustainability Report</i>	2014

**Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Environment Committee
Member Communities and Councils of Governments**

City of Aurora	Village of Lincolnwood
City of Blue Island	Village of Lombard
City of Chicago	Village of Niles
City of Des Plaines	Village of North Aurora
City of Evanston	Village of Northlake
City of Highland Park	Village of Orland Park
City of Rockford	Village of Park Forest*
Sauk Village	Village of Richton Park
Village of Alsip	Village of Schaumburg
Village of Arlington Heights	Village of Streamwood
Village of Blue Island	Village of Villa Park
Village of Cary	Village of Westchester
Village of Deerfield	Village of Woodridge
Village of Fox River Grove	Barrington Area Council of Governments
Village of Frankfort	DuPage Mayors & Managers Conference
Village of Franklin Park*	Lake County Council of Governments
Village of Grayslake	Mc Henry County Council of Governments
Village of Hainesville	Metro West Council of Governments
Village of Hanover Park	Northwest Municipal Conference
Village of Hazel Crest	South Suburban Mayors & Mgrs Conference
Village of Hoffman Estates	Southwest Conference of Mayors
Village of Lakewood	West Central Municipal Conference
Village of Lemont	Will County Government League

**Co-Chair's Community*



Greenest Region Compact 2

The member municipalities of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus seek a vibrant, sustainable future for their communities and the greater Chicago region. The consensus goals of the Greenest Region Compact 2 aim for enhanced quality of life for residents; protection and stewardship of the environment and sustainable economic vitality.

To become the most sustainable and successful region in the United States, they, therefore, support the following consensus goals of the Greenest Region Compact 2 and agree to work to achieve them, both in their own communities and in collaboration throughout the region:



Climate

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Maintain clean and healthful air
- Develop resiliency to climate change impacts
- Engage the community in climate change mitigation and adaptation



Economic Development

- Promote innovation and a competitive workforce
- Cultivate local and sustainable development, jobs, and businesses



Energy

- Use energy for buildings and facilities efficiently
- Advance renewable energy
- Reduce energy consumption
- Enact policies that support clean energy
- Engage the community in clean energy practices



Land

- Encourage strategic development that upholds sustainability principles
- Conserve, restore and enhance natural features and ecosystems
- Support networks of accessible well-used and enjoyable parks
- Sustain a robust urban forest canopy
- Sustain beautiful landscapes that provide ecosystem services
- Achieve greater livability through sustainable land use and housing policies
- Cultivate a conservation ethic in the community



Leadership

- Enlist support for GRC2 goals through regional, state and national leadership
- Advocate for policies that align with and advance the GRC2
- Work collaboratively towards a sustainable region



Mobility

- Support safe and effective active transportation
- Maintain a diverse, safe, and efficient transportation network
- Support efficient transportation that uses resources wisely
- Integrate sustainability into transportation policies, programs, and regulations
- Promote public and sustainable transportation choices



Municipal Operations

- Lead by demonstrating sustainable values and practices
- Integrate sustainability into all municipal operations
- Operate a safe, clean and efficient fleet
- Collect and manage data to advance sustainability



Sustainable Communities

- Promote cultural vibrancy in the community
- Foster a culture of health, safety, and wellness
- Increase access to sustainably grown local food
- Sustain community principles that are welcoming, inclusive and equitable
- Promote a sustainable identity for the community
- Ensure local policies and codes support sustainability
- Cultivate community values based on principles of sustainability



Waste & Recycling

- Support sustainable material management
- Recycle materials across all sectors
- Divert waste from landfills
- Enact policies that cause sustainable material management
- Engage the community in waste reduction and recycling



Water

- Use and distribute water efficiently
- Protect and improve water quality
- Manage water system assets sustainably
- Optimize the use of natural and built systems to manage stormwater
- Practice stewardship of water resources
- Enact policies to protect water resources
- Engage the community in water stewardship



Endorsing the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus' Greenest Region Compact 2

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus provides a forum for the chief elected officials of the Chicago region to develop consensus and act on common public policy issues and mul-jurisdictional challenges; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus' participating Mayors and their communities have a history of environmental stewardship, from energy efficiency, water conservation, urban forestry, and participation in Clean Air Counts; and

WHEREAS, it is important for Mayors and local governments throughout the United States to take leadership roles to advance sustainability both in their own communities and in concert with regional, national and global initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus created the Greenest Region Compact 2 to address environmental sustainability issues of global importance at the local level; and

WHEREAS, the Greenest Region Compact 2, also called the GRC2, is built on important environmental initiatives already underway in communities, in partnership with many non-profit, state, regional and national organizations; and

WHEREAS, the GRC2 synthesizes sustainability goals already adopted by leading communities in the region; and these consensus goals align with common regional, state, national and global objectives; and

WHEREAS, the GRC2 offers a companion Framework to guide communities of all sizes and strengths to assess their current efforts; develop a sustainability plan suited to local priorities; and will offer resources to help them succeed; and

WHEREAS, the consensus goals of the Greenest Region Compact 2 will guide coordinated efforts toward enhanced quality of life for residents; protection and stewardship of the environment and sustainable economic vitality.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City/Village of _____ endorses the Greenest Region Compact 2 proposed by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and agrees to work to achieve them, both in their own communities and in collaboration throughout the region.



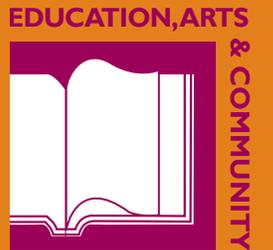
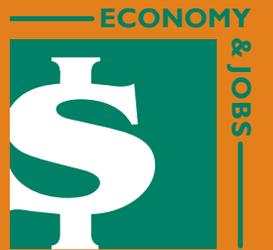
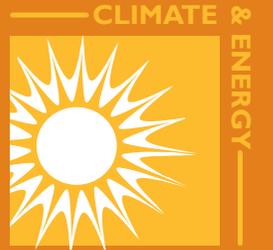
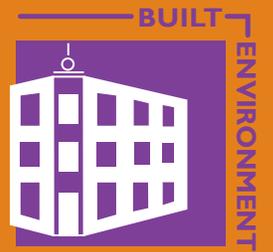
The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus is a membership organization of the Chicago region's 273 cities, towns and villages. Founded in 1997 by then Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley and leading mayors from nine suburban municipal groups, the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus pushes past geographical boundaries and local interests to work on public policy issues. The caucus provides a forum for metropolitan Chicago's chief elected officials to collaborate on common problems and work toward a common goal of improving the quality of life for the millions of people who call the region home.

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STAR Community Rating System

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Garrett Fitzgerald, Urban Sustainability Directors Network
Brooks Rainwater; National League of Cities
Dylan Siegler; NRG Energy

Graphic Design: Down to Earth Design

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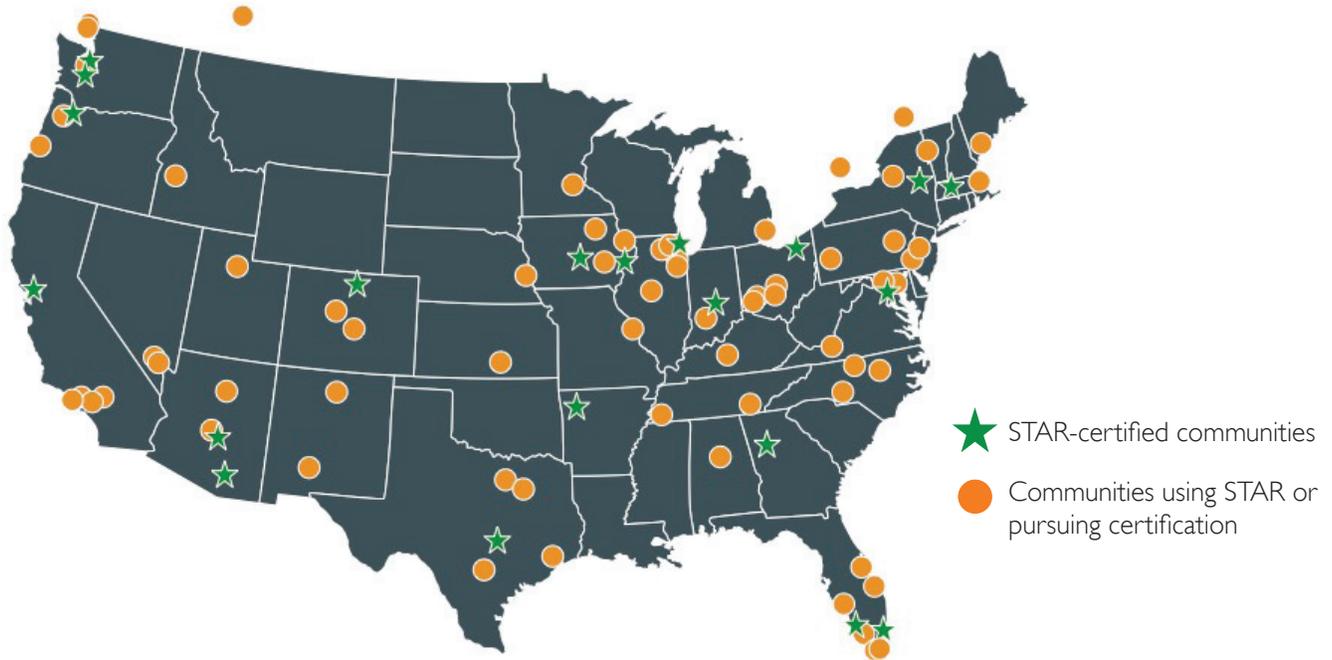
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Communities & STAR

The STAR Community Rating System is built by and for local governments and the communities they serve. Our program's success relies on the engagement of and evaluation by U.S. cities, towns and counties.



Certified STAR Communities (As of February 1, 2015)

5-STAR

Northampton, MA
 Seattle, WA

4-STAR

Austin, TX
 Broward County, FL
 Davenport, IA
 Evanston, IL
 Portland, OR
 Tacoma, WA
 Tucson, AZ
 Washington, DC

3-STAR

Albany, NY
 Atlanta, GA
 Chandler, AZ
 Cleveland, OH
 Des Moines, IA

El Cerrito, CA
 Fayetteville, AR
 Fort Collins, CO
 Indianapolis, IN
 Lee County, FL

STAR Member Communities (as of February 1, 2015)

Abington Township, PA
 Allegheny County, PA
 Baltimore, MD
 Beaverton, OR
 Birmingham, AL
 Blacksburg, VA
 Bloomington, IN
 Blue Island, IL

Boise, ID
 Bonita Springs, FL
 Burlington/Chittenden Co., VT
 Calgary, AB
 Cambridge, MA
 Charles City, IA
 Charlotte, NC
 Chattanooga, TN

Columbus, OH
 Coos Watershed, OR
 Dayton, OH
 Dearborn, MI
 Denton, TX
 Dubuque, IA
 Elgin, IL
 Elmhurst, IL

STAR Member Communities (as of February 1, 2015) - continued

Fayetteville, AR	Memphis/Shelby Co., TN	Riverside, CA
Flagstaff, AZ	Monroe County, FL	Rockingham County, NC
Frederick, MD	Montreal, QC	Rosemount, MN
Grove City, OH	Nederland, CO	Salt Lake City, UT
Hamilton, OH	Omaha, NE	San Antonio, TX
Henderson, NV	Orange County, FL	Santa Fe, NM
Houston, TX	Palm Bay, FL	Santa Monica, CA
Iowa City, IA	Park Forest, IL	Sarasota County, FL
Islamorada, FL	Peoria County, IL	St. Louis, MO
King County, WA	Philadelphia, PA	Steamboat Springs, CO
Lakewood, CO	Phoenix, AZ	Toronto, ON
Las Cruces, NM	Plano, TX	Vancouver, BC
Las Vegas, NV	Portland, ME	Victoria, BC
Los Angeles, CA	Raleigh, NC	Woodbridge Township, NJ
Louisville/Jefferson Co., KY	Reading, PA	Wichita, KS
Madison County, NY	Redlands, CA	

University Affiliates (As of February 1, 2015)

Arizona State University	University of Missouri-Kansas City
University of Iowa	University of North Texas

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INTRODUCTION

The STAR Community Rating System (STAR) is the first national certification program to recognize sustainable communities. Local leaders use STAR to assess their sustainability, set targets for moving forward, and measure progress along the way.

Released in October 2012, STAR represents a milestone in the national movement to create more livable communities for all. The rating system's evaluation measures collectively define community-scale sustainability, and present a vision of how communities can become more healthy, inclusive, and prosperous across seven goal areas. The system's goals and objectives provide a much-needed vocabulary that local governments and their communities can use to more effectively strategize and define their sustainability planning efforts.

The intent of the rating system is to help communities identify, validate, and support implementation of best practices to improve sustainable community conditions. Built on the guiding principle of continuous improvement, STAR will evolve to remain the leading framework for local sustainability. There is recognition that the content of the rating system may change over time to embrace innovation, apply new research, or adapt to changing conditions in the field of community sustainability. All updates to the rating system will strive to create a consistent system that is both rigorous and accessible to local government applicants and their partners.

Over time, the program will build a research model that includes spatial, temporal, and level of effort details to expand the evidence base about the degree to which various actions advance sustainability conditions community-wide. This rigor and differentiation will allow STAR to expand national learning and drive ongoing improvements to sustainable community governance.

Purpose of the Technical Guide

This Technical Guide is intended to serve as a supplement to the STAR Community Rating System and companion to the STAR Online Reporting Tool. Communities engaged in formal data collection and reporting will find the rating system's rationale and methodology, calculations, data sources, and data submittal requirements in the Technical Guide. Readers may also come to the Technical Guide seeking best practices in order to implement solutions at the local level.

As a technical publication, the intended audiences are those engaged in sustainability at the city, town, or county level including local governments, universities, nonprofits, the private sector; regional, state or federal agencies, philanthropic institutions, and other community leaders.

Oversight and Evolution

The rating system was developed between 2008-2012 using an open, consensus-based process. Technical Advisory Committees comprised of experts from across the country determined scientifically valid, cost-effective ways of evaluating local government progress with oversight and guidance from a Steering Committee. After the rating system was released in 2012, the eight Technical Advisory Committees were consolidated into a 21-member Technical Advisory Group. In order to maintain the rating system's credibility, all substantive changes to STAR are approved by the Technical Advisory Group then sent to the Steering Committee for acceptance.

- **Steering Committee:** The governing body responsible for guiding the development of the STAR Community Rating System. The committee is charged with maintaining the rating system as a leadership tool, preserving its integrity, and evolving STAR using the consensus process in accordance with the mission, guiding principles, and strategic plan of STAR Communities.
- **Technical Advisory Group (TAG):** The purpose of the TAG is to enhance and, where necessary, clarify the STAR Community Rating System. The group maintains and advances the technical aspects of the existing STAR Community Rating System; continuously builds, improves and advances credit intents, requirements and guidance; upholds the technical rigor, fairness and transparency in the STAR Community Rating System development process; and holistically oversees, integrates, manages and envisions the technical aspects of the STAR Community Rating System.

Coordination with Companion Resources

The Technical Guide should be used in conjunction with the following resources:

- **STAR Crosswalk:** An Excel spreadsheet of STAR's evaluation measures that communities can modify to determine alignment with existing sustainability plans, programs and policies. Many communities also use the spreadsheet to organize data sources, assign responsible parties for data collection, and manage internal workflow.
- **STAR Self-Assessment Checklist:** An interactive online checklist that communities can use to identify evaluation measures for which they expect to receive credit in the rating system. As boxes are checked, the Self-Assessment calculates a preliminary score to help communities determine the best approach to STAR certification or whether to pursue certification in the future.
- **STAR Online Reporting Tool:** The custom-built online platform that manages the community's application for STAR certification. Applicant local governments upload and enter data to substantiate the community's achievements and activities, which are then verified by STAR Communities in order to issue a final rating.

STAR Subscriptions

The STAR Community Rating System was designed for use by local (town, city, or county) governments. While partnerships are encouraged, the governmental entity is the approved primary applicant in the STAR Community Rating System and Reporting Tool. Other community partners, organizations, universities, consultants, and federal agencies can become STAR Affiliates to support STAR Communities' mission.

To get started, a community signs up to be a STAR Member Community. STAR Member Communities receive basic access to the STAR Community Rating System and the tools and resources to start tracking sustainability performance. Member benefits are designed to help promote a healthy environment, a strong economy, and well-being for all residents, now and for future generations. Communities that are ready to get certified or that have already been certified have the option to add on additional services or packages as fits their needs.

To become certified, communities require full access to STAR Communities' online application, which is managed through a proprietary Online Reporting Tool. All applications for certification are submitted online and verified by STAR technical staff for accuracy. Data collection for certification takes on average between 6 months to a year. Certification lasts for 3 years from the certification date. Certified communities enjoy national recognition and other benefits

The path to sustainability is different for every community and each unique place will approach the STAR Community Rating System in a different manner. Communities engage in STAR for a variety of reasons including to:

- **Demonstrate commitment** to local sustainability
- **Receive national recognition** for leadership and achievements
- **Gain competitive advantage** and attract funding
- **Improve transparency** and accountability and showcase results
- **Communicate resilience** and risk management to municipal bond agencies
- **Build and strengthen partnerships** within government and with community

ACHIEVING CERTIFICATION AND RECOGNITION

Once a community has documented their progress in the STAR Online Reporting Tool, they may submit for verification of their application. The verification team at STAR Communities reviews all applications for accuracy within 60 days of submission and issues an official STAR Community Rating based upon points achieved.

The number of points achieved in the rating system determines a community's certification or recognition level. There are three certification levels: 5-STAR Community, 4-STAR Community and 3-STAR Community.

Once certified, an official STAR Community Rating lasts three years. Applicants may re-submit an application at any time prior to the three-year mark to receive a new STAR Community Rating Level.

Certification Rating Levels	Point Range
5-STAR Community <i>Recognized as a top tier achiever in national sustainability</i>	600+
4-STAR Community <i>Recognized for national excellence</i>	400-599
3-STAR Community <i>Recognized for sustainability leadership</i>	200-399
Reporting STAR Community <i>Currently pursuing certification</i>	<200

FRAMEWORK OF THE RATING SYSTEM

The STAR framework, which integrates economic, environmental, and social aspects of sustainability, provides communities with a menu-based system to customize their approach based on local conditions and priorities. Communities can pursue the most important or relevant objectives, addressing regional variability and differing priorities along the way.

The rating system is organized by goals, objectives, and evaluation measures; this design is intended to align with local government processes and standard practice. The structure features a set of components that reflect public sector mechanisms that are proven effective in advancing change. Terms are those commonly used by local governments and their community partners to communicate strategic objectives and desired outcomes.

Within each goal area is a series of objectives aimed at achieving community-level aspirations. Objectives are measured in two ways: through attainment of community level outcomes and/or completion of local actions that are essential to reaching the outcomes. These evaluation measures provide the avenue for communities to achieve credit in the rating system.

Below are terms and definitions associated with the STAR framework.

