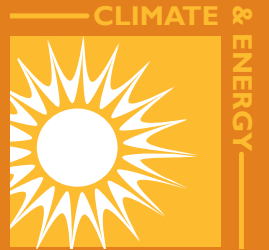


# STAR Community Rating System

Version 1.0 • October 2012



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Incorporated in the District of Columbia in April 2012, STAR Communities advances a national framework for sustainable communities through delivery of standards and tools built by and for local governments and the communities they serve.

### STAR Team Members

Hilari Varnadore, Director  
Andrea Peet, Program Manager  
Daniella Hirschfeld, Technical Manager  
Claudia Hernandez, Senior Program Officer  
Aaron Lande, Technical Writer  
Thor Peterson, Technical Writer

STAR Communities  
c/o District Department of Environment  
1200 First Street, NE, 5th floor  
Washington, DC 20002



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### STAR Steering Committee

Sadhu Johnston, Chair	Vancouver, BC
Shannon Parry, Vice Chair	Santa Monica, CA
Dana Bourland	Enterprise Community Partners
Uwe Brandes	Urban Land Institute
Suzanne Burnes	Sustainable Atlanta
Michael Connors	Saint Petersburg, FL
Radcliffe Dacanay	Portland, OR
Garrett Fitzgerald	Oakland, CA
Adam Freed	New York, NY
Richard Gelb	King County, WA
Monica Gilchrist	ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability
Jason Hartke	United States Green Building Council
Chris Hoene	National League of Cities
James W. Hunt, III	Boston, MA
Gene Hyde	Chattanooga, TN
Chris Kochtitzky	United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Jared Lang	National Association of Counties
Tad McGalliard	International City/County Management Association
Amy Meese	Sarasota County, FL
Dennis Murphey	Kansas City, MO
Andrew Orr	Franklin, TN
Brooks Rainwater	American Institute of Architects
Brendan Shane	Washington, DC
Dylan Siegler	Austin, TX
Maggie Ullman	Asheville, NC
Catherine Werner	Saint Louis, MO
Tammy Zborel	National League of Cities

### STAR Technical Advisory Committees

#### Built Environment

*(formerly Planning & Design)*

Trey Akers	Green Building Certification Institute
Kathy Blaha	Kathy Blaha Consulting
Brian Fellows	Arizona Department of Transportation
Jean Gatza	Boulder, CO
Jocelyn Hittle	PlaceMatters
Brice Maryman	SvR Design
Kevin Nelson	United States Environmental Protection Agency
Leslie Oberholtzer	Farr Associates
Jacob Smith	PlaceMatters
Katie Sobush	United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Denis Superczynski	Frederick County, MD
Laura Watchman	National Assoc. of Local Government Environmental Professionals



Deborah Westbrooke . . . . . Washington Smart Growth Alliance  
 Chuck Wolfe . . . . . Charles R. Wolfe, Attorney at Law  
 Christopher Zimmerman . . . . . Arlington County, VA

**Climate & Energy**

Shan Arora . . . . . Southface Energy Institute  
 Jonathan Brewer . . . . . Carbon Solutions America, Inc.  
 Dennis Creech . . . . . Southface Energy Institute  
 Jim Edelson . . . . . New Buildings Institute  
 Leslie Ethen . . . . . Tucson, AZ  
 Melissa Gallagher-Rogers . . . . . United States Green Building Council  
 Glen Hadwen . . . . . Miami, FL  
 Kim Herb . . . . . New England Clean Energy Foundation  
 Susan Millhauser . . . . . Lake Oswego, OR  
 Kristin Parineh . . . . . Stanford University  
 Walker Wells . . . . . Global Green USA  
 Dave Wortman . . . . . Brendle Group

**Economy & Jobs**

*(formerly Economic Prosperity + Employment & Workforce Training)*

Ed Antczak . . . . . Burlington, VT  
 Ellen Bravo . . . . . Family Values @Work Consortium  
 Matthew Bruce . . . . . Boston, MA  
 Stephen Cole . . . . . Coastal Enterprises, Inc  
 Deohn Ferris . . . . . Sustainable Communities Development Group  
 Elena Foshay . . . . . Apollo Alliance  
 Amy Glasmeier, PhD . . . . . Massachusetts Institute for Technology  
 Emily Gordon . . . . . Green For All  
 Richard Griffin . . . . . City of Frederick, MD  
 Marc Joseph . . . . . State Building & Construction Trades Council  
 Steve Lautze . . . . . Oakland, CA  
 Jennifer Leonard . . . . . Center for Community Progress  
 Doug Loescher . . . . . National Trust for Historic Preservation  
 Dan Marschall, PhD . . . . . AFL-CIO  
 Sean McGuire . . . . . State of Maryland  
 Tani Mills . . . . . Center for Employment Opportunity  
 Meghann Moses . . . . . Chicago Workforce Investment Council  
 Casey Muhm . . . . . Economic Development Administration  
 Curt Paddock . . . . . Will County, IL  
 Sara Jade Pesek . . . . . Syracuse Center of Excellence  
 Andre Pettigrew . . . . . Climate Prosperity Project, Inc.  
 Satya Rhodes-Conway . . . . . Center on Wisconsin Strategy  
 Steve Seuser . . . . . Skyline Innovations  
 Vicki Shabo . . . . . National Partnership for Women & Families  
 Viki Sonntag . . . . . EcoPraxis  
 Liz Thorstensen . . . . . International Economic Development Council  
 Jennifer Todd . . . . . International Economic Development Council  
 Michelle Wyman . . . . . Applied Solutions

## Education, Arts & Community

Tim Barth	North Richland Hills, TX
Marjorie Cohen	National League of Cities
Randy Cohen	Americans for the Arts
Ed Greene	EM Greene Associates, International
Amelia Greiner	Johns Hopkins University
Scott Kratz	National Building Museum
Aaron Lande	Portland State University
Deborah McKoy	Center for Cities and School, UC Berkeley
Cindy Steinhauser	Dubuque, IA
Stella Tamay	Private consultant
Tom Warshauer	Charlotte, NC
Michael Watkins	Santa Cruz County, CA
Kenneth Wong	Brown University

## Equity & Empowerment

*(formerly Affordability & Social Equity)*

Timothy Bray	Univ of Texas, Dallas, Inst. for Urban Policy Research
Susan Harden	RBF Consulting
Maureen Hart	Private consultant
Carrie Makarewicz	University of California, Berkeley
Kalima Rose	Policy Link
M'lissa Roulson	Prescott College
Pamela Sparr	Private consultant
Esther Toporovsky	Enterprise Community Partners
Jeremy Valenta	King County, WA
Linda Young	Center for Neighborhood Technology
Jess Zimbabwe	Urban Land Institute

## Health & Safety

Rochelle Bell	Monroe County, NY
Vickie Boothe	United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Rachel Davis	Prevention Institute
David D'Onofrio	Atlanta Regional Commission
Trinity Donovan	Chandler, AZ
Chuck Henry	Sarasota County, FL
Kimberley Hodgson	Cultivating Healthy Places
Chris Kochtitzky	United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Neil Rainford	United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Mickey Walker	Yarmouth, MA
John Wear	Western Piedmont Council of Governments

## Natural Systems

Chris Bird	Alachua County, FL
Scott Cahail	Kansas City, MO
Nina Chambers	National Park Service
Teresa Durkin	Trust for the National Mall
Vicki Elmer	University of Oregon
Robert Goff	Chandler, AZ
Monica Fries	Saint Louis, MO
Rebecca Kihslinger	Environmental Law Institute
Dee Merriam	United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Jeffrey Raven	RAVEN Architecture + Urban Design
Carl Spector	Boston, MA
Dave Tobias	New York, NY



## Leadership Communities

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. STAR's earliest adopters were the Beta Communities; between 2010 and 2012 they provided guidance on the system's feasibility, framework and design; reviewed goals, objectives and evaluation measures; and participated in the development of the online environment.

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## Founding Partners

The concept for the STAR Community Rating System was initiated in 2007 by our founding partners. In 2012, the founding partners incorporated STAR Communities as an independent organization in the District of Columbia. Each organization provides leadership and guidance to the program and maintains a leadership role on our board and committees.



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# Introduction

In 2007, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, the U.S. Green Building Council, and the Center for American Progress launched the concept for the STAR Community Rating System (STAR) at GREENBUILD in Chicago, IL. By 2008, they had established a formal partnership that included the National League of Cities to develop STAR. Their mission: to address the needs of U.S. cities, towns and counties seeking a common framework for sustainability.

The STAR Community Rating System (STAR) is the nation's first voluntary, self-reporting framework for evaluating, quantifying, and improving the livability and sustainability of U.S. communities. STAR uniquely combines:

- A framework for sustainability encompassing the social, economic and environmental dimensions of community;
- A rating system that drives continuous improvement and fosters competition; and
- An online system that gathers, organizes, analyzes, and presents information required to meet sustainability goals.

The release of the STAR Community Rating System represents a milestone in the national movement to create more livable, sustainable communities for all. STAR's guiding principles, goals and objectives collectively define community-scale sustainability, and present a vision of how communities can become more healthy, inclusive, and prosperous across seven specific categories. 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 STAR Community Rating System was developed using an open, consensus-based process led by committee members. Technical Advisory Committees comprised of experts from across the country determined scientifically valid, cost-effective ways of evaluating local government progress. A Steering Committee provided oversight and guidance. The result is a robust and comprehensive system that is flexible enough to serve both large and small jurisdictions, as well as leaders and local governments beginning their journey toward sustainability.

The intent of the STAR Community Rating System is to inform and advance a 'race to the top' for the quality of life of residents by identifying, validating, and supporting implementation of governance actions that best improve sustainable community conditions. Although the initial rating system (Version 1.0) is informed by nationally-recognized experts across a range of disciplines, STAR Communities is committed to continuous improvements in response to emerging evidence about the efficacy of particular actions.

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 various actions advance sustainability conditions community-wide. This rigor and differentiation will allow the STAR Community Rating System to expand national learning and drive ongoing improvements to sustainable community governance.





