

Summary

The STAR Community Rating System is a national, consensus-based rating system for community sustainability. It consists of a voluntary, self-reporting framework for evaluating, quantifying, and improving the liveability and sustainability of US communities.

Certifying body: STAR Communities

Applicable sectors					Award types				
General civil	Transport only	Buildings	Public realm	Community / precinct	Design	As built	Operation	Planning	Other

Country	USA (primary base) and Canada	Sustainability criteria	There are seven "goal areas": 1. Built environment 2. Climate & energy 3. Economy & jobs 4. Education, arts & community 5. Equity & empowerment 6. Health & safety 7. Natural systems Each area has 100 points available, except "Education arts and community", which has 70 points. In addition, there is a category for "innovation and process" (30 points)		
Deployment & developments	Founded by the US Green Building Council, National League of Cities, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability and the Centre for American Progress, STAR was released in 2012 after a 4-year development process. 31 pilot communities tested the rating system's companion resources in 2012-13. Other communities will be able to register for certification as of September 2013. US local governments can engage in the rating system via three service subscriptions: Participating, Reporting and Leadership STAR Community.		Assessment: scoring, performance levels, evidence collection	There are three "leadership" certifications (provisional required point range in brackets): 3-STAR Community - recognised for sustainability leadership (200-399 points), 4-STAR Community - recognised for national excellence (400-599 points), 5-STAR Community - recognised as top tier achiever in national sustainability (600+ points). There are also two "recognition" categories to encourage participation and continuous improvement: Participating STAR Community (points n/a), Reporting STAR Community (50-199 points). The Reporting STAR Community recognition requires achieving points in at least one objective in all of the 7 goal areas. *Award types: the award conferred is a "Certified STAR Community Rating"	
Applicants	Local government - town, city or county			Tailoring	A "menu-based system" allows local governments to select objectives they feel are most important and relevant to their communities.
Government endorsement	Voluntary				Fee
Support to applicants	Rating system is freely downloadable. A technical guide is available but needs to be purchased. It includes information on data sources, calculations and submittal requirements for evaluation. Participation is tracked through an online reporting tool. Communities can get higher levels of support via the organization's service subscriptions which offer packages of support: web-based learning, tech support, peer networking, in-person training, publications, etc.				