Key Terms and Definitions	
Goal	Desired state or condition that a jurisdiction intends to achieve
Objective	A clear, desired outcome intended to move the community toward the broader goal
Purpose	Statement to clarify relevance, to provide context, and communicate the desired Outcome(s)
Evaluation Measure	Qualitative or quantitative, using relative or absolute metrics
Community Level Outcome	Measurable, condition-level indicators that depict a community's progress toward a preferred state or condition as suggested by the STAR Objective
Local Action	Range of decisions and investments that a community can make, or the activities that they can engage in, that are essential to achieving the desired Outcome(s)

STAR's Goal Areas

Built Environment: *Achieve livability, choice, and access for all where people live, work, and play*

Climate & Energy: *Reduce climate impacts through adaptation and mitigation efforts and increase resource efficiency*

Economy & Jobs: *Create equitably shared prosperity and access to quality jobs*

Education, Arts & Community: *Empower vibrant, educated, connected, and diverse communities*

Equity & Empowerment: *Ensure equity, inclusion, and access to opportunity for all citizens*

Health & Safety: *Strengthen communities to be healthy, resilient and safe places for residents and businesses*

Natural Systems: *Protect and restore the natural resource base upon which life depends*

An eighth category, **Innovation & Process**, supports the evolution of sustainability practice by recognizing best practices and processes, exemplary performance, innovation, and collaboration in areas of regional priority.

STAR's Objectives

Each of the rating system's 7 goal areas is supported by 5-7 Objectives. Objectives are the clear and desired outcome intended to move the community toward the broader sustainability goal. Below are the system's 44 Objectives, organized by Goal Area.

Table of STAR Goals and Objectives

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	

Evaluation Measures

As noted, STAR Objectives are achieved through attainment of two types of evaluation measures: Community Level Outcomes and Local Actions. Outcomes are measurable condition-level indicators that depict a community's progress toward a preferred state or condition within the STAR Objective it supports. Outcomes are represented as trend lines, targets, or thresholds in the rating system.

Generally, STAR awards credit to county applicants if they are achieving Outcome measures at the county-scale. However, recognizing the challenges faced by county applicants as a result of having multiple municipalities within their boundaries, there are two exceptions to this rule. The first exception is based on the understanding that data collection would be unreasonably burdensome. The second exception is when the Technical Guide provides explicit instructions that reporting at the county scale is not required.

Local Actions describe the range of decisions and investments that a local government or community can make, or the activities that they can engage in, that are essential to achieving desired Outcomes. Local Actions in the rating system focus on the key interventions that move the needle towards STAR's identified Outcomes.

Since many public, private, and non-profit organizations within the community contribute towards advancing sustainability goals, the rating system recognizes these efforts, not only those of the local government. The rating system awards credit for Local Actions performed by community actors other than the applicant local government, provided that the applicant demonstrates that the activities have had a significant, positive impact on progress towards achieving the desired Outcome(s) for the community as a whole.

Action Types	
Education and Outreach	Preparatory
Plan Development	
Policy and Code Adjustment	
Partnerships and Collaboration	
Practice Improvements	
Inventory, Assessment or Survey	
Enforcement and Incentives	Implementation
Programs and Services	
Facilities and Infrastructure Improvements	

There are nine defined Action Types in the rating system. Preparatory Actions are foundational steps that a community should take first to assess the community's needs and trends, identify and execute policy and regulatory changes, and strengthen partnerships and collaborations in order to effectively deploy resources and investments.

Implementation Actions are the programs and services, enforcement and incentive mechanisms, and infrastructure investments a community makes in order to efficiently and equitably move the needle towards the desired Outcomes.

Technical advisors, staff, and other stakeholders regularly review evaluation measures to determine whether they are relevant, feasible, systemic, timely, reliable and valid. Other criteria for inclusion in the rating system include alignment with the STAR Guiding Principles.

UNDERSTANDING POINTS AND SCORES

The methodology behind STAR's points and scores acknowledges the integrated nature of the system's sustainability Goal Areas and Objectives and the complex relationship between Local Actions and Community Level Outcomes. While this section aims to provide an overview of points and scores, refer to the Technical Guide's Points Appendix for a more complete description of the design assumptions, point allocations and weightings.

It is recommended that applicants utilize the STAR Self-Assessment Checklist to estimate their preliminary score and certification level before beginning to enter data; the checklist provides an interactive score based on the selection of individual evaluation measures.

Weighting of Goal Areas

STAR's seven Goal Areas serve as the foundation of the system's interconnected, triple bottom line approach to sustainability. There are currently no universally accepted standards for rating one sustainability goal as of greater importance or value than any other; therefore, with one exception, STAR's Goal Areas are equally weighted at 100 points each. Education, Arts & Community is valued at 70 points because it has a fewer number of STAR Objectives overall.

Goal Area	Points Available
Built Environment	100
Climate & Energy	100
Economy & Jobs	100
Education, Arts & Community	70
Equity & Empowerment	100
Health & Safety	100
Natural Systems	100
Innovation and Process	50
Total	720

Achieving Points within STAR Objectives

Within each Goal Area are between 5 and 7 Objectives; each has a total point value between 5 and 20 points. Objectives are assigned a total point value based on their impact on achieving community sustainability as well as impact towards meeting the STAR Goal Area that it is situated beneath.

Applicants accumulate points in the rating system through achievement of Objectives. Within each Objective, there are three paths to achieving the total points available: communities can complete Community Level Outcomes, Local Actions or a combination of the two types of evaluation measures.

Communities that meet the Outcome's threshold, target, or trend line requirement or, in some cases, demonstrate incremental progress will achieve a proportion of the total points available. Partial credit is available where indicated. Point values for Outcomes are determined by the supporting STAR Objective, the Outcome's strength as a standard (e.g. national standard threshold, standard target for trend, STAR set threshold, locally set threshold, locally set trend, or general trend) and its data sources and data quality (e.g. outside data set, standardized collection, or locally collected).

In each Objective, the Technical Guide distinguishes whether 100% or 70% of points are available through Outcomes. In Objectives where the Outcomes represent national or leadership standards, communities can achieve 100% of the points available without submitting documentation on Local Actions. In other Objectives where the Outcomes reflect a local or general threshold or trend; a community can achieve up to 70% of an Objective's total points available and must supplement the remaining points with Actions.

Finally, communities have the opportunity to accumulate points for the Local Actions that they complete. The rating system assigns higher point values to implementation-based actions than those that are preparatory in nature due to dedication of resources and impact on sustainability conditions. Actions will be evaluated over time and may be replaced or adjusted to align with the program's growing evidence base about which actions have the strongest influence.

Innovation & Process Category

Local government applicants may find that certain areas of the rating system are more difficult to achieve or may not apply given differences in geography, climate, jurisdictional control or other factors. The Innovation & Process credit category is a place to look for "extra credit" to supplement those areas of the system that were unattainable, difficult, or not a local priority.

SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS: EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

In order to receive credit for STAR Outcomes, the community must submit the required documentation described in the guidance section of the relevant Objective. In many cases, the documentation is a STAR-provided Excel spreadsheet, which can be downloaded from the respective entry page in the Online Reporting Tool.

Local Actions

All Local Actions in STAR fit into one of nine Action Types. The submittal requirements for each Action Type are consistent throughout the system and are described below:

- **Education and Outreach:** For verification, identify 3 different types of education and outreach efforts conducted over the past 3 years, which can include events, classes, or workshops; a website; print materials; electronic media; social media; or other. For each, provide the title (and date for events, classes, or workshops), a brief description, and a link or copy if applicable.
- **Plan Development:** For verification, provide the plan title; a link to or copy of the plan; the year adopted or last updated with a description of how the plan is still used if more than 3 years old; a description of the development process and stakeholders involved; vision statement; key recommendations; strategy for implementation; and whether the plan has quantifiable targets (yes/no).
- **Policy and Code Adjustment:** For verification, provide the title and a link to or copy of the policy or code requirement; a description of the compelling characteristics that advance progress towards the desired Outcome(s); whether there was public engagement (yes/no); and the year adopted or last updated. *Note: Policy statements that appear in long-range plans (e.g. comprehensive plans) do NOT count for credit under the Policy and Code Adjustment Action Type.*
- **Partnerships and Collaboration:** For verification, identify the type of collaboration (formal partnership, appointed committee, or community collaboration); the name of the partnership or committee and a description of each partner's contribution or the committee's criteria for selection; a link to or documentation of the partnership or committee's work; year established; key accomplishments in the past 3 years; and a description of the local government's financial contribution and/or elected official/staff time dedicated in the past 3 years.
- **Practice Improvements:** For verification, describe the practice improvement; key accomplishments in the past 3 years; and provide a link to or copy of the annual report if applicable.
- **Inventory, Assessment or Survey:** For verification, identify the type of analysis (map, database, report, survey, or other) and provide the title; a description of key findings, and a link to or copy of the inventory, assessment, or survey.
- **Enforcement and Incentives:** (1) Enforcement: For verification, provide the unique verification specified in the Technical Guide and Online Reporting Tool; a description of the enforcement action and parties responsible; a description of the enforcement mechanism and process; a description of the compelling characteristics that advance progress towards the desired Outcome(s); and the year created or implemented. (2) Incentives: For verification, provide the unique verification; a link to or copy of the incentive; a description of the compelling characteristics that advance progress towards the desired Outcome(s); and the year created or implemented.
- **Programs and Services:** For verification, provide the name and a brief description of the program or service; the unique verification specified in the Technical Guide and Online Reporting Tool; a description of the compelling characteristics that advance progress towards the desired Outcome(s); and the year created or implemented.
- **Facility and Infrastructure Improvements:** For verification, provide the unique verification specified in the Technical Guide and Online Reporting Tool; a description of the compelling characteristics that advance progress towards the desired Outcome(s); and the funding invested in the past 3 years.

Relationship of this Document to the Technical Guide

This document, the STAR Community Rating System, is freely available for download and public use, subject to copyright limitations.

The Technical Guide to the STAR Community Rating System is available for purchase from www.STARcommunities.org. The Technical Guide provides clear instructions, data sources, and submittal requirements for local government and their partners as they prepare for, collect, and then report data and information in order to receive a STAR Community Rating. The Technical Guide also includes examples of communities leading the way in each Objective and additional resources for users.



GOAL AREA: Built Environment

Achieve livability, choice, and access for all where people live, work, and play

Introduction

The 7 Objectives in the Built Environment Goal Area evaluate community development patterns, livability, and design characteristics, with emphasis on access and choice for all residents regardless of income. **BE-3: Compact & Complete Communities** promotes pedestrian-scaled, mixed-use development in high-density areas that support transit. **BE-4: Housing Affordability** measures location efficiency through the combined costs of housing and transportation and encourages affordable housing in areas where transportation costs are already low due to transit accessibility. **BE-7: Transportation Choices** provides the direct measure of transportation alternatives, affordability, and safety for pedestrians and bicyclists.

The Built Environment Goal Area addresses other types of infrastructure, such the provision of clean drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater in **BE-2: Community Water Systems**. **BE-5: Infill & Redevelopment** analyzes the distribution of water and sewer infrastructure to encourage efficient use and reuse of land. **BE-6: Public Spaces** promotes accessibility to abundant, well-designed parks, greenways, and other public spaces. Finally, **BE-1: Ambient Noise & Light** encourages community lighting systems to protect viewing of the night sky and residents from excessive noise.

Objective Number	Objective Title and Purpose	Available Points
BE-1	Ambient Noise & Light: Minimize and manage ambient noise and light levels to protect public health and integrity of ecological systems	5
BE-2	Community Water Systems: Provide a clean and secure water supply for all local users through the management of potable water, wastewater, stormwater, and other piped infrastructure	15
BE-3	Compact & Complete Communities: Concentrate development in compact, human-scaled, walkable centers and neighborhoods that connect to transit, offer diverse uses and services, and provide housing options for families of all income levels	20
BE-4	Housing Affordability: Construct, preserve, and maintain an adequate and diverse supply of location-efficient and affordable housing options for all residents	15
BE-5	Infill & Redevelopment: Focus new growth in infill areas and on redevelopment that does not require the extension of water, sewer, and road infrastructure or facilitate sprawl	10
BE-6	Public Spaces: Create a network of well-used and enjoyable parks and public spaces that feature equitable, convenient access for residents throughout the community	15
BE-7	Transportation Choices: Promote diverse transportation modes, including walking, bicycling, and transit, that are safe, low-cost, and reduce vehicle miles traveled	20
Total Credit, Goal Area		100



BUILT ENVIRONMENT

BE- I: Ambient Noise & Light

5 available points

PURPOSE

Minimize and manage ambient noise and light levels to protect public health and the integrity of ecological systems

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

70% of points available through Outcomes

Preliminary Step:

Identify commercial, residential, and natural areas for evaluation in this Objective

Note that the Preliminary Step is required if the community is applying for credit in the Outcomes. If the community is applying for credit through Actions only, the Preliminary Step need not be completed.

Outcome 1: Noise

1.4 Points

Option A: Demonstrate that daytime ambient noise levels do not exceed 70 dBa in commercial areas

--OR--

Option B: Show progress toward locally identified key ambient noise targets

Outcome 2: Light in the Community

1.4 points

Show progress toward locally identified key light targets for light glare and/or light trespass

Outcome 3: Light in the Night Sky

0.7 points

Achieve a sky glow at or below 4 in the Bortle Dark-Sky Scale where the Milky Way is still visible in residential areas

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Action 1:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt a community noise policy, ordinance, or regulations as needed based upon a local assessment

Action 2:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt a community light policy, ordinance, or regulations as needed based upon a local assessment

Action 3:

Education and Outreach

Educate the public about standards, effects of excessive exposure, and mitigation techniques for ambient noise or ambient light

Action 4:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Create partnerships to address sources of noise and/or light pollution not subject to the local authority

Action 5:

Practice Improvements

Develop a database of noise complaints and noise measurements (e.g. roads, industrial, outdoor music venues) or of light issues and neighborhoods targeted for improvements

Action 6:

Enforcement and Incentives

Establish clear lines of authority for enforcement of nuisance noise violations relative to different noise sources

Action 7:

Enforcement and Incentives

Enforce noise standards during the permitting, design, and construction of new large-scale developments that can significantly increase ambient noise levels

Action 8:

Enforcement and Incentives

Enforce light standards during the permitting, design, and construction of new large-scale developments that can significantly increase ambient light levels

Action 9:

Programs and Services

Establish programs that eliminate existing sources of light pollution coming from municipally owned entities



BUILT ENVIRONMENT

BE-2: Community Water Systems

15 available points

PURPOSE

Provide a clean and secure water supply for all local users through the management of potable water; wastewater; stormwater; and other piped infrastructure

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

100% of points available through Outcomes

Outcome 1: Drinking Water Quality

3 points; 0.8 points for Bonus

Part 1: Demonstrate that the community is not in violation of EPA's 5% standard for coliform bacteria in water pipes

--AND--

Part 2:

Option A: Demonstrate that the water supplied to residents is not in violation of EPA standards for turbidity and water pathogens

--OR--

Option B: Decrease the amount of all regulated contaminants over time [Partial credit applies]

Bonus: Jurisdiction or water provider participates in water quality research on contaminants of emerging concern

Outcome 2: Secure Water Supply

3.8 points

Part 1: Demonstrate that the height of the water table for subsurface aquifers has been stable or rising

--AND--

Part 2: Demonstrate that the height of surface waters is within the range to meet expected demand for the next 5 years or is rising

Outcome 3: Safe Wastewater Management

3.8 points

Part 1: Demonstrate that all publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) are in compliance with EPA effluent guidelines permits

--AND--

Part 2: Demonstrate that existing industrial dischargers are in compliance with EPA permits [Partial credit available]

Outcome 4: Safe Stormwater Management

3.8 points

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit(s) have been obtained prior to discharging stormwater

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Action 1:

Plan Development

Adopt a jurisdiction-wide management plan for both water consumption and disposal that provides a clean and secure water supply for all local uses

Action 2:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt policies to ensure that the jurisdiction has authority to enact water conservation measures during periods of drought

Action 3:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Collaborate with a regional water management group that includes other jurisdictions that share the same water sources

Action 4:

Practice Improvements

Establish water quality monitoring and public reporting systems

Action 5:

Enforcement and Incentives

Shift towards a full cost pricing system to ensure that users are paying for the true cost of water

Action 6:

Programs and Services

Create programs to guarantee the provision of water to low-income residents

Action 7:

Programs and Services

Develop and provide water conservation programs to residents, businesses, and agricultural water users in order to help ensure that the community is not depleting its water supply

Note that this Action is shared with NS-5:Water in the Environment, Action 7.

Action 8:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Manage and upgrade infrastructure to reduce leaks in the system, eliminate contaminants, and achieve other local conservation goals

Action 9:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Implement at least 3 innovative water infrastructure and facility programs

Action 10:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Upgrade and improve stormwater and wastewater treatment facilities to meet current and foreseeable needs

Action 11:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Engage in restoration projects for critical water bodies that provide usable water for the jurisdiction or stormwater management assistance

Note that this Action is shared with NS-5:Water in the Environment, Action 6.



BUILT ENVIRONMENT

BE-3: Compact & Complete Communities

20 available points

PURPOSE

Concentrate development in compact, human-scaled, walkable centers and neighborhoods that connect to transit, offer diverse uses and services, and provide housing options for families of all income levels

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

100% of points available through Outcomes

Preliminary Step:

Identify the Compact & Complete Centers (CCCs) that will be analyzed under this Objective

Note that the Preliminary Step is only required if the community is applying for credit in the Outcomes. If the community is applying for credit through Actions only, the Preliminary Step need not be completed.

Note that communities can receive a maximum score of 100 in this Objective (Outcome 1=50, Outcome 2=15, Outcome 3=15, and Outcome 4=20). Each CCC is evaluated separately for each of the components within the Outcome. Points accumulated for each CCC will be averaged resulting in the score for the Outcome.

Outcome 1: Density, Destinations, and Transit

10 points

Demonstrate that each CCC achieves the following thresholds:

Residential Density:

- Average of at least 12 dwelling units per acre within a ¼-mile walk distance of bus or streetcar stops, and within ½-mile walk distance of bus rapid transit stops, light or heavy rail stations, or ferry terminals
- Average of at least 7 dwelling units per acre within the rest of the CCC boundary

Employment Density: At least 25 jobs per acre

Diverse Uses: At least 7 diverse uses present

Transit Availability: At least 60 weekday trips and 40 weekend trips

[Graduated credit available]

Outcome 2: Walkability

3 points

Demonstrate that each CCC achieves the following thresholds:

- 90% of roadways contain sidewalks on both sides
- 100% of crosswalks are ADA accessible
- 60% of block faces contain street trees at no more than 40 feet intervals
- 70% of roadways are designed for a travel speed of no more than 25 mph
- Minimum intersection density of 90 intersections per square mile

[Partial credit available]

Outcome 3: Design

3 points

Demonstrate that each CCC achieves the following thresholds:

- 80% of front building setbacks along primarily single-family residential blocks are not more than 25 feet from the property line
- 80% of front building setbacks along primarily commercial blocks are not more than 10 feet from the property line
- 40% of primarily commercial blocks have ground floor street frontages free from blank walls and loading docks, and do not have structured or surface parking as the principal land use along the street

[Partial credit available]

Outcome 4: Affordable Housing

4 points

Demonstrate that each CCC achieves at least 2 of the following thresholds:

- 10% of total residential units are affordable
- 10% of residential units built or substantially rehabilitated within the last 3 years are dedicated as subsidized affordable housing
- Some of the dedicated long-term affordable housing units are deeply subsidized or deeply affordable for very and extremely-low income households

[Partial credit available]

Note that the second standard in this Outcome is shared with BE-4: Housing Affordability, Outcome 2, Option B.