## Guiding Principles

**Think and act systemically.** Sustainable communities take a systems perspective and recognize that people, nature and the economy are all affected by their actions. Local governments in these communities consider the broader implications before embarking on specific projects, and they look for ways to accomplish multiple goals rather than default to short-term, piecemeal efforts.

**Instill resiliency.** Sustainable communities possess a strong capacity to respond to and bounce back from adversity. Local governments in these communities prepare for and help residents and institutions prepare for disruptions and respond to them swiftly, creatively and effectively.

**Foster innovation.** Sustainable communities capture opportunities and respond to challenges. Local governments in these communities cultivate a spirit of proactive problem solving to provide access to futures otherwise unobtainable and to enable the risk-taking inherent in innovation.

**Redefine progress.** Sustainable communities measure progress by improvements in the health and wellbeing of their people, environment and economy. Instead of focusing on GDP, local governments in these communities use a broad set of indicators.

**Live within means.** Sustainable communities steward natural resources so that future generations have as many opportunities available to them as we do today. They also recognize that resources exist for the benefit of life forms other than humans. Local governments in these communities assess resources, track impacts, and take corrective action when needed so that they meet the needs of today without depleting what they leave for future generations.

**Cultivate collaboration.** Sustainable communities engage all facets of society in working together for the benefit of the whole. Local governments in these communities bring government representatives, community members and organizations together and create a culture of collaboration that encourages innovation, sharing of resources, and jointly shared accountability for results.

**Ensure equity.** Sustainable communities allocate resources and opportunities fairly so that all people who do the full range of jobs that a community needs can thrive in it. Local governments in these communities actively eliminate barriers to full participation in community life and work to correct past injustices.

**Embrace diversity.** Sustainable communities feature a tapestry of peoples, cultures and economies underpinned by a richly functioning natural environment. Local governments in these communities celebrate and foster ethnic, cultural, economic and biological diversity and encourage multiple approaches to accomplish a goal.

**Inspire leadership.** Sustainable communities provide leadership through action and results. Local governments in these communities recognize their opportunity to effect change by backing visionary policies with practices that serve as an example for citizens and businesses to emulate.

**Continuously improve.** Sustainable communities engage in continuous discovery, rediscovery and invention as they learn more about the impacts of their actions. Local governments in these communities track both performance and outcomes, are alert for unintended consequences, and modify strategies based on observed results.



# The STAR Community Rating System Framework

While many sustainability frameworks focus exclusively on environmental performance, the STAR Community Rating System advances community priorities across the three pillars of sustainability: economy, environment, and society. By integrating strategies across multiple goals, greater benefits are delivered for the resources invested. The rating system is organized around the following seven 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*

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

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

**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**, addresses issues that span all three pillars and includes exemplary performance, innovation, best practices and processes, and regional priority.

STAR is organized around a typical strategic plan hierarchy of goals, objectives and evaluation measures; this design is intended to align with local government processes and standard practice, and be easily understood by policy makers. 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 to communicate strategic objectives and desired outcomes.

Beneath each goal 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 through 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 definitions associated with the STAR framework.

Term	Definition
Pillar	The three pillars of sustainability: Environment, Economy or Society
Goal	Desired sustainability 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
Evaluation Measures	Qualitative or quantitative, using relative or absolute metrics
Community Level Outcomes	Measurable, condition-level indicators that depict a community's progress toward a preferred state or condition as suggested by the STAR Objective
Local Actions	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

## Evaluation Measures -- Community Level Outcomes and Local Actions

Community level outcomes are measurable, condition-level indicators that depict a community's progress toward a preferred state or condition as suggested by the STAR Objective. Outcomes are represented as trend lines, targets, or thresholds in the rating system.

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. Actions focus on the key interventions that move the needle towards desired outcomes. They can include activities or partnerships where the local government is not the lead actor but a convener, participant, or active supporter in a community-scale effort to achieve the outcomes.

Action Types	
Education and Outreach (EO)	Preparatory
Plan Development (PD)	
Policy and Code adjustment (PoC)	
Partnerships and Collaboration (PC)	
Practice Improvements (PI)	
Inventory, Assessment or Survey (IAS)	
Enforcement and Incentives (EI)	Implementation
Programs and Services (PS)	
Facilities and Infrastructure (FI)	

There are nine action types in the rating system. Actions described as preparatory 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 based 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.

Evaluation measures were reviewed by technical advisors, staff and other stakeholders 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. All STAR content is analyzed for its interdependency with other aspects of the rating system; references and findings are documented in the Technical Guide.

## Criteria for STAR's Objectives and Evaluation Measures

**Relevant:** Provide direct feedback on the outcomes of local implementation.

**Feasible:** Leverage use of credible, commonly collected data for cost effective reporting that is flexible enough to be implemented in various local contexts.

**Timely:** Capture actions and outcomes that are currently relevant, while looking forward to the future.

**Useful:** Provide significant value to help cities and counties make decisions and address local priorities.

**Systemic:** Draw attention to the preferred future, while offering a metric that measures true progress toward that achievement goal; and, where possible, will satisfy performance reporting for multiple goals to highlight the integrated nature of sustainability.

**Reliable:** Provide a consistent reflection of achievement or performance across communities regardless of community characteristics, facilitating comparisons between communities.

**Valid:** Represent the concepts and underlying phenomena that are embodied in the STAR Objective accurately.

*Adapted from "Indicators and Information Systems for Sustainable Development: A Report to the Balaton Group" by Donella Meadows, 1998*

## Points and Scores

Communities are evaluated on their achievements in the rating system on an objective by objective basis. Each STAR Objective has a total point value between 5 and 20 points. An objective's value is determined by its impact on achieving community sustainability as well as its impact towards meeting the STAR Goal Area that it is situated beneath.

$$\text{STAR Objective Total Points Available} = \text{Community Impact} + \text{Impact on STAR Goal Area}$$

Within each STAR 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.

The rating system weights community-level outcomes with the highest point value. Communities that meet threshold, target, and trend line requirements or demonstrate incremental progress will achieve a proportion of the total points available. The proportion of points available to each community-level outcome is based on the STAR Objective it is situated beneath as well as factors such as 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).

All local action measures are assigned a point value based on their type, see table below. The rating system assigns higher point values to implementation actions than those that are preparatory in nature due to dedication of resources and impact on sustainability outcomes. 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.

Action Types	Points assignment*
<b>Preparatory actions</b>	
Education and Outreach (EO)	1
Plan Development (PD)	2
Policy and Code adjustment (PoC)	2 or 3
Partnerships and Collaboration (PC)	1
Practice Improvements (PI)	1
Inventory, Assessment or Survey (IAS)	1
<b>Implementation actions</b>	
Enforcement and Incentives (EI)	4
Programs and Services (PS)	4
Facilities and Infrastructure (FI)	6

*\*Based on impact relative to other actions and level of effort*

In summary, community-level outcomes are weighted highest from a point's perspective and local actions that are preparatory in nature are weighted lowest.

<b>HIGH</b>	Community-Level Outcomes
<b>MEDIUM</b>	Local Actions: Implementation
<b>LOW</b>	Local Actions: Preparatory

A complete technical explanation of the system's methodology for assignment of points is available on the STAR Communities website. The following design assumptions apply to the STAR Community Rating System:

1. Goal areas are equally weighted, where possible.
2. Objectives are weighted against one another, within each goal area. Objective weighting is based on two factors: community impact and impact on goal area achievement.
3. Objectives are valued at 5, 10, 15, or 20 points.
4. Points are achieved through completion of or incremental progress toward evaluation measures. They include: community-level outcomes and local actions.
5. Achievement of community-level outcome and local action measures can yield 100% of the objectives total credit.
6. Local action measures can account for up to 70% of the total credit available.
7. All evaluation measures are valued at a minimum of 1 point and are positive, whole numbers.
8. In addition to the objectives in the seven goal areas, communities can also earn up to 30 innovation and process points.

## Participation and Reporting

STAR is a voluntary, menu-based rating system designed for communities to evaluate their progress against a set of standardized sustainability objectives and evaluation measures. Ratings will be awarded on a total cumulative score of points achieved. The flexibility of a menu-based system allows local governments to select the objectives they feel are most important and relevant to their communities. Local targets and measures are integrated across the system.

The STAR Community Rating System supports three leadership certifications: 3-STAR Community, 4-STAR Community and 5-STAR Community. General descriptions and points ranges required for certification are shown below.

Provisional* Rating Levels	Point Range
Participating STAR Community	n/a
Reporting STAR Community	50-199
<b>3-STAR Community</b> Recognized for sustainability leadership	200-399
<b>4-STAR Community</b> Recognized for national excellence	400-599
<b>5-STAR Community</b> Recognized as top tier achiever in national sustainability	600+

*\*The rating levels will be assessed during the STAR Pilot Community Program and evaluated for their utility beyond the pilot testing period.*

STAR Communities recognizes cities, towns and counties for formal commitment to and participation in the STAR Community Rating System. Two recognition categories: Participating STAR Community and Reporting STAR Community were developed to encourage participation and continuous improvement.

**Participating STAR Community:** This recognition category includes all communities that certify their intent to use the STAR Community Rating System. Communities that download the STAR Community Rating System and its technical guide with the intent to use the system's framework in local sustainability efforts will be coordinated and recognized.

**Reporting STAR Community:** This recognition category supports communities that have registered their intent to report sustainability measures in the online reporting tool and are making incremental progress. In order to attain the recognition, they will have also met the basic prerequisite of achieving points in at least one objective in all of the seven goal areas.

The STAR Community Rating System and its corresponding Technical Guide and online reporting tool are available at [www.starcommunities.org](http://www.starcommunities.org). In 2012, only those communities selected to participate in the STAR Pilot Community Program will have access to the online reporting tool.



## Table of STAR Goals and Objectives

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





## GOAL Area: Built Environment

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

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



## BE-1: 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

##### Preliminary Step:

Identify local ambient noise and ambient light targets based upon a local assessment. The assessment should identify both natural and developed areas where excess noise and light exist, and include the sources of excess noise or light.

