



**STAR**  
COMMUNITIES

SUSTAINABILITY  
TOOLS FOR  
ASSESSING &  
RATING COMMUNITIES

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



*“The STAR Community Rating System is the ‘operations manual’ for the urban sustainability movement. It provides the national standards by which we aspire and the local actions that help us innovate and collectively impact our communities in a positive way.”*

*—Darryl Young of The Summit Foundation*



# COMMON FRAMEWORK. STANDARD METRICS.



# STAR FRAMEWORK OF GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Built Environment	Climate & Energy	Economy & Jobs	Education, Arts, & Community	Equity & Empowerment	Health & Safety	Natural Systems
BE-1: Ambient Noise & Light	CE-1: Climate Adaptation	EJ-1: Business Retention & Development	EAC-1: Arts & Culture	EE-1: Civic Engagement	HS-1: Active Living	NS-1: Green Infrastructure
BE-2: Community Water Systems	CE-2: Greenhouse Gas Mitigation	EJ-2: Green Market Development	EAC-2: Community Cohesion	EE-2: Civil & Human Rights	HS-2: Community Health	NS-2: Biodiversity & Invasive Species
BE-3: Compact & Complete Communities	CE-3: Greening the Energy Supply	EJ-3: Local Economy	EAC-3: Educational Opportunity & Attainment	EE-3: Environmental Justice	HS-3: Emergency Management & Response	NS-3: Natural Resource Protection
BE-4: Housing Affordability	CE-4: Energy Efficiency	EJ-4: Quality Jobs & Living Wages	EAC-4: Historic Preservation	EE-4: Equitable Services & Access	HS-4: Food Access & Nutrition	NS-4: Outdoor Air Quality
BE-5: Infill & Redevelopment	CE-5: Water Efficiency	EJ-5: Targeted Industry Development	EAC-5: Social & Cultural Diversity	EE-5: Human Services	HS-5: Health Systems	NS-5: Water in the Environment
BE-6: Public Parkland	CE-6: Local Government GHG & Resource Footprint	EJ-6: Workforce Readiness	EAC-6: Aging in the Community	EE-6: Poverty Prevention & Alleviation	HS-6: Hazard Mitigation	NS-6: Working Lands
BE-7: Transportation Choices	CE-7: Waste Minimization				HS-7: Safe Communities	

# BUILT BY AND FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS



# ALIGN WITH THE STAR FRAMEWORK

Thematic Chapter

STAR Goal Area

Topical Area

STAR Objective

Benchmarking &  
Action Statements

STAR Outcomes  
& Action Measures




**2015 GENERAL PLAN**  
City Council Adopted Version  
March 4, 2015

**The four primary parts of the General Plan**



**1 Vision**



Prosperity



Health



Environment

**3 Community Benefits**



Connect People & Places



Build The Sustainable Desert City



Strengthen Our Local Economy



Celebrate Our Diverse Communities & Neighborhoods



Create an Even More Vibrant Downtown

**5 Core Values**



Plans



Codes



Operations



Financing



Partnerships



Knowledge



I PlanPHX

**7 Strategic tools**




SUSTAINABILITY  
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# INTEGRATE TARGETS & BENCHMARKS



Redevelopment of Regional Transportation Corridors Action Statements	Status
Develop a U.S. Highway 75 Corridor Plan to guide infill and redevelopment efforts.	PENDING
Update the <a href="#">Urban Centers Study</a> to reevaluate locations that may serve as catalysts for redevelopment.	PENDING
Adopt regulatory strategies that permit or incentivize residential, employment, and other diverse uses in locations identified for compact complete centers.	PENDING
Develop design guidelines for residential development adjacent to expressways that reduce noise and provide for proper filtering, ventilation, and exhaust of vehicle air emissions.	PENDING



# DISCOVER BEST PRACTICES



# ENGAGE EMPLOYEES & THE PUBLIC

The chart is a large grid with 10 columns and 10 rows. The columns are labeled with various categories, and the rows are labeled with sub-categories. The grid is used for an interactive session where participants place markers on the grid.