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Action 1:

Plan Development

Demonstrate that the comprehensive plan supports compact, mixed-use development

Action 2:

Inventory, Assessment or Survey

Identify areas appropriate for compact, mixed-use development on the community's official future land use map

Note that the areas, nodes, activity centers, and/or corridors identified in Action 2 as appropriate for compact, mixed-use development are the areas that should be evaluated for Actions 3-7. If the applicant does not submit Action 2 for credit, the areas evaluated for Actions 3-7 should be the zoning categories that permit the highest residential and mixed-use development. Policies and regulations that apply community-wide, not just in compact, mixed-use areas, are also acceptable for credit.

Action 3:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt regulatory strategies that permit or incentivize increased residential and employment densities and diverse uses in transit-served areas and areas identified for compact, mixed-use development

Note that this Action is shared with NS-4: Outdoor Air Quality, Action 1.

Action 4:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Require walkability standards for new development that include sidewalks on both sides of roadways, street trees, ADA accessible crosswalks, roadways designed for maximum travel speeds of 25 mph, and maximum block lengths in transit-served areas and areas identified for compact, mixed-use development

Note that this Action is similar to BE-7: Transportation Choices, Action 3 except that it only addresses transit-served and compact, mixed-use areas. Communities may apply for credit in both Local Actions, if applicable.

Action 5:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Require build-to lines for commercial and residential structures in transit-served areas and areas identified for compact, mixed-use development

Action 6:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt advanced parking strategies in transit-served areas and areas identified for compact, mixed-use development

Note that this Action is shared with NS-4: Outdoor Air Quality, Action 2.

Action 7:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Require, incentivize, or subsidize creation of affordable housing in transit-served areas and areas identified for compact, mixed-use development

Note that this Action is shared with BE-4: Housing Affordability, Action 5.

Action 8:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Establish a design review board, neighborhood commission, or similar appointed citizen body that provides comments on proposed development projects

Action 9:

Programs and Services

Implement programs to preserve and maintain existing subsidized and unsubsidized affordable housing in transit-served areas, compact and mixed-use areas, and areas with rapidly-rising housing costs

Note that this Action is shared with BE-4: Housing Affordability, Action 8.

Action 10:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Increase the percentage of households with access to transit

Note that this Action is shared with BE-7: Transportation Choices, Action 6.



BUILT ENVIRONMENT

BE-4: Housing Affordability

15 available points

PURPOSE

Construct, preserve, and maintain an adequate and diverse supply of location-efficient and affordable housing options for all residents

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

100% of points available through Outcomes

Outcome 1: Housing and Transportation Costs

6 points

Part 1: Demonstrate that there are at least 80% of Census block groups where a household earning the Area Median Income (AMI) would spend less than 45% on housing and transportation combined [Partial credit available]

--AND--

Part 2: Demonstrate that there are at least 60% of Census block groups where a household earning 80% AMI would spend less than 45% on housing and transportation combined [Partial credit available]

Outcome 2: Affordable Housing Production

4.5 points

Option A: Achieve targets for creation of new affordable housing units identified in a locally adopted comprehensive housing strategy

--OR--

Option B: Demonstrate that 10% of residential units built or substantially rehabilitated in the past 3 years in the community's Compact & Complete Centers (CCCs) are dedicated as subsidized affordable housing

Outcome 3: Affordable Housing Preservation

4.5 points

Demonstrate no more than 5% loss of subsidized affordable housing units due to expiring subsidies in the past 3 years

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Action 1:

Plan Development

Develop a comprehensive housing strategy

Action 2:

Inventory, Assessment or Survey

Analyze transit access and transportation costs for neighborhoods with housing affordable to low- and moderate-income households



BUILT ENVIRONMENT

BE-4: Housing Affordability

Action 3:

Inventory, Assessment or Survey

When new transit or other major infrastructure investments are planned, analyze the likelihood and extent to which housing costs are anticipated to increase in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods so that appropriate strategies can be developed to preserve and create long-term affordable housing

Action 4:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Use regulatory and design strategies to encourage compatible infill and redevelopment with a mix of housing types in neighborhoods close to employment centers, commercial areas, and where transit or transportation alternatives exist

Note that this Action is shared with BE-5: Infill & Redevelopment, Action 3.

Action 5:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Require, incentivize, or subsidize creation of subsidized affordable housing, including deeply subsidized or deeply affordable housing, in transit-served areas and areas identified for compact, mixed-use development

Note that this Action is shared with BE-3: Compact & Complete Communities, Action 7.

Action 6:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Collaborate with other jurisdictions to address affordable housing and location efficiency needs in the region

Action 7:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Partner with nonprofit organizations to provide education, counseling, and financial assistance to homebuyers or renters

Note that some of these activities may overlap with programs and services identified in EE-6: Poverty Prevention & Alleviation, Action 2. If so, consider applying for credit under more than one Objective.

Action 8:

Programs and Services

Implement programs to preserve and maintain existing subsidized and unsubsidized affordable housing in transit-served areas, compact and mixed-use areas, and areas with rapidly-rising housing costs

Note that this Action is shared with BE-3: Compact & Complete Communities, Action 9.

Action 9:

Enforcement and Incentives

Work with private employers to provide live-near-your-work or employer-assisted housing financial incentives



BUILT ENVIRONMENT

BE-5: Infill & Redevelopment

10 available points

PURPOSE

Focus new growth in infill areas and encourage redevelopment that does not facilitate sprawl or require the extension of water, sewer, or road infrastructure

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

70% of points available through Outcomes

Outcome 1: Infill Development

3.5 points

Option A: Increase the percentage of new development in locally designated infill and redevelopment areas

--OR--

Option B: Increase the percentage of new development located on infill sites that were previously developed, brownfield, and/or greyfield sites

Outcome 2: Existing Infrastructure

3.5 points

Demonstrate that at least 75% of new housing units in the past 3 years utilized existing water and sewer mains and did not require extending or widening public roadways [Partial credit available]

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Action 1:

Inventory, Assessment or Survey

Develop an inventory of infill, previously developed, brownfield, or greyfield sites of greatest priority and potential for development or redevelopment

Action 2:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt a policy commitment to limited or no expansion of physical jurisdiction boundaries or extension of urban services

Action 3:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Use regulatory and design strategies to encourage compatible infill and redevelopment with a mix of housing types in neighborhoods close to employment centers, commercial areas, and where transit or transportation alternatives exist

Note that this Action is shared with BE-4: Housing Affordability, Action 4.

Action 4:

Education and Outreach

Educate residents and community groups about the importance of infill and redevelopment, brownfield assessment findings, and design strategies for compatible neighborhood development

Action 5:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Collaborate with state and federal authorities to advance brownfields cleanup

Action 6:

Programs and Services

Establish a program to provide information and assistance to owners, potential buyers, and developers regarding brownfield assessments, redevelopment strategies, and available resources

Action 7:

Programs and Services

Support temporary creative neighborhood uses for vacant properties and greyfields

Action 8:

Enforcement and Incentives

Provide financial incentives to encourage infill and redevelopment

Action 9:

Enforcement and Incentives

Perform proactive zoning enforcement and vacant lot cleanup or maintenance to improve the attractiveness of a redevelopment or blighted area and to deter crime

Action 10:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Target local infrastructure improvements to revitalize redevelopment or blighted areas and catalyze private reinvestment



BUILT ENVIRONMENT

BE-6: Public Spaces

15 available points

PURPOSE

Create a network of well-used and enjoyable parks and public spaces that feature equitable, convenient access for residents throughout the community

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

100% of points available through Outcomes

Note that applicant counties that contain cities or towns within their borders should include data on city parks in the evaluation of the Outcomes.

Outcome 1: Acreage

4.5 points

Provide ample parkland based on population density as follows:

- High: 6.8 acres per 1,000 residents
- Intermediate-High: 7.3 acres per 1,000 residents
- Intermediate-Low: 13.5 acres per 1,000 residents
- Low: 20.3 acres per 1,000 residents

Outcome 2: Proximity

4.5 points

Demonstrate that housing units in the community are located within a ½-mile walk distance of a public space or park based on population density as follows:

- High or Intermediate-High: 85%
- Intermediate-Low or Low: 70%

Outcome 3: Connectivity

4.5 points

Demonstrate that 90% of households are located within 3 miles of an off-road trail [Partial credit available]

Outcome 4: Use and Satisfaction

1.5 points

Option A: Demonstrate that 66% or more of surveyed residents visit a park at least once a year

--OR--

Option B: Demonstrate that 66% or more of surveyed residents respond favorably regarding the quality of the community's public space and park system

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Action 1:

Plan Development

Adopt a parks and/or open space plan that promotes a community-wide network of public spaces that provide recreational, transportation, and environmental benefits

Action 2:

Inventory, Assessment or Survey

Conduct a study regarding the economic impact of parks and public spaces on the local economy to understand their contributions to community satisfaction and tourism

Action 3:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt regulatory strategies or development incentives to create, maintain, and connect parks and public spaces

Action 4:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt design guidelines for new public spaces and improvements to existing facilities to strengthen environmental benefits and provide visitor amenities

Action 5:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Participate in a local or regional alliance working to improve and expand the community-based or regional park system

Note that some organizations may overlap may have shared functions with groups identified in BE-6, Action 5. If so, consider applying for credit under more than one Objective.

Action 6:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Create an advisory board to regularly receive feedback from residents and organizations regarding planning, decision-making, and other issues affecting the quality and availability of parks and public spaces

Action 7:

Programs and Services

Host or partner with a volunteer program to support parks and public space maintenance



Action 8:

Programs and Services

Provide assistance for low-income users to access and use parks and public spaces through subsidy, scholarships, and discounts

Action 9:

Programs and Services

Host programs and events in parks and public spaces that bring the community together and encourage physical activity

Action 10:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Consistently invest sufficient capital and operational funding to create and maintain parks and public spaces



BUILT ENVIRONMENT

BE-7: Transportation Choices

20 available points

PURPOSE

Promote diverse transportation modes, including walking, bicycling, and transit, that are safe, low-cost, and reduce vehicle miles traveled

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

100% of points available through Outcomes

Outcome 1: Mode Split

10 points

Achieve the following thresholds for journey-to-work trips:

- Drive alone maximum: 60%
- Bike + Walk + Transit minimum: 25%
- Bike + Walk minimum: 5%

Outcome 2: Transportation Affordability

5 points

Show that at least 50% of households in the jurisdiction are estimated to spend less than 15% of income on transportation costs

Outcome 3: Transportation Safety

5 points

Demonstrate that pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities are making incremental progress towards zero fatalities by 2040 [Partial credit available]

Outcome 4: Vehicle Miles Traveled [Future Measure]

5 points (suggested)

Demonstrate an annual decrease in vehicle miles traveled measured from a baseline year

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Action 1:

Plan Development

Adopt a bicycle and/or pedestrian master plan that prioritizes future projects to improve safety and access to non-motorized transportation

Note that an advisory board, such as a bicycle or pedestrian advisory committee may also assist in preparation of the master plan. If so, apply for credit under HS-1: Active Living, Action 5.

Action 2:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt a complete streets policy that addresses all users, applies to all projects with limited exceptions, and includes specific next steps for implementation

Action 3:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Subdivision and other development regulations require walkability standards that encourage walking and enhance safety

Note that this Action is similar to BE-3: Compact & Complete Communities, Action 4 except that it addresses community-wide policies and codes, not just higher density, mixed-use areas. Communities may apply for credit in both Local Actions, if applicable.

Action 4:

Practice Improvements

Local government offers employee incentives to encourage commuting by modes other than single-occupancy vehicles

Action 5:

Enforcement and Incentives

Implement at least 2 types of focused enforcement programs to ensure pedestrian, bicycle, and motorist safety

Action 6:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Increase the percentage of households with access to transit

Note that this Action is shared with BE-3: Compact & Complete Communities, Action 10.

Action 7:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Increase the mileage of sidewalks, particularly on arterial or collector roads that connect people with destinations

Note that this Action is shared with NS-4: Outdoor Air Quality, Action 9.

Action 8:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Increase the mileage of striped or buffered bicycle lanes, cycle-tracks, parallel off-street paths and/or other dedicated facilities



BUILT ENVIRONMENT

BE-7: Transportation Choices

Action 9:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Establish or support a community-wide public bike share program

Action 10:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Construct or retrofit transportation infrastructure to meet standards in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)



GOAL AREA: Climate & Energy

Reduce climate impacts through adaptation and mitigation efforts and increase resource efficiency

Introduction

The 7 Objectives in STAR's Climate & Energy Goal Area aim to reduce climate impacts and increase resource efficiency in order to create safer and healthier communities. **CE-1: Climate Adaptation** and **CE-2: Greenhouse Gas Mitigation** are both critical to achieving reductions in harmful climate impacts and promote monetary and resource savings through decreased energy, water, and materials use.

Most of the Objectives in Climate & Energy focus on achieving incremental increases in resource efficiency. Through its ambitious waste reduction targets, **CE-7: Waste Minimization** rewards communities for efforts to reduce, reuse, and recycle materials. **CE-4: Industrial Sector Resource Efficiency**, **CE-5: Resource Efficient Buildings**, and **CE-6: Resource Efficient Public Infrastructure** encourage communities to reduce energy and water consumption over time. **CE-5: Resource Efficient Buildings** also provides credit to communities that demonstrate increases in the number of certified green buildings.

CE-3: Greening the Energy Supply complements the other Objectives in the Goal Area by addressing the energy sources for the transportation sector and the community's electrical power supply.

Objective Number	Objective Title and Purpose	Available Points
CE-1	Climate Adaptation: Strengthen the resilience of communities to climate change impacts on built, natural, economic, and social systems	15
CE-2	Greenhouse Gas Mitigation: Achieve greenhouse gas emissions reductions throughout the community	20
CE-3	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	15
CE-4	Industrial Sector Resource Efficiency: Minimize resource use and demand in the industrial sector as a means to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and conserve water	10
CE-5	Resource Efficient Buildings: Improve the energy and water efficiency of the community's residential, commercial, and institutional building stock	15
CE-6	Resource Efficient Public Infrastructure: Minimize resource use and demand in local public infrastructure as a means to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and conserve water	10
CE-7	Waste Minimization: Reduce and reuse material waste produced in the community	15
Total Credit, Goal Area		100



CLIMATE & ENERGY

CE- I: Climate Adaptation

15 available points

PURPOSE

Strengthen the resilience of communities to climate change impacts on the built, natural, economic, and social systems

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

70% of points available through Outcomes

Preliminary Step:

Identify 4 core areas of local climate change adaptation concerns. Core areas must apply to at least 3 of 4 general groupings: Built Environment, Economic Environment, Natural Environment, Social Environment

Note that the Preliminary Step is required if the applicant is pursuing any credit in the Objective

Outcome 1: Vulnerability Reduction

10.5 points

Demonstrate a measurable reduction in vulnerability in each of the 4 core areas identified locally [Partial credit available]

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Note that Actions 1-5 are preparatory in nature and are intended to guide the implementation-based Actions 6-8. Applicants may substitute similar actions articulated in the community's climate adaptation plan for Actions 6-8.

Action 1:

Plan Development

Adopt a climate change adaptation plan

Action 2:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Require that internal decisions by local government departments use the most current climate science and that staff monitor climate change impacts

Action 3:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Develop a committee that includes climate scientists, adjacent jurisdictions, regional coalitions, state and federal agencies, and/or non-governmental organizations for the purpose of understanding and addressing shared vulnerabilities

Action 4:

Education and Outreach

Create an education and outreach campaign to engage citizens and businesses in climate change vulnerability reduction efforts

Action 5:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt zoning code, building code, or other legally binding regulations that address future climate change threats

Action 6:

Programs and Services

Create or enhance programs and services that specifically help address climate change threats

Action 7:

Enforcement and Incentives

Enforce regulations or offer incentives to encourage residents and businesses to shift behaviors to prepare for future climate change impacts

Action 8:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Improve facilities throughout the community to be better prepared for climate change threats



CLIMATE & ENERGY

CE-2: Greenhouse Gas Mitigation

20 available points

PURPOSE

Achieve greenhouse gas emissions reductions throughout the community

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

100% of points available through Outcomes

Outcome 1: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions

20 points

Demonstrate incremental progress towards achieving an 80% reduction in community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 [Partial credit available]

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Action 1:

Plan Development

Adopt a climate action plan designed to reduce GHG emissions throughout the jurisdiction

Action 2:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Require GHG emissions to be considered in broader local government planning processes and decision-making

Action 3:

Education and Outreach

Create an education and outreach campaign to engage citizens and businesses in GHG reduction efforts

Action 4:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Establish a climate change advisory group to engage diverse community stakeholders in identifying and implementing GHG reduction strategies

Action 5:

Practice Improvements

Modify local government operations and facilities in order to reduce GHG emissions and serve as a leader in the community

Action 6:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt energy efficiency regulations for buildings within the jurisdiction

Note that this Action is similar to CE-5 Resource Efficient Buildings, Action 2. Consider applying for credit under more than one Objective, if relevant.

Action 7:

Enforcement and Incentives

Create incentives to improve opportunities for distributed generation of energy

Action 8:

Programs and Services

Implement specific programs and services or create facility upgrades that transition the community towards the use of alternatives modes of transportation and low-emissions vehicles

Action 9:

Programs and Services

Implement specific programs and services or create facility upgrades that reduce waste in the community



CLIMATE & ENERGY

CE-3: Greening the Energy Supply

15 available points

PURPOSE

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

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

70% of points available through Outcomes

Outcome 1: Green Vehicles

5.3 points total including the bonus

Part 1: Demonstrate increased ownership of alternative fuel vehicles by residents over time

--AND--

Part 2: Demonstrate increased ownership of fuel-efficient vehicles by residents over time

[Partial credit available]

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

This Outcome is repeated in EJ-2: Green Market Development, Outcome 4, with the exception of the bonus.

Outcome 2: Electrical Energy Supply

5.3 points

Demonstrate that the community receives a portion of its overall energy supply from renewable energy sources

[Graduated credit available]

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Action 1:

Plan Development

Adopt a community-wide plan that includes a comprehensive programmatic and policy approach to shift the community towards alternative fuels and renewable energy sources, especially for non-transportation uses

Action 2:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Create a policy to ensure that the local government's transportation and non-transportation energy supplies increasingly come from renewable and alternative sources

Note that this Action is shared with EJ-2: Green Market Development, Action 4.

Action 3:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Remove zoning, height, and other regulatory restrictions on the development of small- and medium-scale renewable energy installations and alternative fueling systems

Action 4:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Establish partnerships with critical energy providers and consumers to match renewable energy sources with community energy needs

Action 5:

Policy or Code Development

Adopt a renewable energy or alternative fuel targets for locally owned facilities and vehicles

Action 6:

Enforcement and Incentives

Create incentive programs to support the development of renewable and alternative fuel infrastructure

Action 7:

Enforcement and Incentives

Use a feed-in tariff or other financial mechanisms to increase the mix of renewable energy sources supplied to residents

Action 8:

Programs and Services

Run a net-metering program that encourages the development of small-scale renewable energy sources

Action 9:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Work with state and regional partners to electrify truck stops to reduce idling and unnecessary emissions

Action 10:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Install electric vehicle charging stations

Note that this Action is shared with EJ-2: Green Market Development, Action 10.