##### Outcome 1: Noise

Part 1: Demonstrate that daytime ambient noise levels do not exceed 70 dBa in commercial areas

--AND--

Part 2: Show progress toward locally identified key ambient noise targets

##### Outcome 2: Light in the Community

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

##### Outcome 3: Light in the Night Sky

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

1. Adopt a community noise policy, ordinance, or regulations as needed based upon a local assessment
2. Adopt a community light policy, ordinance, or regulations as needed based upon a local assessment
3. Educate the public about standards, effects of excessive exposure, and mitigation techniques for ambient noise or ambient light
4. Create partnerships to address sources of noise and/or light pollution not subject to the local authority
5. 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
6. Establish clear lines of authority for enforcement of nuisance noise violations relative to different noise sources
7. Enforce noise standards during the permitting, design, and construction of new large-scale developments that can significantly increase ambient noise levels
8. Enforce light standards during the permitting, design, and construction of new large-scale developments that can significantly increase ambient light levels
9. Establish programs that eliminate existing sources of light pollution coming from municipally-owned entities



## 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

##### Outcome 1: Drinking Water Quality

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 EPA water quality research on emerging contaminants

##### Outcome 2: Secure Water Supply

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

--AND--

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

##### Outcome 3: Safe Wastewater Management

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

--AND--

Part 2: Demonstrate that existing industrial dischargers are in compliance with EPA permits

##### Outcome 4: Safe Stormwater Management

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

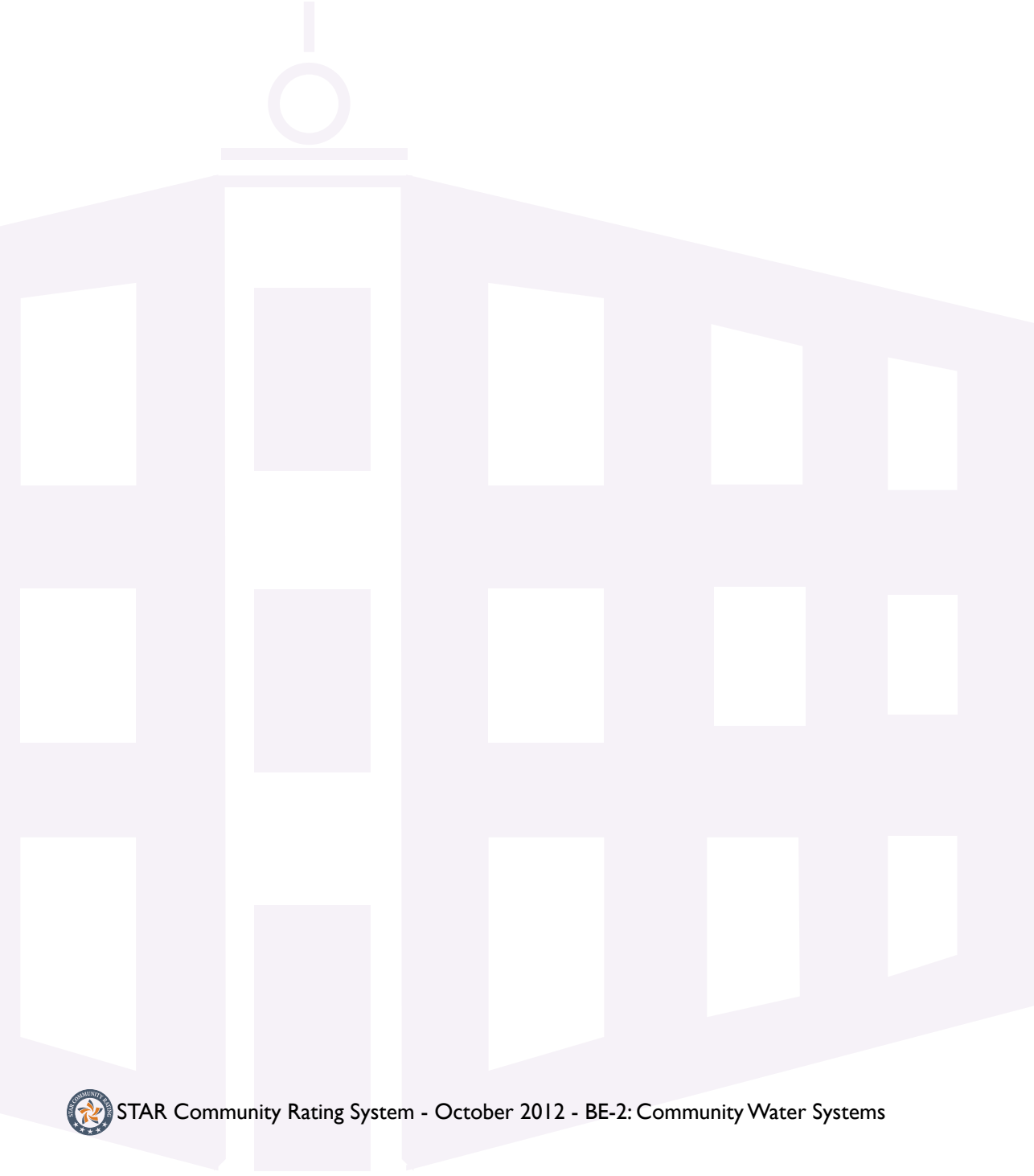
#### Local Actions

1. Adopt a jurisdiction-wide management plan for both water consumption and disposal that provides a clean and secure water supply for all local uses
2. Adopt policies to ensure that the jurisdiction has authority to enact water conservation measures during periods of drought
3. Collaborate with a regional water management group that includes other jurisdictions that share the same water sources
4. Establish water quality monitoring and public reporting systems
5. Shift towards a full cost pricing system to ensure that users are paying for the true cost of water
6. Create programs to guarantee the provision of water to low income residents



## BE-2: Community Water Systems (cont.)

7. 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
8. Manage and upgrade infrastructure to reduce leaks in the system, eliminate contaminants, and achieve other local conservation goals
9. Implement at least 3 innovative water infrastructure and facility programs
10. Upgrade and improve stormwater and wastewater treatment facilities to meet current and foreseeable needs
11. Engage in restoration projects for critical water bodies that provide usable water for the jurisdiction or stormwater management assistance





## 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

##### Preliminary Step:

Identify the Compact & Complete Centers (CCCs) that will be analyzed under this objective. CCCs are walkable ½-mile areas around a central point that represent the community's strongest mix of uses, transit availability, density, and walkability while maintaining geographic diversity. The number of required CCCs is determined by population.

##### Outcome 1: Density, Destinations, and Transit

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, or 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 average 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

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

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 blocks with primarily commercial frontage are not more than 10 feet from the property line
- 40% of building faces are free from blank walls, garage, and driveway entrances

[Partial credit available]





## BE-3: Compact & Complete Communities (cont.)

### Outcome 4: Affordable Housing

Demonstrate that each CCC achieves 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 are deeply subsidized or deeply affordable for very- and extremely-low income households

[Partial credit available]

### Local Actions

1. Establish policies to support compact, mixed-use development in the comprehensive plan and/or sub-jurisdictional plans
2. Identify areas appropriate for compact, mixed-use development on the community's official future land use map
3. 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
4. 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
5. Require build-to lines for commercial and residential structures in transit-served areas and areas identified for compact, mixed-use development
6. Adopt performance-based parking pricing, establish parking maximums, or eliminate parking minimums in transit-served areas and areas identified for compact, mixed-use development, AND incorporate at least 2 other advanced parking strategies
7. Require, incentivize, or subsidize creation of affordable housing in transit-served areas and areas identified for compact, mixed-use development
8. Establish a design review board, neighborhood commission, or similar appointed citizen body that provides comments on proposed development projects
9. 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
10. Increase the percentage of households with access to transit





## 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

##### Outcome 1: Housing and Transportation Costs

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

Option A: Achieve targets for creation of new subsidized affordable housing 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

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

#### Local Actions

1. Develop a comprehensive housing strategy
2. Analyze transit access and transportation costs for neighborhoods with housing affordable to low- and moderate-income households
3. 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
4. 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
5. Require, incentivize, or subsidize creation of affordable housing in transit-served areas and areas identified for compact, mixed-use development
6. Collaborate with other jurisdictions to address affordable housing and location efficiency needs in the region
7. Partner with nonprofit or faith-based organization(s) to provide education, counseling, and financial assistance to homebuyers or renters, particularly minorities
8. 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
9. Work with private employers to provide live-near-your-work or employer-assisted housing financial incentives





## BE-5: Infill & Redevelopment

(10 available points)

### Purpose

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

### Evaluation Measures

#### Community Level Outcomes

##### Outcome 1: Infill Development

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, previously developed, brownfield, and greyfield sites

##### Outcome 2: Existing Infrastructure

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

1. Develop an inventory of infill, previously developed, brownfield, or greyfield sites of greatest priority and potential for development or redevelopment
2. Adopt a policy commitment to limited or no expansion of physical jurisdiction boundaries or extension of urban services
3. 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
4. Educate residents and community groups about the importance of infill and redevelopment, brownfield assessment findings, and design strategies for compatible neighborhood development
5. Collaborate with state and federal authorities to advance brownfields cleanup
6. Establish a program to provide information and assistance to owners, potential buyers, and developers regarding brownfield assessments, redevelopment strategies, and available resources
7. Support temporary, creative neighborhood uses for vacant properties and greyfields
8. Provide financial incentives to encourage infill and redevelopment
9. Perform proactive zoning enforcement and vacant lot cleanup or maintenance to improve the attractiveness of a redevelopment or blighted area and to deter crime
10. Target local infrastructure improvements to revitalize redevelopment or blighted areas and catalyze private reinvestment



