STAR COMMUNITIES

SUSTAINABILITY **T**OOLS FOR **A**SSESSING & **R**ATING COMMUNITIES

https://youtu.be/WXb3i1BhFsI

SET GOALS. MEASURE PROGRESS.

Built By and For Local Government

The STAR Community Rating System is the nation's first comprehensive framework and certification program for measuring local sustainability. STAR was built by and for local governments and the communities they serve.

- **2007:** STAR concept released at Greenbuild-Chicago and as a Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) commitment.
- **2008:** Founding partners (U.S. Green Building Council, National League of Cities, ICLEI and Center for American Progress) commence diverse, consensus-based stakeholder engagement process that includes more than 200 volunteers.
- **2012:** STAR Communities Rating System v1.0 released in October. Tested by 30+ pilot communities in 2012-13.
- **2013:** First community becomes certified - Tacoma, WA.
- **2016:** Cambridge becomes highest rated city

National Footprint

STAR-certified communities

Diverse Communities

- **100+** communities in USA and Canada participate, totaling more than 40 million people

- **51** have received a STAR Rating
  - 5-STAR Rating: 4 communities
  - 4-STAR Rating: 20 communities
  - 3-STAR Rating: 27 communities

   Built for all communities, perfect match for none
  - Largest: Houston, TX (pop. 2.2 million)
  - Smallest: Charles City, IA (pop. 7,500)
  - Median Population of participating communities = 212,000
  - Cambridge: 105,000
  - Cities, Towns, Townships & Urban Counties

Why STAR for Cambridge?

Useful tool for departments to evaluate their work in broader context of sustainability

Establishes baseline performance indicators that fit within a broader policy agenda but take Cambridge-specific conditions into account

Ability to communicate to public the City's work and success across a broad spectrum using an established standard

Sync with Envision Cambridge/citywide plan process

Establish a comprehensive understanding of "Sustainability" internally and externally

Identify Strengths, Weaknesses Opportunities, and Threats

The STAR Framework

7 GOALS
Example: Built Environment

BROAD SUSTAINABILITY THEMES WITH COMMUNITY-LEVEL ASPIRATIONS

44 OBJECTIVES
Example: Housing Affordability

SUBCATEGORIES THAT MOVE THE COMMUNITY TOWARD THE GOAL

108 OUTCOME MEASURES
Example: Demonstrate that 10% of units built are dedicated as subsidized affordable housing

408 ACTION MEASURES
Example: Require, incentivize, or subsidize creation of affordable housing

516 EVALUATION MEASURES USED TO ASSIGN A POSSIBLE 720 POINTS

The STAR Community Rating System

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

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