Action 11:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Build the necessary distribution infrastructure to support further investment in renewable energy sources



CLIMATE & ENERGY

CE-4: Industrial Sector Resource Efficiency

10 available points

PURPOSE

Minimize resource use and demand in the industrial sector as a means to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and conserve water

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

100% of points available through Outcomes

Outcome 1: Energy Efficiency

7 points

Demonstrate incremental progress towards achieving an 80% reduction by 2050 in the energy use of industrial sector operations [Partial credit available]

Outcome 2: Water Efficiency

3 points

Demonstrate incremental progress towards achieving an 80% reduction by 2050 in the water use of industrial sector operations [Partial credit available]

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Applicants are encouraged to provide documentation for both energy and water in each Local Action; however, submissions that focus specifically on energy or water will be considered for credit.

Action 1:

Plan Development

Adopt a plan designed to improve the resource efficiency of the community's industrial sector

Action 2:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt policies that promote shifts to improved data collection

Action 3:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt regulations or codes that promote the industrial sector to reduce energy and water use



Action 4:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Partner with organizations to encourage the collection and reporting of energy and water use data from the industrial sector

Action 5:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Work collaboratively with industrial sector leaders to set local targets and strategies to reduce energy and water use

Action 6:

Education and Outreach

Create training and educational opportunities for industrial sector employees to learn about current best practices and techniques for reducing energy and water use

Action 7:

Programs and Services

Administer programs that support the industrial sector's transition to less energy and water intensive practices

Action 8:

Enforcement and Incentives

Create financial incentives or industry-focused challenges to encourage companies to reduce the intensity of their resource consumption

Action 9:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Develop the necessary infrastructure for the industrial sector to transition to less resource intensive practices



CLIMATE & ENERGY

CE-5: Resource Efficient Buildings

15 available points

PURPOSE

Improve the energy and water efficiency of the community's residential, commercial and institutional building stock

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

100% of points available through Outcomes

Outcome 1: Energy Efficiency

6 points

Demonstrate incremental progress towards achieving an 80% reduction by 2050 in the energy use intensity of the community's building stock [Partial credit available]

Outcome 2: Water Efficiency

6 points

Demonstrate incremental progress towards achieving an 80% reduction by 2050 in the water use intensity of the community's building stock [Partial credit available]

Outcome 3: Green-Certified Building Stock

3 points

Part 1: Increase over time the percentage of non-residential buildings achieving certification in STAR-qualifying comprehensive green building programs

--AND--

Part 2: Increase over time the percentage of residential units achieving certification in STAR-qualifying comprehensive green building programs

[Partial credit available]

Note that this Outcome is repeated in E]-2: Green Market Development, Outcome 2.

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Applicants are encouraged to provide documentation for both energy and water in each Local Action; however, submissions that focus specifically on energy or water will be considered for credit.

Action 1:

Plan Development

Adopt a building energy efficiency plan to improve the energy and water efficiency of commercial, residential, and institutional buildings in the community



Action 2:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt or upgrade building codes to ensure that new and renovated buildings are more water and energy efficient

Note that this Action is similar to CE-2 Greenhouse Gas Mitigation, Action 6. Consider applying for credit under more than one Objective, if relevant.

Action 3:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt an energy and water use information disclosure ordinance requiring energy and water users to disclose consumption levels

Action 4:

Education and Outreach

Create an education and outreach campaign or challenge to engage citizens and businesses in energy and water efficiency efforts

Action 5:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Establish a committee to provide recommendations on policies related to resource efficiency in buildings OR integrate this role into the work of existing committees

Action 6:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Work with the local utilities to improve energy efficiency programs and increase sub-metering throughout the community

Action 7:

Practice Improvements

Train inspectors to enforce water and energy efficiency standards in adopted building codes

Action 8:

Enforcement and Incentives

Create incentives to encourage the construction of energy and water efficient certified buildings

Action 9:

Programs and Services

Create a program to help homeowners and renters upgrade to more energy and water efficient homes

Action 10:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Renovate local government buildings to improve energy and water use efficiency



CLIMATE & ENERGY

CE-6: Resource Efficient Public Infrastructure

10 available points

PURPOSE

Minimize resource use in local infrastructure as a means to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and conserve water

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

100% of points available through Outcomes

Preliminary Steps:

1. For Outcome 1: Select public infrastructure which comprises an estimated 50% of the community's infrastructure-based energy consumption
2. For Outcome 2: Select public infrastructure which comprises an estimated 50% of the community's infrastructure-based water consumption

Note that the Preliminary Step is required if the applicant is pursuing any credit in the Objective.

Outcome 1: Energy Efficiency

7 points

Demonstrate incremental progress towards achieving an 80% reduction by 2050 in energy use by selected public infrastructure [Partial credit available]

Outcome 2: Water Efficiency

3 points

Demonstrate incremental progress towards achieving an 80% reduction by 2050 in water use by selected public infrastructure [Partial credit available]

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Applicants are encouraged to provide documentation for both energy and water in each Local Action; however, submissions that focus specifically on energy or water will be considered for credit.

Action 1:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Develop targeted strategies to improve the resource efficiency of public infrastructure systems

Action 2:

Practice Improvements

Require public infrastructure managers to consider thorough energy and water consumption implications when designing and installing new infrastructure components



Action 3:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt codes or design standards for new public infrastructure that will increase energy and water efficiency

Action 4:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Partner with state or regional entities that own or operate infrastructure within the jurisdiction to develop strategies to reduce energy and water usage

Action 5:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Engage public works and infrastructure managers in voluntary GHG reporting

Action 6:

Practice Improvements

Develop training programs for infrastructure operators on energy and water efficiency techniques

Action 7:

Facility and Infrastructure Investments

Make specific upgrades to infrastructure systems that will increase energy and water efficiency

Action 8:

Facility and Infrastructure Investments

Increase sub-metering from specific infrastructure systems to collect better information on energy and water use



CLIMATE & ENERGY

CE-7: Waste Minimization

15 available points

PURPOSE

Reduce and reuse material waste produced in the community

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

100% of points available through Outcomes

Outcome 1: Total Solid Waste

15 points

Demonstrate incremental progress towards achieving a 100% reduction by 2050 in total solid waste generated within the jurisdiction that is disposed of via landfill, waste-to-energy facility, or incinerator [Partial credit available]

Local Actions

70% of the points available through Actions

Action 1:

Plan Development

Adopt a waste management plan that identifies the community's greatest sources of waste, sets formal waste reduction targets and establishes actions to help reach the community's waste reduction aims

Action 2:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt specific product bans that will significantly advance progress towards waste reduction goals

Note that some of these activities may overlap EJ-2: Green Market Development, Action 8. If so, consider applying for credit under more than one Objective.

Action 3:

Education and Outreach

Create a public education campaign or a focused outreach effort to inform residents and businesses of their roles in achieving waste reduction targets

Action 4:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Develop or participate in a regional coalition that enhances the community's ability to address waste management targets

Action 5:

Enforcement and Incentives

Implement incentives or enforce regulations ensuring that residents and businesses are working toward community waste reduction targets

Note that some of these activities may overlap with Actions identified in EJ-2: Green Market Development. If so, consider applying for credit under more than one Objective.

Action 6:

Programs and Services

Provide services to enable residents and businesses to recycle and reduce their waste footprint

Action 7:

Programs and Services

Collaboratively create and run at least 2 targeted recycling programs at key locations throughout the community

Action 8:

Programs and Services

Operate at least 2 specific waste management programs for critical waste stream types found in the community, such as: organic waste, hazardous waste, electronic waste, and construction and demolition waste

Action 9:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Create a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) for the community



GOAL AREA: Economy & Jobs

Create equitably shared prosperity and access to quality jobs

Introduction

The 6 Objectives of STAR's Economy & Jobs Goal Area work together to promote equitably shared prosperity and access to quality jobs. For example, **EJ-1: Business Retention & Development** and **EJ-3: Local Economy** both focus on supporting existing businesses within the community to retain workers and drive expansion to create a self-reliant local economy.

Recognizing that a robust local economy also needs to attract and incubate new businesses, **EJ-5: Targeted Industry Development** and **EJ-2: Green Market Development** seek to fortify existing industry clusters and promote emerging green industries that protect the environment while strengthening and diversifying the local economy.

EJ-6: Workforce Readiness recognizes the importance of a skilled workforce to fulfill local business needs and take advantage of available job opportunities, while **EJ-4: Quality Jobs & Living Wages** evaluates workers' quality of life through increased household income and living wages.

Objective Number	Objective Title and Purpose	Available Points
EJ-1	Business Retention & Development: Foster economic prosperity and stability by retaining and expanding businesses with support from the business community	20
EJ-2	Green Market Development: Increase overall market demand for products and services that protect the environment	15
EJ-3	Local Economy: Create an increasingly self-reliant community through a robust local economy with benefits shared by all	15
EJ-4	Quality Jobs & Living Wages: Expand job opportunities that support upward economic mobility and provide sufficient wages so that working people and their families can afford a decent standard of living	20
EJ-5	Targeted Industry Development: Increase local competitiveness by strengthening networks of businesses, suppliers, and associated institutions	15
EJ-6	Workforce Readiness: Prepare the workforce for successful employment through increasing attainment of post-secondary education and improving outcomes of workforce development programs	15
Total Credit, Goal Area		100



ECONOMY & JOBS

EJ- I: Business Retention & Development

20 available points

PURPOSE

Foster economic prosperity and stability by retaining and expanding businesses with support from the business community

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

100% of points available through Outcomes

Outcome 1: Businesses

6.7 points

Option A: Demonstrate an increased number of business establishments in the county over time

--OR--

Option B: Demonstrate an increased number of business establishments in the municipality over time

Outcome 2: Annual Sales

6.7 points

Demonstrate an increase in annual sales from businesses located in the jurisdiction over time

Outcome 3: Employment

6.7 points

Part 1: Demonstrate an increase in the percentage of residents employed over time

--AND--

Part 2: Demonstrate a decrease in the unemployment rate of residents over time

[Partial credit available]

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Action 1:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Negotiate project labor agreements, community benefit agreements, and local hiring agreements

Action 2:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Formally engage with the business community on a regular basis to improve conditions and address specific needs

Action 3:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Appoint an advisory body to provide recommendations and represent the business community in local decision-making

Action 4:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Engage in regional coordination with other governmental, public, private, and non-governmental entities to attract and retain businesses in the region

Action 5:

Enforcement and Incentives

Utilize tax incentives to retain or expand businesses, including property tax abatement, local sales tax rebates, and/or tax increment financing (TIF)

Action 6:

Enforcement and Incentives

Provide direct financial assistance to businesses in the form of municipal bonds, grants, or loans

Action 7:

Enforcement and Incentives

Support business development activities in special investment zones, such as Business Improvement Districts, Enterprise Zones, or other similar districts

Action 8:

Programs and Services

Provide direct services and trainings tailored to the needs of the business community

Action 9:

Programs and Services

Provide focused support, resources, and services to young entrepreneurial companies through business incubators



PURPOSE

Increase overall market demand for products and services that protect the environment

EVALUATION MEASURES

70% of points available through Outcomes

Community Level Outcomes

Outcome 1: Community Resource Efficiency

2.6 points

Demonstrate decreased greenhouse gas (GHG) intensity over time

Outcome 2: Green-Certified Building Stock

2.6 points

Part 1: Increase over time the percentage of non-residential buildings achieving certification in STAR-qualifying comprehensive green building programs

--AND--

Part 2: Increase over time the percentage of residential units achieving certification in STAR-qualifying comprehensive green building programs

[Partial credit available]

Note that this Outcome is repeated in CE-5: Resource Efficient Buildings, Outcome 1.

Outcome 3: Renewable Energy Use

2.6 points

Demonstrate an increased number of renewable energy certificates (RECs) purchased by residents annually

Outcome 4: Green Vehicles

2.6 points

Part 1: Demonstrate increased ownership of alternative fuel vehicles by residents over time

--AND--

Part 2: Demonstrate increased ownership of fuel-efficient vehicles by residents over time

[Partial credit available]

Note this Outcome is repeated in CE-3: Greening the Energy Supply, Outcome 1.

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Action 1:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Amend existing local economic policies and strategies to increase market demand for green products and services

Action 2:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt policies and regulations that increase overall market demand for green buildings and associated materials, renewable energy products and infrastructure, and recyclable products

Note that some of these activities may overlap with Actions identified in CE-5: Resource Efficient Buildings or CE-7: Waste Minimization. If so, consider applying for credit under more than one Objective.

Action 3:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Review and amend zoning regulations to remove barriers or provide flexibility for green businesses

Action 4:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Create a green purchase policy to ensure that the local government's transportation and non-transportation energy supplies increasingly come from renewable and alternative sources

Note that this Action is shared with CE-3: Greening the Energy Supply, Action 2.

Action 5:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Partner with other local governments, community groups, and private entities in the region to articulate an overarching sustainable economic development strategy and work collaboratively to increase demand for green products and services

Action 6:

Education and Outreach

Create educational materials to define the larger vision of economic sustainability as one that proactively fosters green businesses, green jobs, and green practices

Action 7:

Practice Improvements

Create an environmentally preferable purchasing program for local government procurement of safe, healthy, and environmentally responsible products

Action 8:

Programs and Services

Create programs to help businesses transition to new green practices

Action 9:

Programs and Services

Implement a green business promotion program

Action 10:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Install electric vehicle charging stations

Note that this Action is shared with CE-3: Greening the Energy Supply, Action 10.



ECONOMY & JOBS

EJ-3: Local Economy

15 available points

PURPOSE

Create an increasingly self-reliant community through a robust local economy with benefits shared by all

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

70% of points available through Outcomes

Outcome 1: Community Self-Reliance

5.3 points

Demonstrate that 50% of import sectors have increasing location quotients over the past 3 years

Outcome 2: Local Financial Institution Deposits

5.3 points

Increase the total funds deposited in locally owned and operated financial institutions over time

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Action 1:

Inventory, Assessment or Survey

Conduct an assessment of local economic conditions, including economic leakage and targeted sectors for future investment

Action 2:

Plan Development

Adopt an economic localization plan to increase local production for local consumption and export

Action 3:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Promote purchasing preferences for locally-produced goods and services in anchor institutions, including the local government

Note that this Action is similar to the environmental purchasing policies identified in CE-3: Greening the Energy Supply, Action 2 (same as EJ-2: Green Market Development, Action 4). If any of these policies also have a provision for local purchasing, consider applying for credit under more than one Objective.

Action 4:

Education and Outreach

Create or support promotional campaigns to bank locally, buy locally, or buy from small and independent businesses and retailers

Action 5:

Enforcement and Incentives

Provide incentives for businesses that use materials produced within the region and sell their products within the region

Action 6:

Programs and Services

Provide support services to targeted sectors to strengthen value chain infrastructure and develop market channels

Action 7:

Programs and Services

Connect entrepreneurs and business owners with lenders and investors to facilitate investment in the local economy

Action 8:

Programs and Services

Support import substitution strategies that positively impact key sectors of the local economy



ECONOMY & JOBS

EJ-4: Quality Jobs & Living Wages

20 available points

PURPOSE

Expand job opportunities that support upward economic mobility and provide sufficient wages so that working people and their families can afford a decent standard of living

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

100% of points available through Outcomes

Outcome 1: Median Household Income

10 points

Increase real median household income over time

Outcome 2: Living Wages

10 points

Demonstrate that 80% of household incomes in the jurisdiction meet or exceed the living wage standard

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Action 1:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Enact a living wage policy for local government employees and contractors

Action 2:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Enact family-friendly workplace policies for all local government employees that include at least 2 of the following benefits: paid sick days, paid family leave, flexible scheduling, job sharing, and easily available childcare

Action 3:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Require that local government contractors provide at least 2 of the following benefits to their employees: paid sick days, paid family leave, flexible scheduling, job sharing, and easily accessible childcare

Action 4:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Align local economic development policy strategies with workforce development programs

Note that this Action is shared with EJ-6: Quality Jobs and Living Wages, Action 2.

Action 5:

Education and Outreach

Support living wage campaigns in the community

Action 6:

Education and Outreach

Support a Best Places to Work campaign to recognize local businesses that support employees and their families

Action 7:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Maintain collective bargaining relationships with public employee labor organizations that represent local government workers

Action 8:

Programs and Services

Provide training programs and assistance to local businesses to encourage them to provide family-friendly workplace policies and extended benefits

Note that some of these activities may overlap with programs and services identified in EE-6: Poverty Prevention, Action 5. If so, consider applying for credit under more than one Objective.

Action 9:

Programs and Services

Provide job training and assistance programs for employees and employers in professions or sectors where wages are below the living wage

Note that some of these activities may overlap with programs and services identified in EE-6: Poverty Prevention, Action 6. If so, consider applying for credit under more than one Objective.

Action 10:

Enforcement and Incentives

Enforce the living wage policy with a living wage officer or equivalent function

Note this Action is only available to communities that have adopted a living wage policy, as described in Action 1.



ECONOMY & JOBS

EJ-5: Targeted Industry Development

15 available points

PURPOSE

Increase local competitiveness by strengthening networks of businesses, suppliers, and associated institutions

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

70% of points available through Outcomes

Preliminary Step:

Locally define at least 3 targeted industry sectors for evaluation

Note that the Preliminary Step is required if the applicant is pursuing credit in the Outcomes or Actions 2-7.

Outcome 1: Targeted Industry Businesses

3.5 points

Increase the total number of new businesses in targeted industry sectors over time [Partial credit available]

Outcome 2: Targeted Industry Sales

3.5 points

Increase the annual sales or total value of businesses in targeted industry sectors over time [Partial credit available]

Outcome 3: Targeted Industry Employment

3.5 points

Increase total employment in targeted industry sectors over time [Partial credit available]

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Where indicated, Local Actions should refer to the targeted industry sectors identified in the Preliminary Step.

Action 1:

Inventory, Assessment or Survey

Conduct a local economic analysis or participate in the development of a regional analysis of existing industry sectors to understand current needs and opportunities

Action 2:

Inventory, Assessment or Survey

Invest in market studies and research to support the continued growth and expansion of targeted industry sectors

Action 3:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Coordinate or support local and regional associations or formal networks of related businesses in the targeted industry sectors

Action 4:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Coordinate with universities, community colleges, the local Workforce Investment Board, private firms, and other community stakeholders to align research, workforce development, and resources to support targeted industry sectors

Action 5:

Education and Outreach

Educate residents about the economic impact of targeted industry sectors in the community

Action 6:

Enforcement and Incentives

Use tax incentives to attract, retain, or expand businesses in targeted industry sectors

Action 7:

Enforcement and Incentives

Provide direct financial assistance, such as local bonds, grants, or loans, to attract, retain, or expand businesses in targeted industry sectors

Action 8:

Programs and Services

Provide capacity building services and support for professionals in emerging and existing targeted industry sectors



ECONOMY & JOBS

EJ-6: Workforce Readiness

15 available points

PURPOSE

Prepare the workforce for successful employment through increasing attainment of post-secondary education and improving outcomes of workforce development programs

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

70% of points available through Outcomes

Outcome 1: Trained Workforce

5.3 points

Demonstrate improvements in workforce training outcomes for participants over the past 3 years

Outcome 2: Workforce Mobility

5.3 points

Demonstrate increased post-secondary educational attainment in the community over time

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Action 1:

Plan Development

Adopt a workforce development plan or comprehensive strategy to educate, train, and prepare residents for local employment opportunities

Action 2:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Align local economic development policy strategies with workforce development programs

Note that this Action is shared with EJ-4: Quality Jobs and Living Wages, Action 4.