## 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

##### Outcome 1: Acreage

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: Accessibility / Proximity

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

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

##### Outcome 4: Use and Satisfaction

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

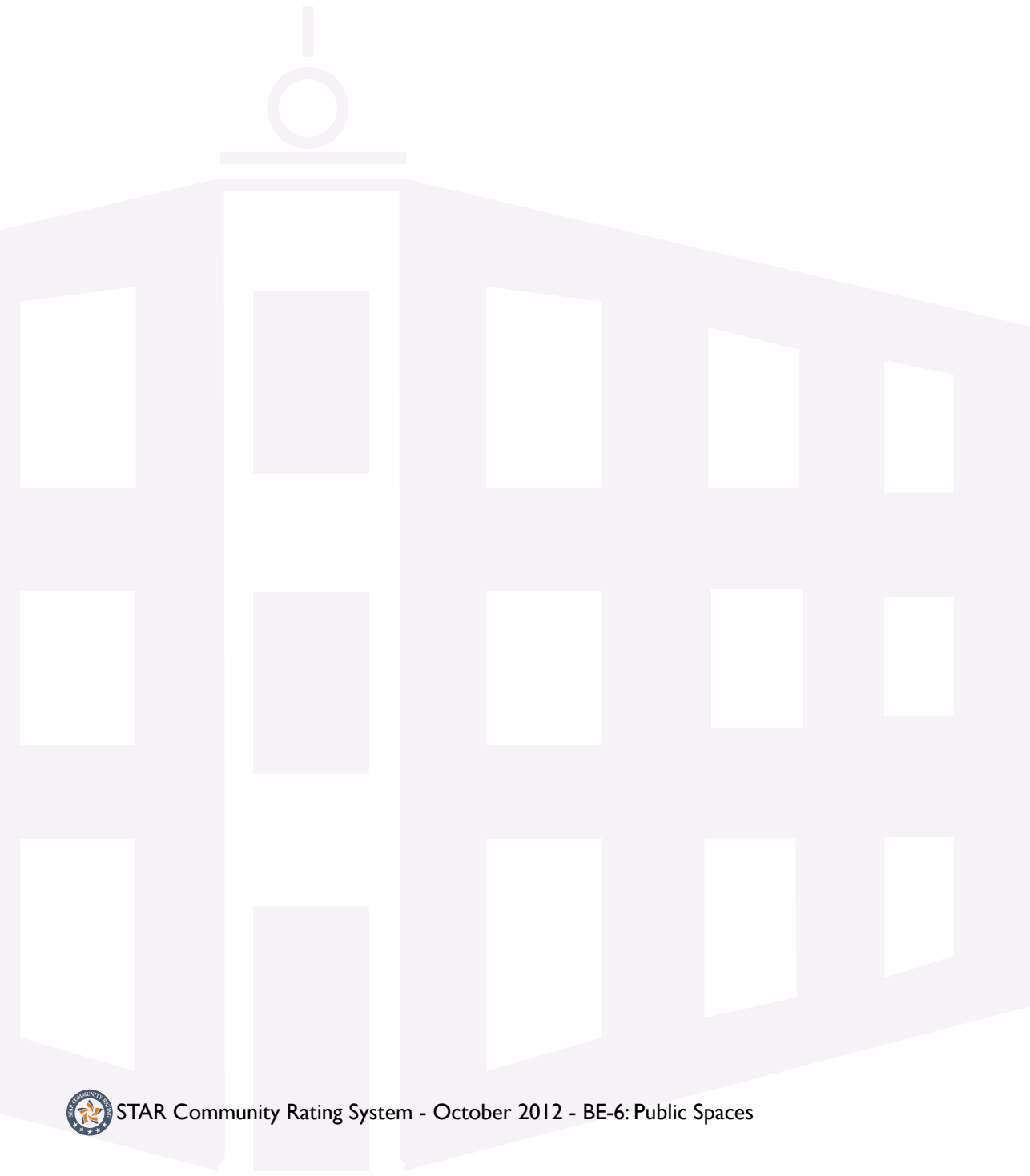
#### Local Actions

1. Adopt a parks and/or open space plan that promotes a community-wide network of public spaces that provide recreational, transportation, and environmental benefits
2. 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
3. Adopt regulatory strategies or development incentives to create, maintain, and connect parks and public spaces
4. Adopt design guidelines for new public spaces and improvements to existing facilities to strengthen environmental benefits and provide visitor amenities
5. Participate in a local or regional alliance working to improve and expand the community-based or regional park system
6. Create an advisory board to regularly receive feedback from residents and regarding planning, decision-making, and other issues affecting the quality and availability of parks and public spaces



## BE-6: Public Spaces (cont.)

7. Host or partner with a volunteer program to support parks and public space maintenance
8. Provide assistance for low-income users to access and use parks and public spaces through subsidy, scholarships, and discounts
9. Host programs and events in parks and public spaces that bring the community together and encourage physical activity
10. Consistently invest sufficient capital and operational funding to create and maintain parks and public spaces





## 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

##### Outcome 1: Mode Split

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

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

##### Outcome 3: Transportation Safety

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)

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

#### Local Actions

1. Adopt a bicycle and pedestrian master plan and/or non-motorized safety plan that prioritizes future projects to improve access to non-motorized transportation and increase safety
2. Adopt a complete streets policy that addresses all users, applies to all projects with limited exceptions, and includes specific next steps for implementation
3. Subdivision and other development regulations require walkability standards that encourage walking and enhance safety
4. Local government offers employee incentives to encourage commuting by modes other than single-occupancy vehicles
5. Implement at least 2 types of focused enforcement programs to ensure pedestrian, bicycle, and motorist safety
6. Increase the percentage of households with access to transit
7. Increase the mileage of sidewalks, particularly on arterial or collector roads that connect people with destinations
8. Increase the mileage of striped or buffered bicycle lanes, cycle-tracks, parallel off-street paths and/or other dedicated facilities
9. Establish or support a community-wide public bike share program
10. 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

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



## 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

##### 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.

##### Outcome I: Vulnerability Reduction

Demonstrate a measurable reduction in vulnerability in each of 4 core areas identified locally

#### Local Actions

1. Adopt a climate change adaptation plan
2. Require that internal decisions by local government departments use the most current climate science and that staff monitor climate change impacts
3. 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
4. Create an education and outreach campaign to engage citizens and businesses in climate change vulnerability reduction efforts
5. Adopt zoning code, building code, or other legally binding regulations that address future climate change threats
6. Create or enhance programs and services that specifically help address climate change threats
7. Enforce regulations or offer incentives to encourage residents and businesses to shift behaviors to prepare for future climate change impacts
8. Improve facilities throughout the community to be better prepared for climate change threats



## CE-2: Greenhouse Gas Mitigation

(20 available points)

### Purpose

Achieve greenhouse gas emissions reductions throughout the community

### Evaluation Measures

#### Community Level Outcomes

##### Outcome 1: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions

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

#### Local Actions

1. Adopt a Climate Action Plan designed to reduce GHG emissions throughout the jurisdiction
2. Require GHG emissions to be considered in broader local government planning processes and decision-making
3. Create an education and outreach campaign to engage citizens and businesses in GHG reduction efforts
4. Develop a climate mitigation task force that includes the largest emitters in the community and engages them in identifying and developing reduction strategies
5. Modify local government operations and facilities in order to reduce GHG emissions and serve as a leader in the community
6. Adopt energy efficiency regulations for buildings within the jurisdiction
7. Create incentives to improve reliance on distributed generation of renewable energy sources
8. 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
9. Implement specific programs and services or create facility upgrades that reduce waste in the community





## 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

##### Outcome 1: Green Vehicles

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

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

##### Outcome 2: Electrical Energy Supply

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

[Graduated credit available]

#### Local Actions

1. 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
2. Create a green purchase policy to ensure that the local government's transportation and non-transportation energy supply increasingly come from renewable and alternative sources
3. Remove zoning, height, and other regulatory restrictions on the development of small- and medium-scale renewable energy installations and alternative fueling systems
4. Establish partnerships with critical energy providers and consumers to match energy sources with community energy needs
5. Support a strong renewable portfolio standard for the investor-owned utility that would help it achieve a 50% renewable energy target
6. Create incentive programs to support the development of renewable and alternative fuel infrastructure, such as electrical vehicle charging stations and small scale solar projects
7. Use a feed-in tariff or other financial mechanisms to increase the mix of renewable energy sources supplied to residents
8. Run a net-metering program that encourages the development of small scale renewable energy sources
9. Work with state and regional partners to electrify truck stops to reduce idling and unnecessary emissions
10. Install electrical vehicle charging stations
11. Build the necessary distribution infrastructure to support further investment in renewable energy sources



## 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

##### Outcome 1: Energy Efficiency

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

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

#### Local Actions

1. Adopt a plan designed to improve the resource efficiency of the community's industrial sector
2. Adopt policies that promote shifts to improved data collection
3. Adopt regulations to require greenhouse gas intensity and water intensity reductions
4. Partner with local industries and voluntary greenhouse gas reporting programs to collect and report emissions and mitigation efforts
5. Work collaboratively with local industrial sector leaders to set local targets and strategies to reduce energy and water use
6. Create training and educational opportunities for industrial sector employees to learn about current best practices and techniques for reducing energy and water use
7. Administer programs that support the industrial sector's transition to less energy and water intensive practices
8. Create financial incentives or industry-focused challenges to encourage companies to reduce the intensity of their resource consumption
9. Develop the necessary infrastructure for industries to transition to less resource intensive practices



## 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

##### Outcome 1: Energy Efficiency

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

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

Part 1: Increase over time the percentage of non-residential buildings achieving certification in STAR-qualifying energy efficiency and green construction programs

--AND--

Part 2: Increase over time the percentage of residential buildings achieving certification in STAR-qualifying energy efficiency and green construction programs

#### Local Actions

1. Adopt a building energy efficiency plan to improve the energy and water efficiency of commercial, residential, and institutional buildings in the community
2. Adopt or upgrade building codes to ensure that new and renovated buildings are more water and energy efficient
3. Adopt an energy and water use information disclosure ordinance requiring energy and water users to disclose consumption levels
4. Create an education and outreach campaign or challenge to engage citizens and businesses in energy and water efficiency efforts
5. Establish a committee to provide recommendations on policies related to resource efficiency in buildings OR integrate this role into the work of existing committees
6. Work with the local utilities to improve energy efficiency programs and increase sub-metering throughout the community
7. Train inspectors to enforce water and energy efficiency standards in adopted building codes
8. Create incentives to encourage the construction of energy and water efficient certified buildings
9. Create a program to help homeowners and renters upgrade to more energy and water efficient homes
10. Renovate local government buildings to improve energy and water use efficiency





## 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

##### Preliminary Steps:

1. Select public infrastructure which comprises 50% of the jurisdiction's infrastructure-based greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
2. Select public infrastructure which comprises 50% of the jurisdiction's infrastructure-based water consumption