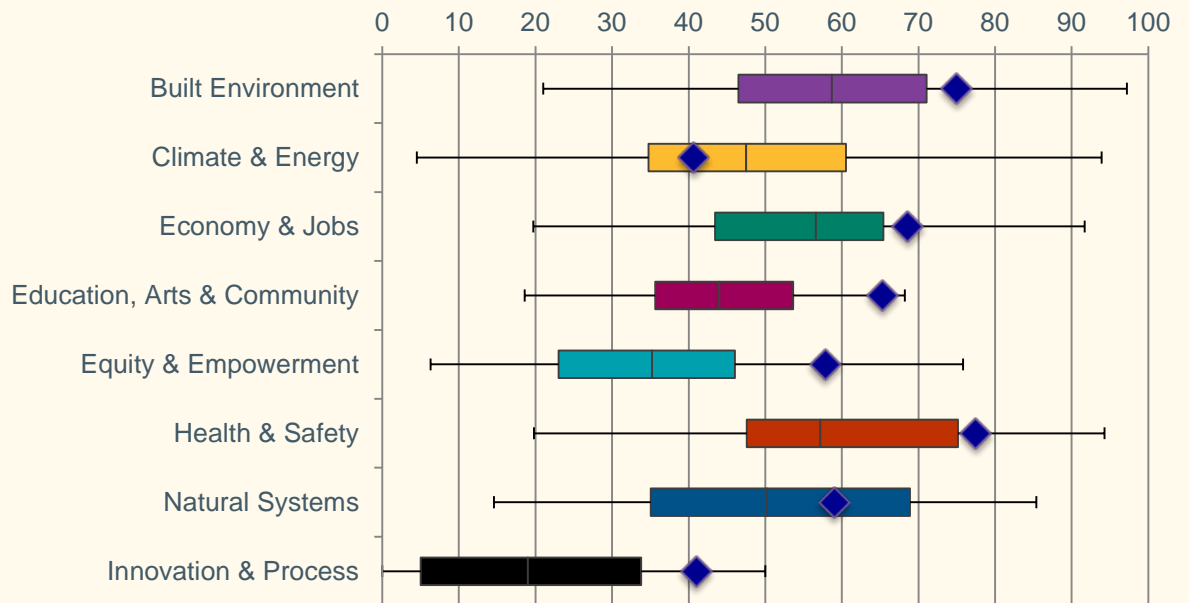
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5	Column 6	Column 7	Column 8	Column 9	Column 10
Natural Systems	Health & Safety	Equity & Empowerment	Education, Arts & Community	Economy & Jobs	Climate & Energy	Built Environment	Business & Innovation	Community & Culture	Arts & Culture
Green Infrastructure	Active Living	Civic Engagement	Arts & Culture	Business & Innovation	Climate & Energy	Built Environment	Business & Innovation	Community & Culture	Arts & Culture
Invasive Species	Community Health & Health System	Civil & Human Rights	Arts & Culture	Business & Innovation	Climate & Energy	Built Environment	Business & Innovation	Community & Culture	Arts & Culture
Natural Resource Protection	Emergent Response & Preparedness	Environmental Justice	Community Development	Business & Innovation	Climate & Energy	Built Environment	Business & Innovation	Community & Culture	Arts & Culture
Outdoor Air Quality	Food Access & Nutrition	Education & Access	Community Development	Business & Innovation	Climate & Energy	Built Environment	Business & Innovation	Community & Culture	Arts & Culture
Water in the Environment	Food Access & Nutrition	Education & Access	Community Development	Business & Innovation	Climate & Energy	Built Environment	Business & Innovation	Community & Culture	Arts & Culture
Working Land	Food Access & Nutrition	Education & Access	Community Development	Business & Innovation	Climate & Energy	Built Environment	Business & Innovation	Community & Culture	Arts & Culture

# ESTABLISH A BASELINE

## Goal Area

Innovation & Process

41.0



# COMMUNICATE LOCAL PROGRESS



# ADDRESS GAPS & PRIORITIZE INVESTMENT

## EQUITY & EMPOWERMENT

75.8 / 100

+ EE-1: Civic Engagement	10.5 / 15
+ EE-2: Civil & Human Rights	10 / 10
+ EE-3: Environmental Justice	5.3 / 15
+ EE-4: Equitable Services & Access	18.8 / 20
+ EE-5: Human Services	12.4 / 20
+ EE-6: Poverty Prevention & Alleviation	18.8 / 20



# TRACK PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

## JOBS & THE ECONOMY

### Goal 1: Grow and diversify DC's business sectors for sustained economic prosperity.

1.1 Complete a review of regulatory reform options to make it easier to do business in the District.	Short	DCRA	● ● ● ●
1.2 Formally recognize corporations that meet independent social and environmental performance standards.	Medium	DCRA	● ● ● ●
1.3 Use anchor institutions to create local markets for sustainable enterprises.	Medium	OCP	● ● ● ●

### Goal 2: Expand the number and range of jobs available to District residents and ensure access to new jobs through appropriate skills training.