Action 3:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Require local government contractors and entities receiving financial incentives to prioritize hiring local residents

Action 4:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Participate in and promote community workforce agreements or project labor agreements

Action 5:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Create a workforce development committee to align post-secondary education, workforce development training programs, and economic development strategies

Action 6:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Create data sharing agreements between the local government and private sector employers to maximize the availability and use of data in economic and workforce development planning

Action 7:

Practice Improvements

Produce an annual report that tracks workforce readiness performance measures

Action 8:

Programs and Services

Provide support services and training tailored to the needs of the local workforce

Note that some of these activities may overlap with programs and services identified in EE-6: Poverty Prevention, Action 6. If so, consider applying for credit under more than one Objective.

Action 9:

Programs and Services

Support expansion of community college programs to address the educational and training needs of the local workforce

Note that some of these activities may overlap with programs and services identified in EE-6: Poverty Prevention, Action 6. If so, consider applying for credit under more than one Objective.

Action 10:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Invest in community college facilities and capital improvements to accommodate residents and members of the local workforce



GOAL AREA: Education, Arts & Community

Empower vibrant, educated, connected, and diverse communities

Introduction

The 5 Objectives of STAR's Education, Arts & Community Goal Area promote an educated, cohesive, and socially connected community. **EAC-3: Educational Opportunity & Attainment** evaluates achievement and equitable access to a quality education so that all students may realize their full potential. **EAC-1: Arts & Culture** and **EAC-5: Social & Cultural Diversity** respect and celebrate the contributions that the arts and diversity bring to vibrant neighborhoods and communities.

Recognizing the importance of social connections within the community, **EAC-4: Historic Preservation** seeks to preserve the historical buildings and cultural resources that link the community to its past, while **EAC-2: Community Cohesion** encourages positive social interaction amongst neighbors.

Objective Number	Objective Title and Purpose	Available Points
EAC-1	Arts & Culture: Provide a broad range of arts and cultural resources and activities that encourage participation and creative self-expression	15
EAC-2	Community Cohesion: Ensure a cohesive, connected community through adequate venues for community interaction, community building activities and events, and the sharing of information about community issues and services	15
EAC-3	Educational Opportunity & Attainment: Achieve equitable attainment of a quality education for individuals from birth to adulthood	20
EAC-4	Historic Preservation: Preserve and reuse historic structures and sites to retain local, regional, and national history and heritage, reinforce community character, and conserve resources	10
EAC-5	Social & Cultural Diversity: Celebrate and respect diversity and represent diverse perspectives in community decision-making	10
Total Credit, Goal Area		70



EDUCATION, ARTS & COMMUNITY

EAC-I: Arts & Culture

15 available points

PURPOSE

Provide a broad range of arts and cultural resources and activities that encourage participation and creative self-expression

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

100% of points available through Outcomes

Outcome 1: Creative Industries

7.5 points

Demonstrate that creative industries represent at least a 5% share of all businesses in the county

Outcome 2: Attendance and Participation

7.5 points

Part 1: Demonstrate that at least 35% of adult residents in the county attend a live performing arts event annually
--AND--

Part 2: Demonstrate that at least 20% of adult residents in the county visit an art museum annually
[Partial Credit Available]

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Action 1:

Plan Development

Adopt a strategic plan to protect, enhance, and expand the community's arts and cultural resources and strengthen creative industries

Action 2:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt a percent-for-art ordinance requiring public art to be installed as part of new major public development projects

Action 3:

Enforcement and Incentives

Establish enterprise zones, arts or cultural districts, or overlay zoning that encourages businesses in the creative industries to cluster together and integrate with surrounding neighborhoods



Action 4:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Collaborate with private, nonprofit, or regional organizations to increase access to and participation in the arts

Action 5:

Practice Improvements

Track participation and attendance at major community arts and cultural events, performances, festivals, and programs

Action 6:

Programs and Services

Provide financial or logistical support to local arts, festivals, performances, or cultural tourism

Action 7:

Programs and Services

Hire local artists to create artwork, sculptures, or perform in public spaces

Action 8:

Programs and Services

Develop special programs to advance arts education that is aligned with core curriculum in all public schools, especially early elementary grades

Action 9:

Programs and Services

Provide entrepreneurial and workforce development training programs that serve artists, writers, designers, and other creative industries professionals

Action 10:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Ensure that major arts and cultural facilities are accessible to people with disabilities

Action 11:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Protect and maintain local public artworks and cultural resources for future generations



EDUCATION, ARTS & COMMUNITY

EAC-2: Community Cohesion

15 available points

PURPOSE

Ensure a cohesive, connected community through adequate venues for community interaction, community building activities and events, and the sharing of information about community issues and services

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

70% of points available through Outcomes

Outcome 1: Community Venues

7.4 points

Demonstrate that at least 75% of residents live within 1 mile of a community venue that is open to the public and offers free services and/or events for residents

Outcome 2: Neighborhood Cohesion

3.2 points

Demonstrate an increased percentage of neighborhoods reporting positive levels of neighborhood cohesion through community surveys

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Action 1:

Plan Development

Adopt neighborhood plans that guide future development, recommend strategies to create or preserve community venues, and address neighborhood-specific issues

Action 2:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt zoning and development regulations that support or incentivize farmers markets, community gardens, and urban agriculture

Note that this action is shared with HS-4: Food Access and Nutrition, Action 2. Specific zoning and development incentives for healthy food are addressed in HS-4: Food Access & Nutrition, Action 11.



Action 3:

Education and Outreach

Provide access to information about community issues, programs, services, and activities that is also accessible to non-English speaking residents

Note that EE-2: Civil & Human Rights, Action 7 also references translation services. Applicants may apply for credit under both Actions if they meet the relevant requirements.

Action 4:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Partner with neighborhood associations, community organizations, and local service providers to identify and address neighborhood-specific needs

Note that some of these activities may overlap with programs and services identified in BE-1: Ambient Noise & Light, BE-7: Transportation Choices, and EAC-5: Social & Cultural Diversity. If so, consider applying for credit under more than one Objective.

Action 5:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Support neighborhood advisory councils to encourage dialogue on community issues and build the social capital of neighborhoods

Action 6:

Practice Improvements

Establish a department with staff assigned to work as liaisons with specific neighborhoods

Action 7:

Programs and Services

Provide direct funding and management of at least 2 types of community and neighborhood venues

Action 8:

Programs and Services

Provide capacity-building programs to enable community leaders and groups to self-organize, resolve issues, and cultivate leadership

Note that some activities may overlap with violence prevention programs and services identified in HS-7: Safe Communities, Action 7. If so, consider applying for credit under more than one Objective.



Action 9:

Programs and Services

Provide programs that support the development of positive, strong youth leaders, particularly in low-income and/or minority neighborhoods

Note that this Action is shared with EAC-5: Social & Cultural Diversity, Action 8. Also, some activities may overlap with school-based violence prevention programs and services identified in HS-7: Safe Communities, Action 8. If so, consider applying for credit under more than one Objective.

Action 10:

Programs and Services

Provide financial or logistical support for publicly accessible neighborhood events, activities, and programming, particularly in low-income and/or minority neighborhoods



EDUCATION, ARTS & COMMUNITY

EAC-3: Educational Opportunity & Attainment

20 available points

PURPOSE

Achieve equitable attainment of a quality education for individuals from birth to adulthood

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

100% of points available through Outcomes

Outcome 1: Reading Proficiency

6.7 points

Demonstrate at least 85% of third grade public school students meet or exceed reading proficiency

Outcome 2: Graduation Rate

6.7 points

Option A: Achieve a 90% average 4-year adjusted cohort high school graduation rate for all public schools in the jurisdiction

--OR--

Option B: Demonstrate incremental progress towards a 90% average 4-year adjusted cohort high school graduation rate for all public schools in the jurisdiction in the past 3 years [Partial credit applies]

Outcome 3: Graduation Rate Equity

6.7 points

Increase, or maintain at 90% or above, the average 4-year adjusted cohort high school graduation rate for all students in all public schools in the jurisdiction from selected underperforming groups of race/ethnicity, special education, English language learners, or income

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Action 1:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Engage local education authorities, teachers, families, and young people to advance collaborative decision-making and a community-driven framework for improving education

Action 2:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Strengthen opportunities for parental and community involvement in schools



Action 3:

Practice Improvements

Prepare an annual progress report for the public outlining the local school system's performance

Action 4:

Programs and Services

Provide funding or other resources to support Head Start programs in the community

Action 5:

Programs and Services

Provide full-day kindergarten for low-income students and students with special needs

Action 6:

Programs and Services

Program or support after-school activities, tutoring, extended day and/or summer programs for students who need additional academic assistance

Action 7:

Programs and Services

Offer multiple pathways to graduation as a way to improve educational outcomes for students

Action 8:

Programs and Services

Implement career pathway initiatives



EDUCATION, ARTS & COMMUNITY

EAC-4: Historic Preservation

10 available points

PURPOSE

Preserve and reuse historic structures and sites to retain local, regional, and national history and heritage, reinforce community character, and conserve resources

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

70% of points available through Outcomes

Outcome 1: Local Historic District(s)

1.4 points

Designate at least one local historic district with specific design standards and a process for reviewing new projects

Outcome 2: Preserved Structures and Sites

2.1 points

Increase over time the annual average number of structures and sites designated as local historic landmarks, added to local historic districts, and/or rehabilitated, restored, or converted through adaptive reuse

Outcome 3: Green Retrofits

2.1 points

Increase over time the annual number of historic structures retrofitted or rehabilitated with energy efficiency or clean energy technologies

Outcome 4: Economic Impact

1.4 points

Demonstrate that historic preservation efforts have had a positive, measurable impact on the local economy

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Action 1:

Inventory, Assessment or Survey

Create an inventory of designated and eligible historic structures and sites in the community

Bonus: Inventory includes archeological resources

Action 2:

Plan Development

Adopt a historic preservation plan that establishes community priorities for preservation



Action 3:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt a historic preservation ordinance that establishes procedures for designation of local historic districts and landmarks and authorizes establishment of a historic preservation commission

Action 4:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt land use, zoning, and design regulations that support and reinforce existing community character in older and historic neighborhoods and commercial areas, and promote development of sensitive, compatible infill

Action 5:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Collaborate with local nonprofit or for-profit entities to support local events, recognition programs, and tourism efforts that celebrate and leverage the economic value of local historic resources

Action 6:

Practice Improvements

Achieve Certified Local Government status, as recognized by the National Park Service

Action 7:

Enforcement and Incentives

Establish a demolition by neglect ordinance

Action 8:

Enforcement and Incentives

Provide incentives to encourage the rehabilitation of historic buildings and reinvestment in older and historic neighborhoods and commercial areas

Action 9:

Programs and Services

Provide local financial assistance to low- and moderate-income homeowners, residents, seniors, and/or businesses vulnerable to rising real estate values and maintenance costs associated with historic preservation

Action 10:

Programs and Services

Provide technical assistance to property owners or nonprofit organizations seeking to add properties or historic districts to the National Register of Historic Places or the comparable state register



EDUCATION, ARTS & COMMUNITY

EAC-5: Social & Cultural Diversity

10 available points

PURPOSE

Celebrate and respect diversity and represent diverse perspectives in community decision-making

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

70% of points available through Outcomes

Outcome 1: Diverse Community Representation

3.5 points

Demonstrate that appointments to local advisory boards and commissions reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of the community

Outcome 2: Social and Cultural Activities

3.5 points

Demonstrate that public events celebrating social and cultural diversity are held in the community

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Action 1:

Inventory, Assessment or Survey

Conduct an assessment of the community's social and cultural diversity to inform local government actions

Action 2:

Inventory, Assessment or Survey

Use the Diversity Index to analyze the effectiveness of policies, programs, service delivery, and infrastructure investments

Action 3:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt a policy to encourage diversity in local government appointments to advisory boards and commissions

Note that this Action is shared with EE-1: Civic Engagement, Action 1.

Action 4:

Education and Outreach

Promote events and programs that recognize and celebrate social and cultural diversity in the community

Note that this Action is shared with EE-4: Equitable Services & Access, Action 3.

Action 5:

Practice Improvements

Provide equity and diversity training for local government staff

Note that this Action is shared with EE-4: Equitable Services & Access, Action 6.

Action 6:

Practice Improvements

Establish an office within the jurisdiction to ensure access, equity, and inclusion in policies, programs, procedures, and service delivery

Note that this office may fulfill some of the activities identified in EE-5: Human Services, Action 2. If so, consider applying for credit under more than one Objective.

Action 7:

Programs and Services

Provide leadership and training programs that encourage and support diverse representation on local boards and commissions

Action 8:

Programs and Services

Provide programs that support the development of positive, strong youth leaders, particularly in low-income and/or minority neighborhoods

Note that this Action is shared with EAC-2: Community Cohesion, Action 9. Also, some activities may overlap with school-based violence prevention programs and services identified in HS-7: Safe Communities, Action 8. If so, consider applying for credit under more than one Objective.

Action 9:

Programs and Services

Provide financial or logistical support to programs, activities, or events that celebrate and deepen understanding and respect for the community's diversity



GOAL AREA: Equity & Empowerment

Ensure equity, inclusion, and access to opportunity for all residents

Introduction

The 6 Objectives in STAR's Equity & Empowerment Goal Area promote equity, inclusion, and access to opportunity for all residents. **EE-1: Civic Engagement** measures citizen participation in civic affairs through voting and volunteerism, as well as their feelings of empowerment in influencing local decision-making.

Other Objectives ensure that benefits and burdens of development are equitably distributed across the community. **EE-2: Civil & Human Rights** promotes the full enjoyment of civil and human rights by all residents in the community. **EE-4: Equitable Services & Access** evaluates the distribution of foundational community assets, such as tree canopy, schools, and transit, and rewards communities for reducing disparities in access. **EE-3: Environmental Justice** seeks relief for low-income persons and minorities from unfair environmental, economic, and health impacts.

Finally, Objectives in the Equity & Empowerment Goal Area enable all residents to lead lives of dignity. **EE-5: Human Services** assures that local programs are in place to meet basic human needs, and that priority populations are receiving assistance with the end goal of increasing self-sufficiency. **EE-6: Poverty Prevention & Alleviation** measures the decrease in poverty over time and the ability of people living in poverty to obtain greater economic stability.

Objective Number	Objective Title and Purpose	Available Points
EE-1	Civic Engagement: Improve community well-being through participation in local decision-making and volunteering with community organizations	15
EE-2	Civil & Human Rights: Promote the full enjoyment of civil and human rights for all residents in the community	10
EE-3	Environmental Justice: Reduce polluted and toxic environments with an emphasis on alleviating disproportionate health hazards in areas where low-income residents and persons of color live	15
EE-4	Equitable Services & Access: Ensure equitable access to foundational community assets within and between neighborhoods and populations	20
EE-5	Human Services: Ensure high quality human services programs are available and utilized to guarantee basic human needs so that all residents lead lives of dignity	20
EE-6	Poverty Prevention & Alleviation: Prevent people from falling into poverty and proactively enable those who are living in poverty to obtain greater, lasting economic stability and security	20
Total Credit, Goal Area		100



EQUITY & EMPOWERMENT

EE- I: Civic Engagement

15 available points

PURPOSE

Improve community well-being through participation in local decision-making and volunteering with community organizations

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

70% of points available through Outcomes

Outcome 1: Voter Turnout Rate

4.2 points

Increase the percentage of voters participating in local elections over time [Partial credit available]

Outcome 2: Volunteerism

3.2 points

Option A: Demonstrate that at least 30% of residents in large jurisdictions or 35% of residents in small or mid-sized jurisdictions volunteered in the past year

--OR--

Option B: Demonstrate an increase in the percentage of residents who volunteered over the past 3 years [Partial credit applies]

Outcome 3: Sense of Empowerment

3.2 points

Option A: Demonstrate that at least 50% of residents believe they are able to have a positive impact on their community based on a local survey

--OR--

Option B: Increase over time the percentage of residents who believe they are able to have a positive impact on their community based on local surveys [Partial credit applies]

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Action 1:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt a policy to encourage diversity in local government appointments to advisory boards and commissions

Note that this Action is shared with EAC-5: Social & Cultural Diversity, Action 3.

Action 2:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt guidelines to instruct local government agencies or departments about how to successfully engage residents

Action 3:

Education and Outreach

Conduct education campaigns about the electoral process, voter registration and participation, and other issues related to civic literacy

Action 4:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Partner with business, civic, and neighborhood organizations to increase voter registration and turnout OR volunteer opportunities and participation OR ongoing civic engagement in local decision-making

Action 5:

Practice Improvements

Provide training to local government agencies or departments on successful public engagement techniques

Action 6:

Practice Improvements

Establish regular, ongoing opportunities for elected officials and/or senior government staff to meet with residents to answer questions and listen to concerns

Action 7:

Programs and Services

Create a volunteer program for residents to assist the local government with special events, services, and operations

Action 8:

Programs and Services

Provide support and resources to local community groups to help them achieve their missions

Action 9:

Programs and Services

Create a mock youth voting program to teach children about democracy, elections, and the importance of voting



EQUITY & EMPOWERMENT

EE-2: Civil & Human Rights

10 available points

PURPOSE

Promote the full enjoyment of civil and human rights for all residents in the community

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

70% of points available through Outcomes

Outcome 1: Resolution of Complaints

7 points

Demonstrate that all civil and human rights complaints in the past 3 years have been investigated and violations redressed in a timely manner

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Action 1:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt specific policies or amend the jurisdiction's charter to specifically protect the civil and human rights of all community residents

Action 2:

Practice Improvements

Establish an office within the jurisdiction with the authority and capacity to investigate civil and human rights complaints

Note that this office may fulfill some of the activities identified in EAC-5, Action 6. If so, consider applying for credit under more than one Objective.

Action 3:

Education and Outreach

Conduct local public education campaigns regarding civil and human rights, such as the process for filing complaints

Action 4:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Establish an independent civil and/or human rights commission to ensure access, equity, and inclusion

Action 5:

Practice Improvements

Provide training for police officers focused on non-discrimination and conflict prevention

Action 6:

Programs and Services

Operationalize the local government's civil and human rights policies in programs, services, and operations

Action 7:

Programs and Services

Provide language translation or interpretation services to ensure that residents have access to information about local government programs, services, and operations

Note that EAC-2: Community Cohesion, Action 3 also references translation services. Applicants may apply for credit under both Objectives if they meet the requirements of both.