##### Outcome 1: Energy Efficiency

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

##### Outcome 2: Water Efficiency

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

#### Local Actions

1. Develop targeted strategies to improve the resource efficiency of public infrastructure systems
2. Require public infrastructure managers to consider thorough greenhouse gas and water consumption implications when designing and installing new infrastructure components
3. Adopt codes or design standards for new public infrastructure that will reduce GHG emissions and increase water efficiency
4. Partner with state or regional entities that own or operate infrastructure within the jurisdiction to develop strategies to reduce energy and water usage
5. Engage public infrastructure systems managers in participating directly in or partner with voluntary GHG reporting programs
6. Develop training programs for infrastructure operators on energy and water efficiency techniques
7. Make specific upgrades to infrastructure systems that will increase energy and water efficiency
8. Increase sub-metering from specific infrastructure systems to collect better information on energy and water use



## CE-7: Waste Minimization

(15 available points)

### Purpose

Reduce and reuse material waste produced in the community

### Evaluation Measures

#### Community Level Outcomes

##### Outcome 1: Total Solid Waste

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

#### Local Actions

1. Adopt a waste management plan that identifies the community's greatest sources of waste, sets formal waste reductions targets and establishes actions to help reach the community's waste reduction aims
2. Adopt specific product bans that will significantly advance progress towards waste reduction goals
3. Create a public education campaign or a focused outreach effort to inform residents and businesses of their roles in achieving waste reduction targets
4. Develop or participate in a regional coalition that enhances the community's ability to address waste management targets
5. Implement incentives or enforce regulations ensuring that residents and businesses are working toward community waste reductions targets
6. Provide services to enable residents and businesses to recycle and reduce their waste footprint
7. Collaboratively create and run at least 2 targeted recycling programs at key locations throughout the community
8. 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 / demolition waste
9. Create a waste-to-energy conversion system for the community



## GOAL AREA: Economy & Jobs

Create equitably shared prosperity and access to quality jobs

Objective Number	Objective Title and Purpose	Available Points
EJ-1	<b>Business Retention &amp; Development:</b> Foster economic prosperity and stability by retaining and expanding businesses with support from the business community	20
EJ-2	<b>Green Market Development:</b> Increase overall market demand for products and services that protect the environment	15
EJ-3	<b>Local Economy:</b> Create an increasingly self-reliant community through a robust local economy with benefits shared by all	15
EJ-4	<b>Quality Jobs &amp; Living Wages:</b> 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	<b>Targeted Industry Development:</b> Increase local competitiveness by strengthening networks of businesses, suppliers, and associated institutions	15
EJ-6	<b>Workforce Readiness:</b> Prepare the workforce for successful employment through increasing attainment of post-secondary education and improving outcomes of workforce development programs	15
<b>Total Credit, Goal Area</b>		<b>100</b>





## 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

##### Outcome 1: Businesses

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 in the past 3 years

##### Outcome 2: Annual Sales

Demonstrate an increase in annual sales from businesses located in the jurisdiction in the past 3 years

##### Outcome 3: Employment

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

#### Local Actions

1. Negotiate project labor agreements, community benefit agreements, and local hiring agreements
2. Formally engage with the business community on a regular basis to improve conditions and address specific needs
3. Appoint an advisory body to provide recommendations and represent the business community in local decision-making
4. Engage in regional coordination with other governmental, public, private, and non-governmental entities to attract and retain businesses in the region
5. Utilize tax incentives to retain or expand businesses, including property tax abatement, local sales tax rebates, and/or tax increment financing (TIF)
6. Provide direct financial assistance to businesses in the form of municipal bonds, grants, or loans
7. Support business development activities in special investment zones, such as Business Improvement Districts, Enterprise Zones, or other similar districts
8. Provide direct services and trainings tailored to the needs of the business community
9. Provide focused support, resources, and services to young entrepreneurial companies through business incubators





## EJ-2: Green Market Development

(15 available points)

### Purpose

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

### Evaluation Measures

#### Community Level Outcomes

##### Outcome 1: Community Resource Efficiency

Demonstrate decreased greenhouse gas (GHG) intensity over time

##### Outcome 2: Green-Certified Building Stock

Part 1: Increase over time the percentage of non-residential buildings achieving certification in STAR-qualifying energy efficiency and green construction programs

--AND--

Part 2: Increase over time the percentage of residential buildings achieving certification in STAR-qualifying energy efficiency and green construction programs

##### Outcome 3: Renewable Energy Use

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

##### Outcome 4: Green Vehicles

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

#### Local Actions

1. Amend existing local economic policies and strategies to increase market demand for green products and services
2. Adopt policies and regulations that increase overall market demand for green buildings and associated materials, renewable energy products and infrastructure, and recyclable products
3. Review and amend zoning regulations to remove barriers or provide flexibility for green businesses
4. 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
5. 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
6. Create educational materials to define the larger vision of economic sustainability as one that proactively fosters green businesses, green jobs, and green practices
7. Create an environmentally preferable purchasing program for local government procurement of safe, healthy, and environmentally responsible products
8. Create programs to help businesses transition to new green practices
9. Implement a green business promotion program
10. Install electrical vehicle charging stations





## 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

##### Outcome 1: Community Self-Reliance

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

##### Outcome 2: Local Bank Deposits

Increase the total funds deposited in locally-owned and operated banks over time

#### Local Actions

1. Conduct an assessment of local economic conditions, including economic leakage and targeted sectors for future investment
2. Adopt an economic localization plan to increase local production for local consumption and export
3. Promote purchasing preferences for locally-produced goods and services in anchor institutions, including the local government
4. Create or support promotional campaigns to bank locally, buy locally, or buy from small and independent businesses and retailers
5. Provide incentives for businesses that use materials produced within the region and sell their products within the region
6. Provide support services to targeted sectors to strengthen value chain infrastructure and develop market channels
7. Connect entrepreneurs and business owners with lenders and investors to facilitate investment in the local economy
8. Support import substitution strategies that positively impact key sectors of the local economy



## 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

##### Outcome 1: Median Household Income

Increase real median household income over time

##### Outcome 2: Living Wages and Self-Sufficiency

Option A: Demonstrate that 90% of median household incomes in the jurisdiction meet or exceed the living wage standard  
--OR--

Option B: Demonstrate that 90% of households are economically self-sufficient

#### Local Actions

1. Enact a living wage policy that covers local government employees, contractors, and entities receiving financial incentives or assistance from the local government
2. Enact family-friendly workplace policies for all local government employees that include at least 2 of the following benefits: paid sick days, family leave, flexible scheduling, job sharing, and easily available childcare
3. Require that local government contractors provide at least 2 of the following benefits to their employees: family leave, flexible scheduling, job sharing, and easily accessible childcare
4. Develop policy strategies to increase household income and assets for the working poor and remove barriers to upward mobility for low-income families
5. Support living wage and/or economic self-sufficiency campaigns in the community
6. Support a Best Places to Work campaign to recognize local businesses that support employees and their families
7. Maintain collective bargaining relationships with public employee labor organizations that represent local government workers
8. Provide training programs and assistance to local businesses to encourage them to provide family-friendly workplace policies and extended benefits
9. Provide job training and assistance programs for employees and employers in professions or sectors where wages are below the living wage or self-sufficiency standard
10. Enforce the living wage policy with a living wage officer or equivalent function



## 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

##### Preliminary Step:

Locally define at least 3 targeted industry sectors for evaluation.

##### Outcome 1: Targeted Industry Businesses

Increase the total number of new businesses in targeted industry sectors over time

##### Outcome 2: Targeted Industry Sales

Increase the annual sales or total value of businesses in targeted industry sectors over time

##### Outcome 3: Targeted Industry Employment

Increase total employment in targeted industry sectors over time

#### Local Actions

1. Conduct a local economic analysis or participate in the development of a regional analysis of existing industry sectors to understand current needs and opportunities
2. Invest in market studies and research to support the continued growth and expansion of targeted industry sectors
3. Coordinate or support local and regional associations or formal networks of related businesses in the targeted industry sectors
4. 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
5. Educate residents about the economic impact of targeted industry sectors in the community
6. Use tax incentives to attract, retain, or expand businesses in targeted industry sectors
7. Provide direct financial assistance, such as local bonds, grants, or loans, to attract, retain, or expand businesses in targeted industry sectors
8. Provide capacity building services and support for professionals in emerging and existing targeted industry sectors



## 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

##### Outcome 1: Trained Workforce

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

##### Outcome 2: Workforce Mobility

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

#### Local Actions

1. Adopt a workforce development plan or comprehensive strategy to educate, train, and prepare residents for local employment opportunities
2. Align local economic development policy strategies with workforce development programs
3. Require local government contractors and entities receiving financial incentives to prioritize hiring local residents
4. Participate in and promote community workforce agreements or project labor agreements
5. Create a workforce development committee to align post-secondary education, workforce development training programs, and economic development strategies
6. Create data sharing agreements between local governments and private sector employers to maximize the availability and use of data in economic and workforce development planning
7. Produce an annual report that tracks workforce readiness performance measures
8. Provide support services and training tailored to the needs of the local workforce
9. Support expansion of community college programs to address the educational and training needs of the local workforce
10. 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

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





## EAC-1: 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

##### Outcome 1: Creative Industries

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

##### Outcome 2: Attendance and Participation

Part 1: Demonstrate that at least 50% of adult residents in the county attend a live performing arts event annually  
--AND--

Part 2: Demonstrate that at least 30% of adult residents in the county visit an art museum annually

#### Local Actions

1. Adopt a strategic plan to protect, enhance, and expand the community's arts and cultural resources and strengthen creative industries
2. Adopt a percent-for-art ordinance requiring public art to be installed as part of new major development projects
3. 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
4. Collaborate with private, non-profit, or regional organizations to increase access to and participation in the arts
5. Track participation and attendance at major community arts and cultural events, performances, festivals, and programs
6. Provide financial or logistical support to local arts, festivals, performances, or cultural tourism
7. Hire local artists to create artwork, sculptures, or perform in public spaces
8. Develop special programs to advance arts education that is aligned with core curriculum in all public schools, especially early elementary grades
9. Provide entrepreneurial and workforce development training programs that serve artists, writers, designers, and other creative industries professionals
10. Ensure that major arts and cultural facilities are accessible to people with disabilities
11. Protect and maintain local public artworks and cultural resources for future generations



## 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

##### Outcome 1: Community Venues

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

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

#### Local Actions

1. Adopt neighborhood plans that guide future development, recommend strategies to create or preserve community venues, and address neighborhood-specific issues
2. Adopt zoning and development regulations that support or incentivize farmers markets, community gardens, and urban agriculture
3. Provide access to information about community issues, programs, services, and activities that is also accessible to non-English speaking residents
4. Partner with neighborhood associations, community organizations, and local service providers to identify and address neighborhood-specific needs
5. Support neighborhood advisory councils to encourage dialogue on community issues and build the social capital of neighborhoods
6. Establish a department with staff assigned to work as liaisons with specific neighborhoods
7. Provide direct funding and management of at least 2 types of community and neighborhood venues
8. Provide capacity-building programs to enable community leaders and groups to self-organize, resolve issues, and cultivate leadership
9. Provide programs that support the development of positive, strong youth leaders, particularly in low-income and/or minority neighborhoods
10. Provide financial or logistical support for publicly-accessible neighborhood events, activities, and programming, particularly in low-income and/or minority neighborhoods





## 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

##### Outcome 1: Reading Proficiency

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

##### Outcome 2: Graduation Rate

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

--OR--

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

##### Outcome 3: Graduation Rate Equity

Increase the 4-year adjusted cohort high school graduation rate for all students in all schools in the jurisdiction from selected underperforming groups of race/ethnicity, disability, English proficiency, or income

#### Local Actions

1. Engage local education authorities, teachers, families, and young people to advance collaborative decision-making and a community-driven framework for improving education
2. Strengthen opportunities for parental and community involvement in schools
3. Prepare an annual progress report for the public outlining the local school system's performance
4. Provide funding or other resources to support Head Start programs in the community
5. Provide full-day kindergarten for low-income students and students with special needs
6. Program or support after-school activities, tutoring, extended day- and/or summer programs for students who need additional academic assistance
7. Offer multiple pathways to graduation as a way to improve educational outcomes for students
8. Implement career pathway initiatives



## 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

##### Outcome 1: Local Historic District(s)

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

##### Outcome 2: Preserved Structures and Sites

Increase over time the annual number of eligible 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

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

##### Outcome 4: Economic Impact

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

#### Local Actions

1. Create an inventory of designated and eligible historic structures and sites in the community (Bonus: Inventory includes archeological resources)
2. Adopt a historic preservation plan that establishes community priorities for preservation
3. Adopt a historic preservation ordinance that establishes procedures for designation of local historic districts and landmarks and authorizes establishment of a historic preservation commission
4. 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
5. Collaborate with local non-profit or for-profit entities to support local events, recognition programs, and tourism efforts that celebrate and leverage the economic value of local historic resources
6. Achieve Certified Local Government status, as recognized by the National Park Service
7. Establish a demolition by neglect ordinance
8. Provide incentives to encourage the rehabilitation of historic buildings and reinvestment in older and historic neighborhoods and commercial areas
9. 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
10. Provide technical assistance to property owners or non-profit organizations seeking to add properties or historic districts to the National Register of Historic Places or the comparable state register



## 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

##### Outcome 1: Diverse Community Representation

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

##### Outcome 2: Social and Cultural Events

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

#### Local Actions

1. Conduct an assessment of the community's social and cultural diversity to inform local government actions
2. Use the Diversity Index to analyze the effectiveness of policies, programs, service delivery, and infrastructure investments
3. Adopt a policy to encourage diversity in local government appointments to advisory boards and commissions
4. Promote events and programs that recognize and celebrate social and cultural diversity in the community
5. Provide equity and diversity training for local government staff
6. Establish an office within the jurisdiction to ensure access, equity, and inclusion in policies, programs, procedures, and service delivery
7. Provide leadership and training programs that encourage and support representation on local boards and commissions reflective of the community's diversity
8. Provide programs that support the development of positive, strong youth leaders, particularly in low-income and/or minority neighborhoods
9. 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

Objective Number	Objective Title and Purpose	Available Points
EE-1	<b>Civic Engagement:</b> Citizens and residents improve community well-being by participating in local decision-making and volunteering with community organizations	15
EE-2	<b>Civil &amp; Human Rights:</b> Promote the full enjoyment of civil and human rights for all residents in the community	10
EE-3	<b>Environmental Justice:</b> 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	<b>Equitable Services &amp; Access:</b> Ensure equitable access to foundational community assets within and between neighborhoods and populations	20
EE-5	<b>Human Services:</b> 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	<b>Poverty Prevention &amp; Alleviation:</b> Prevent people from falling into poverty and proactively enable those who are living in poverty to obtain greater, lasting economic stability and security	20
<b>Total Credit, Goal Area</b>		<b>100</b>



## EE- I: Civic Engagement

(15 available points)

### Purpose

Citizens and residents improve community well-being by participating in local decision-making and volunteering with community organizations

### Evaluation Measures

#### Community Level Outcomes

##### Outcome 1: Voting

Part 1: Increase the percentage of registered voters per capita over time

--AND--

Part 2: Increase the percentage of voters per capita participating in local elections over time

##### Outcome 2: Volunteerism

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

--OR--

Option B: Demonstrate an increase in the percentage of residents who volunteered over the past 5 years [Partial credit applies]

##### Outcome 3: Sense of Empowerment

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

1. Adopt a policy to encourage diversity in local government appointments to advisory boards and commissions
2. Adopt guidelines to instruct local government agencies or departments about how to successfully engage residents
3. Conduct education campaigns about the electoral process, voter registration and participation, and other issues related to civic literacy
4. 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
5. Provide training to local government agencies or departments on successful public engagement techniques
6. Establish regular, ongoing opportunities for elected officials and/or senior government staff to meet with residents to answer questions and listen to concerns
7. Create a volunteer program for residents to assist the local government with special events, services, and operations
8. Provide support and resources to local community groups to help them achieve their missions
9. Create a mock youth voting program to teach children about democracy, elections, and the importance of voting



## 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

##### Outcome 1: Resolution of Complaints

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

1. Adopt specific policies or amend the jurisdiction's charter to specifically protect the civil and human rights of all community residents
2. Allow local government services to be obtained by all individuals without ID restrictions
3. Conduct local public education campaigns regarding civil and human rights, such as the process for filing complaints
4. Establish an independent civil and/or human rights commission with the authority and capacity to investigate complaints
5. Provide training for police officers focused on non-discrimination and conflict prevention
6. Operationalize the local government's civil and human rights policies in programs, services, and operations
7. Provide language translation or interpretation services to ensure that residents have access to information about local government programs, services, and operations



## 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

##### Preliminary Step:

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

##### Outcome 1: Reduce Risk and Exposure

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

#### Local Actions

1. 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
2. Assess the risk and exposure to toxins related to the community's prioritized environmental justice sites, establishing at least the location and community impact of each selected site
3. Adopt an environmental justice plan aimed at reducing polluted and toxic environments in the jurisdiction
4. Establish targets for each of the prioritized environmental justice sites related to air or water improvements
5. Incorporate environmental justice criteria and priorities into zoning, land use planning, permitting policies, and development of new projects
6. Create community benefit agreements (CBAs) for projects associated with prioritized environmental justice sites and proposed development projects with environmental justice concerns
7. Create an interdepartmental working committee within the local government to guide and support environmental justice activities
8. Monitor and enforce environmental regulations for existing facilities that impact prioritized environmental justice sites
9. Implement projects to reduce acute exposure to contaminants and risks associated with prioritized environmental justice sites



## 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

##### Outcome 1: Equitable Access and Proximity

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

1. 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
2. Adopt an equity or social justice policy that establishes a clear commitment to equity in local government decision-making, activities, and investments
3. Promote events and programs that recognize and celebrate social and cultural diversity in the community
4. Publicize efforts to improve equitable access and proximity to community facilities, services, and infrastructure
5. Establish partnerships that engage key community groups and stakeholders in activities to advance equitable access and proximity to facilities, services, and infrastructure
6. Provide equity and diversity training for local government staff
7. Modify the deployment of local programs and services to reduce disparities within the categories identified in the outcome measure
8. Construct new facilities and infrastructure in locations that reduce existing disparities within the categories identified in the outcome measure





## 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

##### Preliminary Step:

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

##### Outcome 1: Human Services Assistance

Reduce the percentage of people in selected priority populations who need assistance obtaining selected priority human services

#### Local Actions

1. Conduct a community needs assessment to identify priority service needs and resources, including the needs of priority populations
2. Adopt a human services plan designed to guarantee that basic human needs are met in the community
3. Establish an advisory committee that provides ongoing consultation to local departments and agencies responsible for providing priority human services
4. Develop public education campaigns to inform residents about available service programs to help meet basic needs
5. Implement information technology solutions to improve client support services and management
6. Monitor and evaluate the quality, comprehensiveness, and effectiveness of priority human services for selected priority populations
7. Equip human services personnel with the skills and training needed to effectively improve the well-being of the community's priority populations
8. Support the provision of high quality, priority human services in coordination with non-governmental service providers
9. Upgrade existing facilities or build new facilities to better provide needed human services



## 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

##### Outcome 1: Poverty Reduction

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

##### Outcome 2: Equitable Poverty Reduction

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

#### Local Actions

1. Adopt a community-wide plan to reduce poverty
2. Create a team of local government staff to work collaboratively and coordinate with non-governmental organizations to provide high-quality services and reduce poverty
3. Develop public education campaigns to inform residents about available service programs to help meet basic needs
4. Establish or support programs that reduce the costs of basic needs for low-income households, such as utilities, transportation, healthful fresh food, basic medical care, and school supplies
5. Implement supportive workplaces programs for people living at or near the poverty line that includes affordable child care, transportation assistance, health care, medicine and toiletries, household goods, and shelter
6. Create programs to improve employment opportunities for low-income individuals by strengthening hard and soft work skills
7. Provide child development programs for children living at or near the local poverty line, including food and nutrition, health care, and early childhood education