EQUITY & EMPOWERMENT

EE-3: Environmental Justice

15 available points

PURPOSE

Reduce polluted and toxic environments with an emphasis on alleviating disproportionate health hazards in areas where low-income residents and persons of color live

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

70% of points available through Outcomes

Preliminary Step:

Identify the community's prioritized environmental justice sites for evaluation in this Objective

Outcome 1: Reduce Risk and Exposure

10.5 points

Demonstrate progress towards achieving targets for prioritized environmental justice sites identified in a locally adopted plan [Partial credit available]

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Action 1:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Create an Environmental Justice Collaborative Group (EJCG) composed of residents, stakeholders, and environmental professionals to assess risk and exposure, set targets, implement projects, and monitor improvements

Action 2:

Inventory, Assessment or Survey

Assess the risk and exposure to toxins related to the community's prioritized environmental justice sites

Action 3:

Plan Development

Adopt an environmental justice plan aimed at reducing polluted and toxic environments in the jurisdiction

Action 4:

Practice Improvements

Establish targets for each of the prioritized environmental justice sites related to air or water improvements

Action 5:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Incorporate environmental justice criteria and priorities into zoning, land use planning, permitting policies, and development of new projects

Action 6:

Practice Improvements

Create community benefit agreements (CBAs) for projects associated with prioritized environmental justice sites and proposed development projects with environmental justice concerns

Action 7:

Practice Improvements

Create an interdepartmental working committee within the local government to guide and support environmental justice activities

Action 8:

Enforcement and Incentives

Monitor and enforce environmental regulations for existing facilities that impact environmental justice sites

Action 9:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Implement projects to reduce acute exposure to contaminants and risks associated with environmental justice sites



EQUITY & EMPOWERMENT

EE-4: Equitable Services & Access

20 available points

PURPOSE

Ensure equitable access to foundational community assets within and between neighborhoods and populations

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

70% of points available through Outcomes

Outcome 1: Equitable Access and Proximity

14 points

Demonstrate increased access and proximity by residents of diverse income levels and race/ethnicity to the following community facilities, services, and infrastructure:

- Public transit facilities and service levels
- Public libraries
- Public schools
- Public spaces
- Healthful food
- Health and human services
- Digital access or high speed internet
- Urban tree canopy
- Emergency response times

[Partial credit available]

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Action 1:

Plan Development

Adopt an equity plan that evaluates current conditions in the community and establishes targets to improve equitable access and proximity in at least the categories identified in the Outcome measure

Action 2:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt an equity or social justice policy that establishes a clear commitment to equity in local government decision-making, activities, and investments

Action 3:

Education and Outreach

Promote events and programs that recognize and celebrate social and cultural diversity in the community

Note that this Action is shared with EAC-5: Social & Cultural Diversity, Action 4.

Action 4:

Education and Outreach

Publicize efforts to improve equitable access and proximity to community facilities, services, and infrastructure

Action 5:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Establish partnerships that engage key community groups and stakeholders in activities to advance equitable access and proximity to facilities, services, and infrastructure

Action 6:

Practice Improvements

Provide equity and diversity training for local government staff

Note that this Action is shared with EAC-5: Social & Cultural Diversity, Action 5.

Action 7:

Programs and Services

Modify the deployment of local programs and services to reduce disparities within the categories identified in the Outcome measure

Action 8:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Construct new facilities and infrastructure in locations that reduce existing disparities within the categories identified in the Outcome measure



EQUITY & EMPOWERMENT

EE-5: Human Services

20 available points

PURPOSE

Ensure high quality human services programs are available and utilized to guarantee basic human needs so that all residents lead lives of dignity

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

70% of points available through Outcomes

Preliminary Step:

Select at least 3 priority populations and up to 5 priority human services for evaluation in this Objective

Note that the Preliminary Step is required if the applicant is pursuing any credit in the Objective.

Outcome 1: Human Services Assistance

14 points

Reduce the percentage of people in selected priority populations who need assistance obtaining selected priority human services [Partial credit available]

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Local governments and non-profit organizations provide a broad range of human services to the community. For purposes of STAR reporting, applicants should narrow the focus of their responses to address the priority populations and priority human services identified in the Preliminary Step.

Action 1:

Inventory, Assessment or Survey

Conduct a community needs assessment to identify priority service needs and resources, including the needs of priority populations

Note that the analysis in EE-4: Equitable Services and Access may provide data to inform this needs assessment.

Action 2:

Plan Development

Adopt a human services plan designed to guarantee that basic human needs are met in the community

Action 3:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Establish an advisory committee that provides ongoing consultation to local departments and agencies responsible for providing priority human services

Action 4:

Education and Outreach

Develop public education campaigns to inform residents about available service programs to help meet basic needs

Note that this Action is shared with EE-6: Poverty Prevention & Alleviation, Action 3.

Action 5:

Practice Improvements

Implement information technology solutions to improve client support services and management

Action 6:

Practice Improvements

Monitor and evaluate the quality, comprehensiveness, and effectiveness of priority human services for selected priority populations

Action 7:

Practice Improvements

Equip human services personnel with the skills and training needed to effectively improve the well being of the community's priority populations

Action 8:

Programs and Services

Support the provision of high quality, priority human services in coordination with non-governmental service providers

Note that some of these activities may overlap with the partnerships and collaboration identified in EE-6: Poverty Prevention & Alleviation, Action 2. If so, consider applying for credit under more than one Objective.

Action 9:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Upgrade existing facilities or build new facilities to better provide needed human services



EQUITY & EMPOWERMENT

EE-6: Poverty Prevention & Alleviation

20 available points

PURPOSE

Prevent people from falling into poverty and proactively enable those who are living in poverty to obtain greater, lasting economic stability and security

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

100% of points available through Outcomes

Outcome 1: Poverty Reduction

12 points

Demonstrate progress towards a target of no residents living below the poverty line by 2025 [Partial credit available]

Outcome 2: Equitable Poverty Reduction

8 points

Demonstrate a decrease over time in the percentage of residents living below the poverty line from at least 3 population subgroups

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Action 1:

Plan Development

Adopt a community-wide plan to reduce poverty

Action 2:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Create a team of local government staff to work collaboratively and coordinate with non-governmental organizations to provide high-quality services and reduce poverty

Note that some of these activities may overlap with programs and services identified in EE-5: Human Services, Action 8 or BE-4: Housing Affordability, Action 7. If so, consider applying for credit under more than one Objective.

Action 3:

Education and Outreach

Develop public education campaigns to inform residents about how to enroll in available service programs to help meet basic needs

Note that this Action is shared with EE-5: Human Services, Action 4.

Action 4:

Programs and Services

Establish or support programs that reduce the costs of basic needs for low-income households

Action 5:

Programs and Services

Implement supportive workplace programs for people living at or near the poverty line

Note that some of these activities may overlap with programs and services identified in EJ-4: Quality Jobs & Living Wages, Local Actions 2, 3, and 8. If so, consider applying for credit under more than one Objective.

Action 6:

Programs and Services

Create programs to improve employment opportunities for low-income individuals by strengthening hard and soft work skills

Note that some of these activities may overlap with workforce development programs and services identified in EJ-4: Quality Jobs & Living Wages, Action 9 and EJ-6: Workforce Readiness, Actions 8 and 9. If so, consider applying for credit under more than one Objective.

Action 7:

Programs and Services

Provide child development programs for children living at or near the local poverty line



GOAL AREA: Health & Safety

Strengthen communities to be healthy, resilient and safe places for residents and businesses

Introduction

The 7 Objectives in STAR's Health & Safety Goal Area recognize that the development of healthy, safe, and resilient communities requires proactive efforts to prevent disease, injury, and premature death by fortifying protective factors and reducing risk factors that undermine healthy outcomes.

In this Goal Area, **HS-2: Community Health & Health System** serves as the overall, composite measure of public health, public health services, and integration of health considerations into local decision-making. The other Objectives address more specific health issues, such as **HS-7: Safe Communities**, which seeks to reduce violence through proven prevention strategies, and **HS-5: Indoor Air Quality**, which addresses the design and maintenance of schools, public buildings, and housing in relation to indoor air quality.

Two Objectives are closely focused on reducing obesity and preventing related illnesses like diabetes and heart disease. **HS-1: Active Living** encourages physical activity for adults and kids through community design improvements and activities that promote walking, bicycling, and other forms of recreation. **HS-4: Food Access & Nutrition** measures the accessibility to fresh, healthful food and recognizes efforts to encourage healthy eating.

Finally, 2 Objectives address planning efforts to prevent and alleviate the impacts of hazardous events and emergency situations. **HS-6: Natural & Human Hazards** focuses on reducing vulnerability to identified community risk areas. **HS-3: Emergency Prevention & Response** evaluates the preparedness of emergency responders to efficiently and effectively respond to emergencies.

Objective Number	Objective Title and Purpose	Available Points
HS-1	Active Living: Enable adults and kids to maintain healthy, active lifestyles by integrating physical activity into their daily routines	15
HS-2	Community Health & Health System: Achieve positive health outcomes and minimize health risk factors through a high quality local health system that is accessible and responsive to community needs	20
HS-3	Emergency Prevention & Response: Reduce harm to humans and property by utilizing long-term preventative and collaborative approaches to avoid emergency incidents and minimize their impacts	15
HS-4	Food Access & Nutrition: Ensure that adults and children of all income levels have opportunities to learn about nutritious eating and have physical and economic access to fresh, healthful food	15
HS-5	Indoor Air Quality: Ensure that indoor air quality is healthy for all people	5
HS-6	Natural & Human Hazards: Reduce vulnerability to all hazards, secure critical infrastructure, and ensure that communities are prepared to effectively respond to and recover from crisis	15
HS-7	Safe Communities: Prevent and reduce violent crime and increase perceptions of safety through interagency collaboration and with residents as empowered partners	15
Total Credit, Goal Area		100



HEALTH & SAFETY

HS- I: Active Living

15 available points

PURPOSE

Enable adults and kids to maintain healthy, active lifestyles by integrating physical activity into their daily routines

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

70% of points available through Outcomes

Outcome 1: Active Adults

5.3 points

Demonstrate that 21% or less of adults aged 20+ report no leisure time physical activity within the past month

Outcome 2: Active Kids

5.3 points

Option A: Increase the percentage of high school students that are physically active for 60 minutes per day on 5 or more days

--OR--

Option B: Increase the percentage of public schools that require some form of physical activity daily, such as physical education classes or recess [Partial credit applies]

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Action 1:

Plan Development

Include a chapter, section, or plan element focused on active living or active transportation in the comprehensive plan or transportation plan

Action 2:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Require or incentivize bicycle and pedestrian amenities in new major development projects in high-density, mixed-use areas or near transit stations

Action 3:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Create guidelines to encourage incorporation of active building design features in new public, commercial, office, and multi-family residential buildings

Action 4:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Establish school siting guidelines that give preferential considerations to locations that maximize the number of students who can walk or bicycle safely to school

Action 5:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Create an advisory board to advise the local government on issues related to planning, policies, code requirements, and other actions affecting active living in the community

Note that development of a bicycle or pedestrian master plan appears in BE-7:Transportation Choices,Action 1. If applicable, consider applying for credit under both Objectives.

Action 6:

Practice Improvements

Achieve recognition as a Bicycle Friendly Community or Walk Friendly Community

Action 7:

Practice Improvements

Appoint a physical activity specialist within the local health department to serve as a liaison with relevant local government departments or agencies

Action 8:

Programs and Services

Host or partner with community groups to support at least 2 programs that encourage active living for adults and kids

Action 9:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Implement a local program that systematically improves bicycle and pedestrian amenities community-wide

Action 10:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Provide at least 3 types of active recreation facilities that are available for community use

Note that recreation centers qualify for credit as community venues under EAC-2: Community Cohesion,Action 7. Communities may apply for credit under both Objectives, if applicable.

Action 11:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Enable joint use of school-based recreation facilities during non-school hours

Note that joint use facilities also qualify for credit under EAC-2: Community Cohesion,Action 7. Communities may apply for credit under both Objectives, if applicable.



HEALTH & SAFETY

HS-2: Community Health & Health System

20 available points

PURPOSE

Achieve positive health outcomes and minimize health risk factors through a high quality local health system that is accessible and responsive to community needs

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

100% of points available through Outcomes

Outcome 1: Health Outcomes

5 points

Demonstrate that the county is a Top Performer in regards to morbidity and mortality indicators [Partial credit available]

Outcome 2: Health Behaviors

5 points

Demonstrate that the county is a Top US Performer in regards to key behaviors that impact health [Partial credit available]

Outcome 3: Clinical Care

5 points

Demonstrate that the county is a Top US Performer in regards to quality of clinical care, including access to health care [Partial credit available]

Outcome 4: Quality of Local Health System

5 points

Option A: Demonstrate that at least one hospital in the county is recognized as a top performer by the Joint Commission

--OR--

Option B: Demonstrate that the local public health department is accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB)

--OR--

Option C: Demonstrate that at least 30% of public health clinicians are board certified in their specialty areas and ancillary staff holds professional certification in their respective fields [Partial credit available]

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Local Actions 1, 2, 4, 6, and 8 are based on the principles set by PHAB standards for local health department accreditation. Communities in which the local health department is PHAB-accredited will therefore automatically receive credit for that Action. Communities currently pursuing PHAB accreditation may submit applicable information from their PHAB application for STAR credit.

Action 1:

Inventory, Assessment or Survey

Conduct a comprehensive community health assessment, which includes data collection and analysis of public health conditions, trends, and problems affecting the community

Action 2:

Plan Development

Develop a community health improvement plan to strengthen the delivery of health services and improve community health

Action 3:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt a health in all policies statement or policy commitment for local decision-making

Action 4:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Collaboratively engage the public in the assessment of community health problems and developing strategies to improve the delivery of health services

Action 5:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Collaboratively engage the local public health department and relevant local government departments or agencies to integrate health considerations into local plans and policies that affect the built environment, physical activity, and access to fresh food

If the activities overlap with Actions in other Objectives, consider applying for credit under more than one Objective.

Action 6:

Education and Outreach

Provide information and education to the public regarding health issues and available local programs and services that support prevention and wellness

Action 7:

Practice Improvements

Demonstrate that the local public health department, local government, or major hospital has received HealthLead workplace accreditation

Action 8:

Programs and Services

Use a performance management system to monitor and improve health services and programs that promote positive health outcomes and expand access to health care

Action 9:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Conduct health impact assessments (HIAs) on proposed infrastructure investments and development projects to increase positive health outcomes and minimize adverse impacts



HEALTH & SAFETY

HS-3: Emergency Prevention & Response

15 available points

PURPOSE

Reduce harm to humans and property by utilizing long-term preventative and collaborative approaches to avoid emergency incidents and minimize their impact

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

100% of points available through Outcomes

Outcome 1: Superior Fire Protection

6 points

Achieve a Class 4 ISO rating or better

Outcome 2: Emergency Response Times

6 points

Demonstrate that 90% of response times are in compliance with standards set by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

Outcome 3: National Incident Management System

3 points

Demonstrate that the community is in compliance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS)

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Action 1:

Inventory, Assessment or Survey

Develop a NIMS-compliant local inventory of assets and resources available for emergency response and mutual aid requests

Action 2:

Education and Outreach

Publish information to encourage residents to develop emergency kits and evacuation plans and encourage businesses to develop emergency procedures and shelter-in-place plans

Note that some educational materials may also be appropriate for HS-6: Natural & Human Hazards, Action 3. If so, consider applying for credit under more than one Objective.

Action 3:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Participate in interstate, statewide, regional, or inter-jurisdictional mutual aid response systems

Action 4:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Participate in a regional emergency planning commission

Action 5:

Plan Development

Adopt a local comprehensive plan for emergency response that include provisions for evacuating low-income, disabled, and other persons likely to need assistance

Action 6:

Practice Improvements

Participate in training drills that involve the public and emergency management personnel from multiple departments and/or multiple jurisdictions

Action 7:

Practice Improvements

Perform an annual review or assessment of plans, procedures, resources, and trainings based on emergency response incidents and demands

Action 8:

Practice Improvements

Achieve accreditation by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP)

Action 9:

Programs and Services

Host an active Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) or Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

Action 10:

Programs and Services

Distribute emergency kits or supplies to residents, particularly low-income and vulnerable populations



HEALTH & SAFETY

HS-4: Food Access & Nutrition

20 available points

PURPOSE

Ensure that adults and children of all income levels have opportunities to learn about nutritious eating and have physical and economic access to fresh, healthful food

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

70% of points available through Outcomes

Outcome 1: Local Fresh Food

2.6 points

Option A: Demonstrate an increase over the past 3 years in the amount of fresh food produced through local urban agriculture

--OR--

Option B: Demonstrate an increase over the past 3 years in the amount of fresh food sold locally at farmers markets or other direct farm-to-consumer activities

Outcome 2: Food Security and Assistance

2.6 points

Demonstrate an increase over the past 3 years in the ability of low-income families to access low cost, healthful food

Outcome 3: Access to Healthful Food

2.6 points

Option A: Demonstrate an increase over the past 3 years in the percentage of residents within a walkable 1/4-mile of a healthful retail food outlet

--OR--

Option B: Demonstrate a decrease over the past 3 years in the percentage of residents living in a urban or rural food desert

Outcome 4: School Nutrition

2.6 points

Demonstrate an increase over the past 3 years in the food service sales of fresh fruits and vegetables in the largest public school district

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Action 1:

Inventory, Assessment or Survey

Conduct an assessment of the local food system, including existing policies and programs that increase access to healthful food and nutrition education

This assessment may complement or be incorporated into a broader analysis of the local economy described in EJ-3: Local Economy, Action 1.

Action 2:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt zoning and development regulations that allow farmers markets, community gardens, and urban agriculture

Action 3:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt zoning and development regulations that limit or prohibit the sale of unhealthful foods

Action 4:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt menu-labeling requirements or regulations that discourage, tax, or prohibit the sale of unhealthful foods or beverages

Action 5:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Demonstrate that the local public school district has adopted a model school wellness policy

Action 6:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Establish a local or regional food policy council that includes health professionals, community organizations, schools, farmers, and/or related businesses

Action 7:

Education and Outreach

Develop public outreach materials, classes, or workshops for residents to learn about food, nutrition, and gardening OR develop public outreach materials to promote food assistance programs

Action 8:

Practice Improvements

Demonstrate that local schools or the public school district has received certification from the USDA HealthierUS Schools Challenge or an award from the Alliance for a Healthier Generation in the past 3 years

Action 9:

Practice Improvements

Purchase and sell healthful food at facilities owned, leased, and operated by the local government

Action 10:

Programs and Services

Implement an “Increase Your Food Bucks” program for farmers markets

Action 11:

Enforcement and Incentives

Provide incentives for healthful retail food outlets to locate in underserved areas or mobile vendors that only sell fresh food

For added benefits, these incentives could be paired with incentives for infill, redevelopment, and revitalization described in BE-5: Infill & Redevelopment, Action 8. If so, consider applying for credit under more than one Objective.