## GOAL AREA: Health & Safety

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

Objective Number	Objective Title and Purpose	Available Points
HS-1	<b>Active Living:</b> Enable adults and kids to maintain healthy, active lifestyles by integrating physical activity into their daily routines	15
HS-2	<b>Community Health &amp; Health System:</b> 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	<b>Emergency Prevention &amp; Response:</b> 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	<b>Food Access &amp; Nutrition:</b> 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 and water	15
HS-5	<b>Indoor Air Quality:</b> Ensure that indoor air quality is healthy for all people	5
HS-6	<b>Natural &amp; Human Hazards:</b> 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	<b>Safe Communities:</b> Prevent and reduce violent crime and increase perceptions of safety through interagency collaboration and with residents as empowered partners	15
<b>Total Credit, Goal Area</b>		<b>100</b>





## 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

##### Outcome 1: Active Adults

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

##### Outcome 2: Active Kids

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

#### Local Actions

1. Include a chapter, section, or plan element focused on active living or active transportation in the comprehensive plan or transportation plan
2. Require or incentivize bicycle and pedestrian amenities in new major development projects in high-density, mixed-use areas or near transit stations
3. Create guidelines to encourage incorporation of active building design features in new public, commercial, office, and multi-family residential buildings
4. Establish school siting guidelines that give preferential considerations to locations that maximize the number of students who can walk or bicycle safely to school
5. 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
6. Achieve recognition as a Bicycle-Friendly Community or Walk-Friendly Community
7. Appoint a physical activity specialist within the local health department to serve as a liaison with relevant local government departments or agencies
8. Host or partner with community groups to support at least 2 programs that encourage active living for adults and kids
9. Implement a local program that systematically improves bicycle and pedestrian amenities community-wide
10. Provide at least 3 types of active recreation facilities that are available for community use, by population size
11. Enable joint use of school-based recreation facilities during non-school hours



## 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

##### Outcome 1: Health Outcomes

Demonstrate that the county is ranked in the top 15% in the state in regards to morbidity and mortality [Partial credit available]

##### Outcome 2: Health Behaviors

Demonstrate that the county is ranked in the top 15% in the state in regards to key behaviors that impact health [Partial credit available]

##### Outcome 3: Clinical Care

Demonstrate that the county is ranked in the top 15% in regards to quality of clinical care, including access to health care

##### Outcome 4: Quality of Local Health System

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 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

1. Conduct a comprehensive community health assessment, which includes data collection and analysis of public health conditions, trends, and problems affecting the community
2. Develop a community health improvement plan to strengthen the delivery of health services and improve community health
3. Adopt a health in all policies statement or policy commitment for local decision-making
4. Collaboratively engage the public in the assessment of community health problems and developing strategies to improve the delivery of health services
5. 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
6. Provide information and education to the public regarding health issues and available local programs and services that support prevention and wellness



## HS-2: Community Health & Health System (cont.)

7. Demonstrate that the local public health department, local government, or major hospital has received HealthLead workplace accreditation
8. Use a performance management system to monitor and improve health services and programs that promote positive health outcomes and expand access to health care
9. Conduct health impact assessments (HIAs) on proposed infrastructure investments and development projects to increase positive health outcomes and minimize adverse impacts





## 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

##### Outcome 1: Superior Fire Protection

Achieve a Class 4 ISO rating or better

##### Outcome 2: Emergency Response Times

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

Demonstrate that the community is in compliance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS)

#### Local Actions

1. Develop a NIMS-compliant local inventory of assets and resources available for emergency response and mutual aid requests
2. Publish information to encourage residents to develop emergency kits and evacuation plans and encourage businesses to develop emergency procedures and shelter-in-place plans
3. Participate in interstate, statewide, regional, or inter-jurisdictional mutual aid response systems
4. Participate in a regional emergency planning commission
5. Adopt local emergency operations plans and standard operating procedures for emergency response that address environmental damage mitigation, cleanup, and restoration; and include procedures for evacuating low-income, disabled, and other persons likely to need assistance
6. Participate in training drills that involve the public and emergency management personnel from multiple departments and/or multiple jurisdictions
7. Perform an annual review or assessment of plans, procedures, resources, and trainings based on emergency response incidents and demands
8. Achieve accreditation by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP)
9. Host an active Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) or Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)
10. Distribute emergency kits or supplies to residents, particularly low-income and vulnerable populations



## HS-4: Food Access & Nutrition

(15 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

##### Outcome 1: Local Fresh Food

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

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

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

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

1. Conduct an assessment of the local food system, including existing policies and programs that increase access to healthful food and nutrition education
2. Adopt zoning and development regulations that support or incentivize farmers markets, community gardens, and urban agriculture
3. Adopt zoning and development regulations that limit or prohibit the sale of unhealthy foods
4. Adopt menu-labeling requirements or regulations that discourage, tax, or prohibit the sale of unhealthy foods or beverages
5. Demonstrate that the local public school district has adopted a model school wellness policy
6. Establish a local or regional food policy council that includes health professionals, community organizations, schools, farmers, and/or related businesses
7. 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





**HS-4: Food Access & Nutrition (cont.)**

8. Demonstrate that local schools or the public school district has received certification from the USDA Healthier US Schools Challenge or an award from the Alliance for a Healthier Generation in the past 3 years
9. Purchase and sell healthful food at facilities owned, leased, and operated by the local government
10. Implement an "Increase Your Food Bucks" program for farmers markets
11. Provide incentives for healthful retail food outlets to locate in underserved areas or for mobile vendors that only sell fresh food





## HS-5: Indoor Air Quality

(15 available points)

### Purpose

Ensure that indoor air quality is healthy for all people

### Evaluation Measures

#### Community Level Outcomes

##### Outcome 1: IAQ Complaints to School District

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

Decrease the number of tenant complaints regarding IAQ over time

#### Local Actions

1. Prohibit smoking in all enclosed public places, including restaurants, bars, and workplaces
2. 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
3. Require all new or substantially renovated local government and school buildings to incorporate advanced ventilation standards
4. Conduct local public education campaigns regarding prevention and safe remediation of common indoor air pollutants
5. Reduce or eliminate toxic pesticide use in locally owned or managed buildings through the use of integrated pest management (IPM) techniques
6. 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
7. 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)
8. Provide free, subsidized, or at-cost supplies to test and monitor IAQ to prevent harm from common pollutants
9. Provide grants or loans to remediate indoor air pollution problems in low-income homes or affordable rental units



## 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

##### Outcome 1: Location-Specific Hazards

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

Demonstrate reduced risk from hazard threats over time

#### Local Actions

1. Develop a hazard mitigation action plan that includes an all-hazard vulnerability assessment of the community's primary hazard threats
2. Develop a post-disaster plan that addresses long-range redevelopment issues such as land use, economic development, housing, infrastructure, public services, and environmental restoration
3. Increase community awareness of natural hazards through education and outreach materials
4. Integrate an all-hazard vulnerability assessment or other key local hazards information into the community's comprehensive plan
5. Adopt zoning regulations that limit development in areas of high hazard vulnerability
6. Enact building codes with heightened standards for buildings in areas of high hazard vulnerability
7. Create insurance or incentive structures to help equitably remove residents from hazardous situations
8. 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
9. Implement highest priority projects utility improvements listed in the hazard mitigation plan



## 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

##### Outcome 1: Violent Crime Rate

Option A: 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

--OR--

Option B: Achieve targets for a percentage decrease in violent crime identified in a locally-adopted safe communities strategic plan

##### Outcome 2: School Violence

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

1. 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
2. Adopt a safe communities strategic plan (plan) with a comprehensive, balanced approach that includes violence prevention, intervention, suppression and enforcement, and reentry strategies
3. Educate the public and the media about the plan, its implementation, and successful programs and strategies
4. Develop partnerships with local agencies, nonprofit organizations, schools, and residents to implement the strategies and programs recommended in the plan
5. Establish cross-agency coordination and procedures to support balanced implementation of the plan
6. Perform ongoing data collection, evaluation, and monitoring from multiple agencies to track trends and identify emerging community needs
7. Implement violence prevention programs and strategies to address community-identified risk and protective factors
8. Implement school-based violence prevention programs and strategies, particularly in highly impacted, urban, and at-risk neighborhoods
9. Develop violence intervention programs and strategies to support at-risk families and youth and to prevent the escalation of violence
10. Adopt violence suppression and enforcement programs and strategies that build trust through community collaboration, rapid, multi-sector response to violent incidents, and full investigations following the use of force
11. 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*

Objective Number	Objective Title and Purpose	Available Points
<b>NS-1</b>	<b>Green Infrastructure:</b> <i>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</i>	20
<b>NS-2</b>	<b>Invasive Species:</b> <i>Prevent and manage invasive species in order to restore and protect natural ecosystems and the benefits they provide</i>	10
<b>NS-3</b>	<b>Natural Resource Protection:</b> <i>Protect, enhance and restore natural ecosystems and cultural landscapes to confer resilience and support clean water and air, food supply, and public safety</i>	20
<b>NS-4</b>	<b>Outdoor Air Quality:</b> <i>Ensure that outdoor air quality is healthy for all people and protects the welfare of the community</i>	15
<b>NS-5</b>	<b>Water in the Environment:</b> <i>Protect and restore the biological, chemical, and hydrological integrity of water in the natural environment</i>	20
<b>NS-6</b>	<b>Working Lands:</b> <i>Conserve and maintain lands that provide raw materials in ways that allow for sustained harvests and preserves ecosystem integrity</i>	15
<b>Total Credit, Goal Area</b>		<b>100</b>



## NS- I: Green Infrastructure

(15 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

##### Outcome 1: Designated Green Infrastructure

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 a 2-5% increase in land area with protected vegetated surfaces over time

##### Outcome 2: Green Infrastructure Distribution

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

1. Create a community-wide green infrastructure plan that is integrated with other relevant local plans
2. Adopt local design criteria and associated codes that require proactive green infrastructure practices for new developments
3. 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
4. Partner with key community groups and other stakeholders to ensure that green infrastructure practices are used in appropriate settings
5. Create incentive programs to encourage land owners to adopt green infrastructure practices that link to broader green infrastructure systems
6. Establish a green infrastructure monitoring program and regularly report on status of desired outcomes
7. Increase the percentage of funding invested in green infrastructure
8. 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
9. Provide for ongoing maintenance of green infrastructure at level required to maintain evapotranspiring functions



## 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

##### Preliminary Step:

Use one of (or both if appropriate) the following approaches to identify priority natural system areas and critical entry points

- Species-led approach – Identify the species that are of greatest threat to the area and rank them based on their potential impact or threat level. Use this information to identify the key areas to protect and the regional critical entry points.
- Site-led approach – Identify local priority natural systems areas. Subsequently identify species that are a threat to those locations and their critical entry points.

##### Outcome 1: Invasive Species Prevention

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

Show that existing invasive species have not moved into priority natural systems areas and critical entry points

##### Outcome 3: Invasive Species Eradication

Option A: Eradicate existing invasive species from priority natural systems areas and critical entry points

--OR--

Options B: Demonstrate progress towards targets identified in the community's local integrated pest management plan

#### Local Actions

1. Develop a community-wide invasive species integrated pest management plan
2. Adopt a local ordinance requiring control of listed priority invasive species or enact a native plant ordinance for private and public landscaping
3. Partner with local volunteer groups or neighborhood associations to restore priority natural systems areas by planting native plant communities
4. 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
5. Create a public education campaign or targeted outreach effort to inform residents and/or plant or animal sellers about the hazards of invasive species
6. 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
7. Enforce locally-adopted regulations to control the use and sale of listed priority invasive species
8. Ensure that all local government-owned buildings use native plants or non-invasive species in landscaping
9. Take critical actions to prevent the spread of invasive species, especially in priority natural systems areas, such as monitoring, eradication, or other control programs





## 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

##### Outcome 1: Priority Natural Systems Areas

Option A: Achieve targets for acres of land conserved in priority natural systems areas identified in a locally-adopted natural systems or land conservation plan

--OR--

Option B: Demonstrate incremental progress towards achievement of targets for acres of land conserved identified in a locally-adopted natural systems or land conservation plan

##### Outcome 2: Wetlands, Streams, and Shoreline Buffers

Achieve no-net-loss of wetlands, streams, and shoreline buffers

##### Outcome 3: Connectivity

Increase the area of land directly connected to regional natural systems in order to improve ecosystem services

##### Outcome 4: Restoration

Reduce the difference between the actual acreage restored and targeted acreage established in the natural systems plan or land conservation plan

#### Local Actions

1. Develop a plan to protect and restore natural resources through land conservation, corridor connectivity, and restoration of biological integrity and function
2. Adopt land use regulations that establish appropriate wetland, stream, and shoreline buffer widths and adjacent land uses
3. Create an advisory board with scientific experts and other local stakeholders to inform land conservation and restoration activities
4. Partner with adjacent jurisdictions, state and federal agencies, and local or regional non-profit organizations to advance land conservation and restoration efforts
5. Sponsor educational and outreach activities to increase ecological literacy and knowledge about natural resource protection
6. Adopt land use strategies to incentivize permanent land conservation
7. Implement local and market-based financing strategies to acquire land or development easements, or fund restoration and maintenance activities
8. Restore, maintain, and monitor conserved natural lands to increase natural resource resilience, adaptability, and biological integrity





## NS-4: Outdoor Air Quality

(15 available points)

### 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

##### Outcome 1: Concentration and Emissions

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, PM10, and ozone

--AND--

Part 2: Demonstrate a decrease trend 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

1. 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
2. Adopt performance-based parking pricing, establish parking maximums, or eliminate parking minimums in transit-served areas and areas identified for compact, mixed-use development, AND incorporate at least 2 other advanced parking strategies
3. 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
4. Collaborate with local industrial operations to reduce and minimize the release of noxious odors in the community
5. 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
6. 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
7. Enforce anti-idling regulations or burning restrictions to prevent emission of excess pollution, particularly on Air Quality Action Days
8. Improve traffic signal timing or upgrade intersections to relieve congestion
9. Increase the mileage of sidewalks and dedicated bicycle infrastructure that connect people with destinations
10. Create or enhance programs aimed at increasing tree canopy through active planting or direct tree protections
11. Implement targeted programs to encourage residents to transition to cleaner products



## 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

##### Outcome 1: Hydrological Integrity

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

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

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

##### Outcome 4: Chemical Integrity – Usability

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

#### Local Actions

1. Adopt a watershed management plan that integrates natural water bodies with human water use and addresses inputs and outputs of the water systems
2. Adopt community regulations that protect water quality OR participate in a regional pollutant trading program that reduces watershed pollution levels
3. Create partnerships to address sources of ambient water pollution not covered by local authority or control
4. Create an education campaign about ambient water quality, pollution prevention, mitigation, and restoration techniques
5. Provide incentives to residents and developers to protect and restore critical watershed protection areas
6. Engage in restoration projects for critical water bodies and buffer zones that protect those water bodies
7. 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
8. Establish or partner with a group that routinely inventories and monitors natural water bodies for biological, chemical, and hydrological integrity



## 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

##### Outcome 1: Land Management

Option A: Use critical best management practices (BMPs) on 100% of working lands in the jurisdiction

--OR--

Option B: Demonstrate a 2-5% increase in working lands utilizing critical BMPs over time

##### Outcome 2: Certified Sustainable Harvests

Increase the number of certified sustainable harvesters for a locally-selected industry over time

#### Local Actions

1. Include considerations for protecting working lands and identifying areas where critical BMPs are necessary in the community's land conservation or natural resource plan
2. Create critical partnerships with owners and operators of working lands to promote sustainable harvesting practices
3. Partner with certification programs to engage local owners and operators of working lands to assess and report sustainable harvest practices
4. Create an education campaign to teach owners and operators of working lands about the benefits of critical BMPs and help them identify ways to implement those practices
5. Develop outreach programs to inform residents and visitors about public access to working lands and the importance of sustainable harvesting
6. Create programs to facilitate the implementation of BMPs that protect ecosystem services in combination with sustainable harvesting practices
7. Maintain a program in collaboration with community-based conservation groups to encourage owners of working lands to put all or part of their property into easements
8. Implement financing strategies for working land conservation and transition to better management practices

# INNOVATION & PROCESS

<b>Credit Number</b>	<b>Credit Name</b>	<b>Points Available</b>
<b>IP-1</b>	Best Practices & Processes a. Comprehensive Planning b. Public Engagement c. Codes and Ordinances	5
<b>IP-2</b>	Exemplary Performance	10
<b>IP-3</b>	Local Innovation	10
<b>IP-4</b>	Regional Priority & Collaboration	5
<b>Total Credit, Goal Area</b>		<b>30</b>



The Innovation & Process category is an avenue for discovering emerging and leading-edge practices that communities are implementing to improve sustainability outcomes. There are currently four credits in the category; they include: Best Practices & Processes; Exemplary Performance; Local Innovation; and Regional Priority & Collaboration.

## **IP- I: Best Practices & Processes**

(5 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.

The Best Practices & Processes credit area 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.

At present, there are 3 specific Best Practices & Processes credits available. Applicants may select one and receive a full 5 points for achievement. If applicants have another specific Best Practices & Processes that they believe is worthy of credit, such as public expenditures and financial investment they may apply for credit in the Local Innovation category.

- Comprehensive Planning
- Public Engagement
- Codes & Ordinances

### **Evaluation Criteria**

For each Best Practices & Processes credit, STAR provides a short description of evaluation criteria. Applicants must submit a series of 2-4 paragraph narratives explaining how the best practices and processes have been implemented in the community and how the implementation has positively impacted at least 4 STAR objectives. Submissions will be evaluated on the extent to which local efforts achieve the criteria described, incorporate innovative strategies, advance equity in decision-making, and positively impact STAR Objectives.

## **IP- Ia: Comprehensive Planning**

### **Purpose**

Develop a systems-based comprehensive 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**

#### **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 & 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.

# **IP- I b: Public Engagement**

## **Purpose**

Enable the public to shape the future of their community through inclusive, context-sensitive, and transparent decision-making processes

## **Evaluation Criteria**

### **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 and engagement tools, exercises, and techniques 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.



## **IP-1c: Codes & Ordinances**

### **Purpose**

Ensure that local codes governing land use, development, and buildings have clear, consistent regulations and processes that reflect community goals and promote sustainability, equity, and innovation

### **Evaluation Criteria**

#### **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.

## **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**

The Exemplary Performance credit recognizes jurisdictions that are demonstrating performance levels which exceed the leadership standards outlined by existing Community Level Outcome measures. Applicants are encouraged to submit a proposal for additional points if performance in one or more outcome measures is believed to represent a significant improvement. Determination of significance varies by outcome; applicants are expected to provide an analysis supporting their claim of exemplary performance.

Exemplary Performance points are only available for Community Level Outcome measures within existing STAR Objectives. Local Actions are not eligible for Exemplary Performance points. For jurisdictions showing exceptional sustainability performance in areas not currently represented by the system's Community Level Outcome measures, applicants are encouraged to consider applying for points under the Local Innovation credit.



## **IP-3: Local Innovation**

(10 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**

The Local Innovation credit is intended to serve as the mechanism to recognize jurisdictions 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 requested by proposing new evaluation measures (actions or outcomes) and even new STAR Objectives.

Evaluation measures that have a history of sustainability success within a jurisdiction that are not present within the existing rating system may be submitted for additional points. Similarly, if a jurisdiction has identified an Objective-level sustainability issue and has developed a comprehensive strategy for addressing that issue including establishment of evaluation measures, STAR welcomes proposals for consideration.

## **IP-4: Regional Priority & Collaboration**

(5 available points)

### **Purpose**

Encourage coordinated regional action on the sustainability issues of greatest importance to the region in which the jurisdiction resides

### **Description**

The Regional Priority & Collaboration credit recognizes that sustainability is inherently contextual, with priority issues varying from region to region. Applicant jurisdictions are invited to identify up to two 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.

Regional Priority points are only available for existing STAR Objectives and outcome measures. If a regional priority issue is not represented in the rating system, jurisdictions are invited to submit a proposal for recognition under the Local Innovation credit.







c/o District Department of Environment  
1200 First Street, NE, 5th floor • Washington, DC 20002