HEALTH & SAFETY

HS-5: Indoor Air Quality

5 available points

PURPOSE

Ensure that indoor air quality is healthy for all people

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

70% of points available through Outcomes

Outcome 1: IAQ Complaints to School District

1.8 points

Decrease the number of student, parent, and staff complaints to the public school district regarding indoor air quality (IAQ) over time

Outcome 2: IAQ Complaints to Enforcement Agency

1.8 points

Decrease the number of tenant complaints regarding IAQ over time

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Action 1:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Prohibit smoking in all enclosed public places, including restaurants, bars, and workplaces

Action 2:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Prohibit smoking in multi-family buildings community-wide OR residential buildings controlled by the local housing authority OR affirm by local ordinance the right for landlords to legally establish smoke-free rental units

Action 3:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Require all new or substantially renovated local government and school buildings to incorporate advanced ventilation standards

Action 4:

Education and Outreach

Conduct local public education campaigns regarding prevention and safe remediation of common indoor air pollutants

Action 5:

Practice Improvements

Reduce or eliminate toxic pesticide use in locally owned or managed buildings through the use of integrated pest management (IPM) techniques

Action 6:

Enforcement and Incentives

Address residential IAQ problems related to mold, pests, and other hazards through inspections and enforcement using authority from the state or local housing code or public health code

Action 7:

Programs and Services

School district implements a system-wide IAQ management program to monitor and address IAQ problems

Bonus: School district has received an EPA Tools for Schools award or has been recognized as an IAQ Champion in the past 3 years

Action 8:

Programs and Services

Provide free, subsidized, or at-cost supplies to test and monitor IAQ to prevent harm from common pollutants

Action 9:

Programs and Services

Provide grants or loans to remediate indoor air pollution problems in low-income homes or affordable rental units



HEALTH & SAFETY

HS-6: Natural & Human Hazards

15 available points

PURPOSE

Protect the community by reducing vulnerability to all hazards, securing critical infrastructure, and ensuring that communities are prepared to effectively respond to and recover from crisis

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

70% of points available through Outcomes

Outcome 1: Location-Specific Hazards

5.3 points

Part 1:

Option A: Reduce over time the number of homes below code standards that are located in designated high risk areas

--OR--

Option B: Reduce over time the percentage of residents living in designated high risk areas

--AND--

Part 2: Reduce over time the critical infrastructure below code standards that is located in designated high risk areas

Outcome 2: Full Community Hazards

5.3 points

Demonstrate increased resilience to community-wide hazard threats over time

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Action 1:

Plan Development

Develop a hazard mitigation action plan that includes an all-hazard vulnerability assessment of the community's primary hazard threats

Action 2:

Plan Development

Develop a post-disaster plan that addresses long-range redevelopment issues such as land use, economic development, housing, infrastructure, public services, and environmental restoration

Action 3:

Education and Outreach

Increase community awareness of natural hazards through education and outreach materials

Note that some educational materials may also be appropriate for HS-3: Emergency Prevention & Response, Action 2. If so, consider applying for credit under more than one Objective.

Action 4:

Plan Development

Integrate an all-hazard vulnerability assessment or other key local hazards information into the community's comprehensive plan

Action 5:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt zoning regulations that limit development in areas of high hazard vulnerability

Action 6:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Enact building codes with heightened standards for buildings in areas of high hazard vulnerability

Action 7:

Enforcement and Incentives

Create insurance or incentive structures to help equitably remove residents from hazardous situations

Action 8:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Build or renovate locally owned public facilities to meet higher building code standards to be used as shelters, command centers, and to set an example for the community

Action 9:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Implement highest priority utility improvements listed in the hazard mitigation plan



HEALTH & SAFETY

HS-7: Safe Communities

15 available points

PURPOSE

Prevent and reduce violent crime and increase perceptions of safety through interagency collaboration and with residents as empowered partners

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

100% of points available through Outcomes

Outcome 1: Violent Crime Rate

7.5 points

Demonstrate that the average violent crime rate for the past 3 years is below the following thresholds:

- 5.5 homicides per 100,000 residents
- 70 incidents of rape or attempted rape per 100,000 residents
- 462.7 aggravated assaults per 100,000 residents

Outcome 2: School Violence

7.5 points

Demonstrate that the average number of incidents of school violence is less than 10 per 1,000 students for all public schools in the jurisdiction

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Action 1:

Inventory, Assessment or Survey

Conduct a survey of community perceptions of safety recognizing that some crimes are not reported and to illuminate safety issues that need to be addressed

Note that these survey questions may be similar to questions asked in EE-1: Civic Engagement, Outcome 3 or EAC-2: Community Cohesion, Outcome 2. If so, consider applying for credit under more than one Objective if the questions address the content described therein.

Action 2:

Plan Development

Adopt a safe communities strategic plan (plan) with a comprehensive, balanced approach that includes violence prevention, intervention, suppression and enforcement, and reentry strategies

Action 3:

Education and Outreach

Educate the public and the media about the plan, its implementation, and successful programs and strategies

Action 4:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Develop partnerships with local agencies, nonprofit organizations, schools, and residents to implement the strategies and programs recommended in the plan

Action 5:

Practice Improvements

Establish cross-agency coordination and procedures to support balanced implementation of the plan

Action 6:

Practice Improvements

Perform ongoing data collection, evaluation, and monitoring from multiple agencies to track trends and identify emerging community needs

Action 7:

Programs and Services

Implement violence prevention programs and strategies to address community-identified risk and protective factors

Note that some activities may overlap with programs and services identified in EAC-2: Community Cohesion, Action 8. If so, consider applying for credit under more than one Objective.

Action 8:

Programs and Services

Implement school-based violence prevention programs and strategies, particularly in highly impacted, urban, and at-risk neighborhoods

Note that some of these activities may overlap with programs and services identified in EAC-2: Community Cohesion, Action 9 (same as EAC-5: Social & Cultural Diversity, Action 8) or Safe Routes to Schools programs addressed in HS-1: Active Living, Action 8. If so, consider applying for credit under more than one Objective.

Action 9:

Programs and Services

Develop violence intervention programs and strategies to support at-risk families and youth and to prevent the escalation of violence

Action 10:

Programs and Services

Adopt violence suppression and enforcement programs and strategies that support and build trust within the community

Action 11:

Programs and Services

Create or support a multi-faceted, monitored reentry program for ex-offenders that includes training, education, mentoring, and employment opportunities and other support services to reduce recidivism



GOAL AREA: Natural Systems

Protect and restore the natural resource base upon which life depends

Introduction

The 6 Objectives in the Natural Systems Goal Area help communities protect and restore the places that provide resources to support life. The Goal Area takes an *ecosystem services* approach and recognizes the wide range of benefits natural systems provide, such as food, water, and natural regulating processes affecting climate and floods. Natural systems services also extend to cultural benefits like aesthetic value and recreation.

NS-5: Water in the Environment and **NS-4: Outdoor Air Quality** bring attention to the reality that clean water and air are vital for humans and other species to thrive. **NS-2: Invasive Species** recognizes that achieving biodiversity requires communities to prohibit and control the spread of threatening non-native species.

With an emphasis on connectivity and collaboration, **NS-3: Natural Resource Protection** focuses on issues at a broad ecosystem and ecoregional scale. This Objective is complemented by **NS-1: Green Infrastructure**, which aims to integrate natural design with the built environment and emphasizes benefits that extend beyond stormwater harvesting to include temperature control, air quality, and opportunities for physical activity. **NS-6: Working Lands** recognize the environmental contributions of land management to the Natural Systems Goal Area.

Objective Number	Objective Title and Purpose	Available Points
NS-1	Green Infrastructure: Design and maintain a network of green infrastructure features that integrate with the built environment to conserve ecosystem functions and provide associated benefits to human populations	20
NS-2	Invasive Species: Prevent and manage invasive species in order to restore and protect natural ecosystems and the benefits they provide	10
NS-3	Natural Resource Protection: Protect, enhance and restore natural ecosystems and cultural landscapes to confer resilience and support clean water and air, food supply, and public safety	20
NS-4	Outdoor Air Quality: Ensure that outdoor air quality is healthy for all people and protects the welfare of the community	15
NS-5	Water in the Environment: Protect and restore the biological, chemical, and hydrological integrity of water in the natural environment	20
NS-6	Working Lands: Conserve and maintain lands that provide raw materials in ways that allow for sustained harvests and preserves ecosystem integrity	15
Total Credit, Goal Area		100



NATURAL SYSTEMS

NS-1: Green Infrastructure

20 available points

PURPOSE

Design and maintain a network of green infrastructure features that integrate with the built environment to conserve ecosystem functions and provide associated benefits to human populations

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

70% of points available through Outcomes

Outcome 1: Designated Green Infrastructure

8.4 points

Option A: Demonstrate that 35% of the jurisdiction's land area has protected vegetated surfaces performing a minimum of 2 of the following functions:

- Localized cooling through tree canopy cover, green roofs, or green walls
- Water management through wetlands, stream buffers, and permeable surfaces
- Recreation through parks and/or greenways

--OR--

Option B: Demonstrate at least a 2% annual average increase in land area with protected vegetated surfaces over at least 3 data points

Outcome 2: Green Infrastructure Distribution

5.6 points

Demonstrate that 85% of the population lives within a 1/2-mile walk distance from green infrastructure features that are performing a minimum of 2 of the following functions:

- Localized cooling through tree canopy cover, green roofs or green walls
- Water management through wetlands, stream buffers, and permeable surfaces
- Recreation through parks and/or greenways

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Action 1:

Plan Development

Create a community-wide green infrastructure plan that is integrated with other relevant local plans

Note that if the land conservation or open space plan also meets criteria for NS-3: Natural Resource Protection, Action 1, consider applying for credit under both Objectives.

Action 2:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt local design criteria and associated codes that require proactive green infrastructure practices for new developments

Action 3:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt a policy requiring relevant departments be engaged during early reviews of proposed developments to ensure that project sites are evaluated for green infrastructure potential and environmental protections are put in place prior to construction

Action 4:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Partner with key community groups and other stakeholders to ensure that green infrastructure practices are used in appropriate settings

Note that some organizations may overlap may have shared functions with groups identified in BE-6, Action 5. If so, consider applying for credit under more than one Objective.

Action 5:

Enforcement and Incentives

Create incentive programs to encourage land owners to adopt green infrastructure practices that link to broader green infrastructure systems

Action 6:

Programs and Services

Establish a green infrastructure monitoring program and regularly report on status of desired outcomes

Action 7:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Increase the percentage of funding invested in green infrastructure

Action 8:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Upgrade public spaces and public buildings based upon locally adopted or recognized best practices in green infrastructure. Where possible, create demonstration projects to enhance public support

Action 9:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Provide for ongoing maintenance of green infrastructure at levels required to maintain evapotranspiring functions



NATURAL SYSTEMS

NS-2: Invasive Species

10 available points

PURPOSE

Prevent and manage invasive species in order to restore and protect natural ecosystems and the benefits they provide

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

70% of points available through Outcomes

Preliminary Step:

Use a species-led or site-led approach to identify the invasive species of greatest threat, priority areas for protection, and critical entry points

Note that the Preliminary Step is required if the applicant is pursuing credit in the Objective.

Outcome 1: Invasive Species Prevention

2.3 points

Show that no new invasive species have established themselves in the last 5 years in priority natural systems areas and critical entry points

Outcome 2: Invasive Species Containment

2.3 points

Show that existing invasive species have not moved into priority natural systems areas and critical entry points

Outcome 3: Invasive Species Eradication

2.3 points

Option A: Eradicate existing invasive species from priority natural systems areas and critical entry points

--OR--

Option B: Demonstrate progress towards targets identified in the community's local integrated pest management plan [Partial credit applies]

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Action 1:

Plan Development

Develop a community-wide invasive species integrated pest management plan



Action 2:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt a local ordinance requiring control of listed priority invasive species or enact a native plant ordinance for private and public landscaping

Action 3:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Partner with local volunteer groups or neighborhood associations to restore priority natural systems areas by planting native plants or improving local wildlife habitat

Action 4:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Partner with local volunteer groups to monitor vector zones or areas at greatest risk of invasive species invasion, and organize “weed pulls” and other invasive management actions

Action 5:

Education and Outreach

Create a public education campaign or targeted outreach effort to inform residents and/or plant or animal sellers about the hazards of invasive species

Action 6:

Enforcement and Incentives

Use incentive programs to encourage local businesses and private owners to grow and sell native or desirable plants and animals and not sell invasive species or other harmful plants and animals

Action 7:

Enforcement and Incentives

Enforce regulations to control the use and sale of invasive species

Action 8:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Ensure that all local government-owned buildings use native plants or non-invasive species in landscaping

Action 9:

Programs and Services

Take actions to prevent the spread of invasive species, especially in priority natural systems areas, such as monitoring, eradication, or other control programs



NATURAL SYSTEMS

NS-3: Natural Resource Protection

20 available points

PURPOSE

Protect, enhance and restore natural ecosystems and cultural landscapes to confer resilience and support clean water and air, food supply, and public safety

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

70% of points available through Outcomes

Outcome 1: Priority Natural Systems Areas

3.5 points

Option A: Achieve targets for acres of land preserved in priority natural systems areas identified in a locally adopted natural systems or preservation plan

--OR--

Option B: Demonstrate incremental progress towards achievement of targets for acres of land preserved identified in a locally-adopted natural systems or preservation plan

Outcome 2: Wetlands, Streams, and Shoreline Buffers

3.5 points

Achieve no-net-loss of wetlands, streams, and shoreline buffers

Outcome 3: Connectivity

3.5 points

Increase the area of land directly connected to regional natural systems in order to improve ecosystem services

Outcome 4: Restoration

3.5 points

Reduce the difference between the actual acreage restored and targeted acreage established in the natural systems plan or land conservation plan

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Action 1:

Plan Development

Develop a plan to protect and restore natural resources through land conservation, corridor connectivity, and restoration of biological integrity and function

If the plan also meets criteria for NS-1: Green Infrastructure, Action 1, consider applying for credit under both Objectives.

Action 2:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt land use regulations that establish appropriate wetland, stream, and shoreline buffer widths and adjacent land uses

Action 3:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Create an advisory board to inform land conservation and restoration activities

Action 4:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Partner with adjacent jurisdictions, state and federal agencies, and local or regional non-profit organizations to advance land conservation and restoration efforts

Action 5:

Education and Outreach

Sponsor educational and outreach activities to increase ecological literacy and knowledge about natural resource protection

Action 6:

Enforcement and Incentives

Adopt land use strategies to incentivize permanent land conservation

Action 7:

Enforcement and Incentives

Implement local and market-based financing strategies to acquire land or development easements, or fund restoration and maintenance activities

Action 8:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Restore, maintain, and monitor conserved natural lands to increase natural resource resilience, adaptability, and biological integrity

Note that in some special cases where restoration efforts are focused on water resources, this Action could be shared with both NS-5: Water in the Environment, Action 6 and BE-2: Community Water Systems, Action 11. If so, consider applying for credit in multiple Objectives.



PURPOSE

Ensure that outdoor air quality is healthy for all segments of the human population and protects the welfare of the community

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

100% of points available through Outcomes

Outcome 1: Concentration and Emissions

15 points

Option A: Achieve attainment or maintenance status for all measured criteria pollutants

--OR--

Option B:

Part 1: Demonstrate a decrease in the annual concentration of the non-attainment criteria pollutant(s) that have the greatest impacts on public health, specifically $PM_{2.5}$, PM_{10} , and ozone

--AND--

Part 2: Demonstrate a decrease in the annual number of days in which the Air Quality Index (AQI) exceeds 100 over the past 5 years [Partial credit applies]

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Action 1:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt regulatory strategies that permit or incentivize increased residential and employment densities and diverse uses in transit-served areas and areas identified for compact, mixed-use development

Note that this Action is shared with BE-3: Compact & Complete Communities, Action 3.

Action 2:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt advanced parking strategies in transit-served areas and areas identified for compact, mixed-use development

Note that this Action is shared with BE-3: Compact & Complete Communities, Action 6.

Action 3:

Inventory, Assessment or Survey

In collaboration with a local university or health department, conduct a study to evaluate the health impacts of acute exposure to outdoor air pollutants, particularly in consideration of environmental justice and equity impacts

Note that this Action may correspond to environmental justice work in the community, which is addressed in EE-3: Environmental Justice. If so, consider applying for credit in both Objectives.

Action 4:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Collaborate with local industrial operations to reduce and minimize the release of noxious odors in the community

Action 5:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Partner with a local or regional organization to support one or more transportation management association(s) that promote rideshare programs and incentives for commuters to use alternative modes of transportation to work other than single-occupancy vehicles

Action 6:

Education and Outreach

Educate the public about the impacts of poor air quality on human health and the natural environment and the efforts they can take to reduce pollution and exposure

Action 7:

Enforcement and Incentives

Enforce anti-idling regulations or burning restrictions to prevent emission of excess pollution, particularly on Air Quality Action Days

Action 8:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Improve traffic signal timing or upgrade intersections to relieve congestion

Action 9:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Increase the mileage of sidewalks and dedicated bicycle infrastructure that connect people with destinations

Note that this Action is shared with BE-7 Transportation Choices, Action 7 (sidewalks) or Action 8 (bicycle infrastructure).

Action 10:

Programs and Services

Create or enhance programs aimed at increasing tree canopy through active planting or direct tree protections

Action 11:

Programs and Services

Implement targeted programs to encourage residents to transition to cleaner products

Note that some activities may overlap with programs and services identified in CE-3: Greening the Energy Supply, CE-7: Waste Minimization, or EJ-2: Green Market Development. If so, consider applying for credit under more than one Objective.



NATURAL SYSTEMS

NS-5: Water in the Environment

20 available points

PURPOSE

Protect and restore the biological, chemical, and hydrological integrity of water in the natural environment

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

100% of points available through Outcomes

Outcome 1: Hydrological Integrity

5 points

Demonstrate that the amount of water withdrawn from the system for human uses does not exceed the amount of freshwater entering the system through precipitation, river flow, and other sources

Outcome 2: Biological Integrity

5 points

Achieve a biological integrity rating of 'Very Good' or 'Good' based on EPA's 305(b) reporting requirements for all water bodies with appropriate designated uses

Outcome 3: Chemical Integrity – Pollutants

5 points

Option A: Demonstrate pollutant loadings below Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) levels

--OR--

Option B: Demonstrate a steady decrease in pollutant levels towards a long-term goal of below TMDL levels

[Partial credit applies]

Outcome 4: Chemical Integrity – Usability

5 points

Option A: Demonstrate that all non-industrial water bodies are swimmable and fishable during 90% of days in the past year

--OR--

Option B: Demonstrate a steady reduction in water closures of at least 2% annually towards achieving 90% of days being swimmable and fishable [Partial credit applies]

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Action 1:

Plan Development

Adopt a watershed management plan that integrates natural water bodies with human water use and addresses inputs and outputs of the water systems

Note that since the quality of water in natural systems is intimately linked to pipe water, this plan may encompass the requirements for BE-2: Community Water Systems, Action 1, but would need to be highly comprehensive and integrated to receive credit for both Actions.

Action 2:

Policy and Code Adjustment

Adopt community regulations that protect water quality OR participate in a regional pollutant trading program that reduces watershed pollution levels

Action 3:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Create partnerships to address sources of non-point source water pollution not directly covered by local authority or control

Action 4:

Education and Outreach

Create an education campaign about ambient water quality, pollution prevention, mitigation, and restoration techniques

Action 5:

Enforcement and Incentives

Provide incentives to residents and developers to protect and restore critical watershed protection areas

Action 6:

Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Engage in restoration projects for critical water bodies and buffer zones that protect those water bodies

Note that this Action is shared with BE-2: Community Water Systems, Action 11.

Action 7:

Programs and Services

Develop and provide water conservation programs to residents, businesses and agricultural water users in order to help ensure that the community is not depleting its water supply

Note that this Action is shared with BE-2: Community Water Systems, Action 7.

Action 8:

Programs and Services

Establish or partner with a group that routinely inventories and monitors natural water bodies for biological, chemical, and hydrological integrity



NATURAL SYSTEMS

NS-6: Working Lands

15 available points

PURPOSE

Conserve and maintain lands that provide raw materials in ways that allow for sustained harvests and preserves ecosystem integrity

EVALUATION MEASURES

Community Level Outcomes

70% of points available through Outcomes

Outcome 1: Land Management

6.3 points

Option A: Use best management practices (BMPs) on 100% of working lands in the jurisdiction

--OR--

Option B: Demonstrate at least a 2% annual average increase in working lands utilizing BMPs over at least 3 data points [Partial credit applies]

Outcome 2: Certified Sustainable Harvests

4.2 points

Increase the number of certified sustainable harvesters for a locally selected industry over time

Local Actions

70% of points available through Actions

Action 1:

Plan Development

Include considerations for protecting working lands and identifying areas where BMPs are necessary in the community's land conservation or natural resource plan

Action 2:

Partnerships and Collaboration

Convene owners and operators of working lands to promote sustainable harvesting practices

Action 3:

Education and Outreach

Educate owners and operators of working lands about current best management practices

Action 4:

Education and Outreach

Promote the value of locally produced, certified sustainable harvests and products to the public

Action 5:

Education and Outreach

Work with youth groups and community organizations to implement BMPs on local working lands

Action 6:

Programs and Services

Provide conservation programs and services tailored to the needs of the working lands community

Action 7:

Programs and Services

Encourage owners of working lands to conserve their properties in perpetuity

Action 8:

Enforcement and Incentives

Implement financing strategies to conserve working lands and support ongoing restoration efforts



Innovation & Process

Recognize important local government practices and processes that underpin the implementation of sustainability measures and accelerate community-scale achievement across STAR Goal Areas

Introduction

The Innovation & Process category is an avenue for discovering emerging and leading edge practices that communities are implementing to improve sustainability outcomes. There are 4 sections in this category: Best Practices & Processes; Exemplary Performance; Local Innovation; and Regional Priorities.

Section	Title and Purpose	Available Points
IP-1	Best Practices & Processes: Recognize important local government practices and processes that underpin the implementation of sustainability measures and accelerate community-scale achievement across STAR Goal Areas	10
IP-2	Exemplary Performance: To reward performance in Community Level Outcome measures that significantly exceeds the evaluation criteria established by the existing STAR Community Rating System	10
IP-3	Local Innovation: To encourage and reward creative, effective approaches to enhancing a community's environmental, social and/or economic sustainability not reflected in existing STAR Objectives or evaluation measures	25
IP-4	Regional Priorities: To encourage coordinated regional action on the sustainability issues of greatest importance to the region in which the jurisdiction resides	5
Total Points Available		50



INNOVATION & PROCESS

IP- I: Best Practices & Processes

10 available points

PURPOSE

Recognize important local government practices and processes that underpin the implementation of sustainability measures and accelerate community-scale achievement across STAR Goal Areas

DESCRIPTION

Local governments continually make decisions, expenditures, and investments that affect community sustainability. The strength of local decision-making is informed by community input, public planning efforts, regulations, and internal coordination across government departments and agencies. Effective practices and processes are therefore critical to ensure that local decisions lead to sustainable outcomes and do not unfairly burden particular constituencies.

IP- I: Best Practices & Processes rewards applicants that demonstrate leadership in their efforts to effectively and innovatively engage the public, plan for their community's future, leverage public resources, establish rules and regulations that advance sustainability and equity, and institutionalize transparency and sustainability.

There are 3 Best Practices & Processes for which credit is available:

- a. Comprehensive Planning;
- b. Public Engagement; and
- c. Codes & Ordinances.

Applicants may pursue credit in up to 2 of the 3 Best Practices & Processes to receive the maximum 10 points (5 points each). If there is another specific best practice or process that the applicant believes is worthy of points, apply for credit under IP-3: Local Innovation.

For each Best Practice & Process:

- explain how the community is meeting each of the required best practices;
- explain how implementation has positively impacted at least 4 STAR Objectives (e.g. Cross STAR Application); and
- link to or upload additional submittal requirements.

Submissions will be evaluated as to whether the local efforts achieve the criteria described, incorporate innovative strategies, advance equity in decision-making, and positively impact STAR Objectives.



INNOVATION & PROCESS

IP- Ia: Comprehensive Planning

5 available points

PURPOSE

Develop a systems-based comprehensive plan or community-wide sustainability plan that establishes a clear vision for the future, identifies innovative policies with measurable targets to enable the community to achieve its goals, and provides a clear process for implementation

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Part I: Required Best Practices

For each of the following required best practices, applicants must provide a 2-4 paragraph describing how the community's comprehensive plan or sustainability plan:

- achieves the best practice(s) described;
- incorporates innovative strategies; and
- advances equity in the decision-making process.

IP- Ia: Comprehensive Planning		
	Required Best Practice	Description
✓	Public Engagement	The comprehensive plan meaningfully engages all interested stakeholders throughout the process to ensure that the plan and its implementation accurately and authentically reflect the community's vision, values, and priorities
✓	Community Vision Statement	The comprehensive plan articulates the community's vision for its future.
✓	Data Collection and Analysis	The comprehensive plan should be informed by an understanding of existing trends and current conditions; and set measurable targets to ensure progress towards achievement of the community's vision and goals
✓	Systems-based Approach	The comprehensive plan employs a "systems-based approach" that aligns interconnected elements across geographic scales and plan functions to more effectively utilize resources and advance sustainability
✓	Implementation	Implementation of the comprehensive plan involves clear, robust actions and commitment of resources to execute the plan's recommended strategies; requires ongoing work with the public and community stakeholders to ensure appropriate implementation, report progress, and adjust strategies and targets as necessary



INNOVATION & PROCESS

IP- Ib: Public Engagement

5 available points

PURPOSE

Enable the public to shape the future of their community through inclusive, context-sensitive, and transparent decision-making processes

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Part I: Required Best Practices

For each of the following required best practices, applicants must provide a 2-4 paragraph describing how the community's public engagement processes:

- achieves the best practice(s) described;
- incorporates innovative strategies; and
- advances equity in the decision-making process.

IP- Ib: Public Engagement		
	Required Best Practices	Description
✓	Inclusiveness	Community decision-making processes are as inclusive as possible with deliberate, substantial effort focused on engaging community members who are typically underrepresented in decision-making and those who are likely to be significantly impacted by the outcome
✓	Context-Sensitive Processes	Use creative and effective outreach, collaboration, and engagement tools, exercises, and technologies tailored to the context of the process to engage community members in ways that meaningfully shape the outcome
✓	Transparency	Set clear, authentic expectations about how decisions will occur and how community engagement will influence the outcome
✓	Accountability and Implementation	Community decision-making processes lead to action, keep decision-makers accountable, and continue to engage the public in implementation
✓	Capacity Building and Empowerment	Support development of community leaders and groups empowered to take action and shape future decision-making with increased public input



INNOVATION & PROCESS

IP- I c: Codes & Ordinances

5 available points

PURPOSE

Ensure that local codes have clear, consistent regulations and processes that reflect community goals and promote sustainability, equity, and innovation

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Part I: Required Best Practices

For each for the following required best practices, applicants must provide a 2-4 paragraph describing how the community's codes and ordinances:

- achieve the best practice(s) described;
- incorporate innovative strategies; and
- advance equity in the decision-making process.

IP- I c: Codes & Ordinances		
	Required Best Practices	Description
✓	Alignment between Plans and Codes	Regularly update codes and regulations to reflect the goals and objectives articulated in the comprehensive and other community plans
✓	Internal Consistency and Readability	Regularly review local codes to eliminate conflicts between them and improve their ease of use
✓	Innovative Codes	Adopt innovative codes that advance sustainable practices and raise environmental standards
✓	Clear Processes	Establish processes with clear steps and expectations and that advance sustainability and innovation without undermining regulatory intent or the desires and concerns of the community



INNOVATION & PROCESS

IP-2: Exemplary Performance

10 available points

PURPOSE

Reward performance in Community Level Outcome measures that significantly exceeds the evaluation criteria established by the existing STAR Community Rating System

DESCRIPTION

IP-2: Exemplary Performance recognizes communities that are demonstrating performance levels that exceed the leadership standards of STAR's existing Community Level Outcome measures. Applicants are encouraged to submit a proposal for additional points if performance in one or more Outcome measures represents significant above and beyond STAR's standards for credit. Determination of significance varies by Outcome; applicants must provide analysis supporting their claim of exemplary performance.

Exemplary Performance points are only available for Outcome measures within existing STAR Objectives. Local Actions are not eligible for Exemplary Performance points. For communities showing exceptional sustainability performance in areas not currently represented in the rating system's Outcome measures, consider applying for credit under IP-3: Local Innovation.

Applicants can submit up to 4 Outcomes for Exemplary Performance credit; however, there are only 10 points total available in IP-2 with a maximum of 3 points per Outcome.



INNOVATION & PROCESS

IP-3: Local Innovation

25 available points

PURPOSE

Encourage and reward creative, effective approaches to enhancing a community's environmental, social, and/or economic sustainability not reflected in existing STAR Objectives or evaluation measures

DESCRIPTION

IP-3: Local Innovation serves as the mechanism to recognize communities for approaching and measuring sustainability in creative, effective ways. While the Rating System attempts to be comprehensive in its approach, sustainability is a continuously evolving discipline. Local Innovation points can be achieved by proposing new evaluation measures (Outcomes or Actions) and even new STAR Objectives.

Evaluation measures that have a history of success within a community that are not present within the existing Rating System may be submitted for additional credit. Similarly, if a community has identified an Objective-level sustainability issue and has developed a comprehensive strategy for addressing that issue, including both Outcome and Action evaluation measures, STAR welcomes proposals for consideration.

Applicants may pursue any combination of up to 6 Local Innovation Objectives, Outcomes, and/or Actions; however, there is a maximum of 25 total points available in IP-3. Applicants may propose the number of points they should receive within the maximum number of points allowed, but must explain why the level of points is justified given the existing point structure in STAR. Maximum point values are as follows:

Local Innovation Type	Maximum Points Available
New Objective	15
New Community Level Outcome	10
New Local Action	
• Preparatory Action	2
• Implementation Action	4



INNOVATION & PROCESS

IP-4: REGIONAL PRIORITIES

5 available points

PURPOSE

Encourage coordinated regional action on the sustainability issues of greatest importance to the region in which the jurisdiction resides

DESCRIPTION

IP-4: Regional Priorities recognizes that sustainability is inherently contextual, with priority issues varying from region to region. Applicant jurisdictions may identify up to 2 sustainability issues of paramount importance to their region, and show evidence of collaborative action with neighboring jurisdictions, businesses, and/or non-governmental entities to address these issues.

Selected Regional Priorities must relate to existing STAR Objectives. If a regional priority issue is not represented in the Rating System, jurisdictions are invited to submit a proposal for recognition under IP-3: Local Innovation.

Applicants can submit up to 2 Regional Priorities; however, there are only 5 total points available.

POINTS APPENDIX

Overview

The Points Appendix is designed to help applicants understand how the rating system's Online Reporting Tool calculates a community's score. The Reporting Tool is designed to automatically provide applicants with a preliminary score as they enter information into the system. This allows applicants to explore how different submission approaches will impact their score. The final score is not calculated until a full application has been submitted and verified by STAR Communities. Once submissions are verified, the applicant will receive formal notification of their STAR Community Rating.

The STAR Community Rating System's team of experts aimed to create a points system that balances scientific integrity with ease of use. Sustainability is a complex and evolving science. The scoring system and methodology reflect a commitment to continuous improvement in response to emerging data and evidence about the efficacy of local actions and their impact on desirable sustainability outcomes.

The methodology for calculating points was designed to reflect the interrelated nature of sustainability. The 7 Goal Areas are weighted equally, at 100 points apiece, with the exception of the Education, Arts & Community Goal, which has 70 points due to a lower number of Objectives. All STAR Objectives are worth 20, 15, 10, or 5 points and are weighted against each other in terms of their overall importance to sustainability and to the other Objectives. Objectives that were deemed to be either of high importance to sustainability, or that have many connections to other Objectives within the rating system, have higher point values.

An applicant's final score is calculated by summing the total scores of all Objectives and points awarded for Innovation & Process. One of the most important and unique features of the STAR Community Rating System is the fact that it awards credit for both Community Level Outcomes and Local Actions. An Objective score is the sum of the Outcome score and the Action score. The Outcome score is calculated first, followed by the Action score. In some cases, 100% of credit in an Objective can be obtained solely by achieving Outcomes. Because Outcomes show the measurable, condition-level indicators of community progress towards sustainability within an Objective, they are weighted more heavily than Actions.

By offering communities the opportunity to achieve points for Actions, the methodology is calibrated to reward community effort. Achievement of points within Outcomes determines the amount of points available through Actions. Because many communities are not yet meeting the high thresholds of the Outcomes, the STAR methodology allows communities that have not met the Outcomes to achieve up to 70% of an Objective's points through Actions. Higher Outcome achievement results in more points awarded up front, leaving fewer points for Actions. However, an applicant that achieves no Outcome credit may still apply for up to 70% of the Objective's points by completing all Actions. This helps all communities achieve a score that they can be proud of and celebrate.

How to calculate an Objective score:

1. Calculate the Outcome score. Outcomes are either worth 100% or 70% of the total points available for the Objective. Each Outcome is worth a set number of points, based upon the number and relative weighting of Outcomes and the total number of points available for the Objective. The number of points per Outcome is listed throughout the Technical Guide and can also be found in the tables at the end of the Points Appendix.
2. Use the Outcome score to determine how many points within the Objective are left over for Action credit. If no Outcome credit was achieved, up to 70% of the total points available for the Objective can be earned through Actions.
3. Determine Action scores. Each Action is worth a certain percentage of total available Action points, relative to the Action Type and the number of other Actions.
4. Sum the Outcome and Action score to obtain the Objective score.

Tips on points:

- **Let the Self Assessment or Online Reporting Tool do the calculations for you.** If you attempt to replicate the points in Excel, you will most likely not be able to calculate your exact score.
- Outcomes are worth more than Actions. By completing the Outcomes, you may not need to complete any or all Actions to get full points.
- Action points are dependent upon Outcome points.

SCORE CALCULATION EXAMPLE

Calculate an Objective Score for CE-3: Greening the Energy Supply

Step 1: Calculate the Outcome Score

$$\text{Outcome Score} = \text{Total Objective Points} \times \text{Outcome Factor (\%)} \times \text{Outcome Achievement (\%)}$$

CE-3: Greening the Energy Supply is worth a total of 15 points (Total Objective Points), 70% of which can be earned through the Outcomes (Outcome Factor).

Because the Total Objective Points and the Outcome Factor are both set values, the only number to calculate based upon the community's submissions is the Outcome Achievement. In this example, the applicant achieved full credit for Outcome 1 and partial credit for Outcome 2:

Outcome Achievement (%) = Sum of All Achieved Outcome Values			
Outcome Measure	Weighted Outcome Value	Achievement Status	Achieved Outcome Value
Outcome 1: Green Vehicles	45%	100%	45%
Outcome 1: Green Vehicles - Bonus	5%	0	0%
Outcome 2: Electrical Energy Supply	50%	30%	15%
Outcome Achievement			60%

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Outcome Score} &= 15 \text{ Total Objective Points} \times 70\% \text{ Outcome Factor} \times 60\% \text{ Outcome Achievement} \\ &= 15 \times 0.7 \times 0.6 \\ &= 6.3 \text{ points} \end{aligned}$$

Step 2: Calculate the Action Score

$$\text{Action Score} = \text{Total Objective Points} \times \text{Action Factor (\%)} \times \text{Action Achievement (\%)}$$

Using the Outcome score calculated in Step 1, determine how many points within the Objective are left over for Action credit. Remember that if no Outcome credit was achieved, up to 70% of the total points available for the Objective can be earned through Actions.

While the Total Objective Points are a set value, the Action Factor and Action Achievement must both be calculated based upon the community's submissions.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Action Factor} &= 100\% - \left(\frac{\# \text{ of points achieved for Outcomes}}{\# \text{ of available points in Objective}} \right) \\ &= 100\% - (6.3 / 15) \\ &= 58\% \text{ of the Total Objective Points remain for Actions} \end{aligned}$$

Then calculate the Action Achievement. In this example, the applicant submitted Actions 1, 4, 8, 10, and 11.

Action Achievement (%) = Total Achieved Action Points / Total Available Action Points			
Action Measure & Type	Weighted Action Values	Achieved Action Values	Action Achievement
Action 1: Plan Development	2	2	
Action 2: Policy and Code Adjustment	2	0	
Action 3: Policy and Code Adjustment	2	0	
Action 4: Partnerships and Collaboration	1	1	
Action 5: Partnerships and Collaboration	1	0	
Action 6: Enforcement and Incentives	4	0	
Action 7: Enforcement and Incentives	4	0	
Action 8: Programs and Services	4	4	
Action 9: Facility and Infrastructure Improvements	6	0	
Action 10: Facility and Infrastructure Improvements	6	6	
Action 11: Facility and Infrastructure Improvements	6	6	
Totals	38	19	

$$\text{Action Achievement (\%)} = \frac{\text{Total Achieved Action Points}}{\text{Total Available Action Points}} = \frac{19}{38} = 50\%$$

Use the calculated Action Factor and Action Achievement to determine the Action Score:

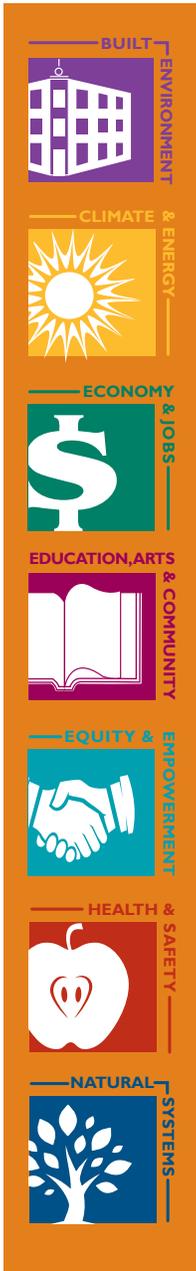
$$\begin{aligned} \text{Action Score} &= 15 \text{ Total Objective Points} \times 58\% \text{ Action Factor} \times 50\% \text{ Action Achievement} \\ &= 15 \times 0.58 \times 0.5 \\ &= 4.35 \text{ points} \end{aligned}$$

Step 3: Calculate the Objective Score

$$\text{Objective Score} = \text{Outcome Score} + \text{Action Score}$$

The Objective Score is the sum of the Outcome and Action Scores calculated in the steps above.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Objective Score} &= \text{Outcome Score} + \text{Action Score} \\ &= 6.3 + 4.35 \\ &= 10.65 \text{ points} \end{aligned}$$



777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20002
www.STARcommunities.org

Nomination Form

Award for Meritorious Service to the Highland Park Environment

1. Name of Resident or Business Nominated*: _____

Nominee's Address: _____

Nominee's Home Phone Number: _____

2. Name of Person Submitting Nomination: _____

Nominator's Address: _____

Nominator's Home Phone Number: _____

3. Please provide a detailed description of the reasons why the Highland Park resident and/or business nominated should be selected for the Award for Meritorious Service to the Highland Park Environment. Please address the **breadth, scope and significance of the nominee's service** and/or accomplishments. Please include any supporting material that will help the Commissioners make their decision, including the following information:

- (A) Description of the service or accomplishment meriting the award;
- (B) Where the service was performed;
- (C) Date or dates of the service or accomplishment;
- (D) Title of the person, if applicable, and if the service or accomplishment was a **part of the person's** job responsibility (if such is the case, the service or accomplishment must exceed what is normally required of the job); and,
- (E) **An understanding of how the City's environment benefited from the action of the person and/or business**

For more information or to submit a nomination application, contact:

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Fax: (847) 432-0964
Email: eolson@cityhpil.com

* *Please note that elected and appointed City of Highland Park officials are not eligible for the Award for Meritorious Service to the Highland Park Environment.*