2.1 Improve integration of sustainable jobs training into school curricula to expose schoolchildren to new careers.	Short	OSSE	● ● ● ●
2.2 Partner with the Workforce Investment Council to develop targeted workforce development strategies.	Short	DOES	● ● ● ●

## HEALTH & WELLNESS

### Goal 1: Inspire healthy, active lifestyles for all residents, regardless of income, ability, or employment.

1.1 Expand public park access and programming to promote healthy lifestyles through physical exercise.	Short	DPR	● ● ● ●
1.2 Invest in a public health campaign to promote the benefits of healthy eating and active living.	Short	DOH	● ● ● ●

### Goal 2: Create safe environments that are conducive to healthy living.

2.1 Develop a "Healthy by Design" program for new affordable housing projects, with priority focus in low-income and underserved neighborhoods.	Medium	DCHA	● ● ● ●
2.2 Complete a feasibility study to understand the environmental, economic, and social barriers to healthy lifestyles that are specific to the District.	Short	DOH	● ● ● ●

## EQUITY & DIVERSITY

### Goal 1: Ensure that all school-age children in the District are educated in sustainability and prepared for a changing green economy.

1.1 Modernize all public school buildings.	Medium	DGS	● ● ● ●
1.2 Increase the quality and number of Early Childhood Development Centers.	Short	DME	● ● ● ●
1.3 Launch the implementation of the Environmental Literacy Plan (ELP) in school curriculum.	Short	DDOE	● ● ● ●

### Goal 2: Ensure transparency in the District's sustainability agenda including future plans and past progress.

2.1 Reach community members in their daily lives with sustainability information.	Short	DDOE, OP	● ● ● ●
2.2 Feature the actions and impacts of residents and local community leaders in public sustainability campaigns.	Short	DDOE	● ● ● ●

## CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

### Goal 1: Minimize the generation of greenhouse gas emissions from all sources.

1.1 Create online tools that allow people to view and share greenhouse gas emissions data and make more informed choices.	Short	DDOE	● ● ● ●
1.2 Create financial tools that support climate protection programs by capturing the environmental costs of products and services.	Short	DDOE	● ● ● ●
1.3 Report District emissions on a regular basis to track the reductions that can be attributed to specific initiatives.	Short	DDOE	● ● ● ●

### Goal 2: Advance physical adaptation and human preparedness to increase the District's resilience to future climate change.

2.1 Evaluate the vulnerability of the District's energy infrastructure to the anticipated impacts of climate change.	Short	DDOE	● ● ● ●
2.2 Prepare District emergency services to respond to severe climate-related events such as extreme heat, storms, and flooding.	Medium	HSEMA	● ● ● ●
2.3 Require adaptation solutions as part of planning consent for new developments.	Medium	OP	● ● ● ●
2.4 Ensure transportation infrastructure can withstand the upper ranges of projected climate change impacts.	Long	DDOT	● ● ● ●

## BUILT ENVIRONMENT

### Goal 1: Increase urban density to accommodate future population growth within the District's existing urban area.

1.1 Increase affordable housing in the District.	Long	EOM	● ● ● ●
1.2 Expand brownfield redevelopment incentives and certification programs.	Long	DDOE	● ● ● ●
1.3 Reduce required parking minimums and restrict surface parking for large developments.	Short	OP	● ● ● ●
1.4 Modify zoning regulations to allow accessory dwellings such as apartments over garages or in basements.	Short	OP	● ● ● ●

### Goal 2: Develop active and vibrant neighborhoods to create new economic opportunity and support a high quality of life.

2.1 Ease permitting requirements for temporary arts, community, and business uses.	Short	DCM	● ● ● ●
2.2 Create a government-backed revolving loan fund to support new businesses with a priority for those developed by District residents.	Medium	DSLBD	● ● ● ●



# LEADING STAR

## COMMUNITY INDICATORS

**VIEW INDICATORS** Select an indicator from the list to view data

DRINKING WATER QUALITY



SAFE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT



HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION COSTS



TRANSPORTATION MODE SPLIT



TRANSPORTATION SAFETY



CLIMATE ADAPTATION, VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT



GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS



RENEWABLE ELECTRICAL ENERGY SUPPLY



TOTAL SOLID WASTE



THIRD GRADE READING PROFICIENCY



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE & GRADUATION RATE EQUITY



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, RISK AND EXPOSURE



EQUITABLE ACCESS & PROXIMITY TO FOUNDATIONAL COMMUNITY ASSETS



BUSINESSES



EMPLOYMENT



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME



LIVING WAGES



FOOD SECURITY AND ASSISTANCE



ACCESS TO HEALTHFUL FOOD



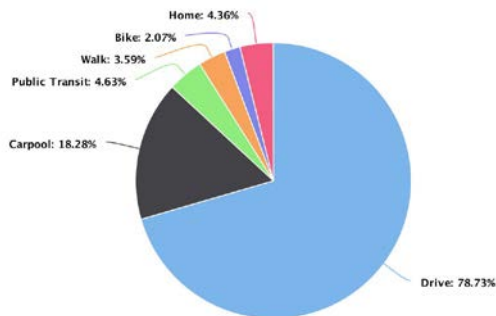
VIOLENT CRIME RATE



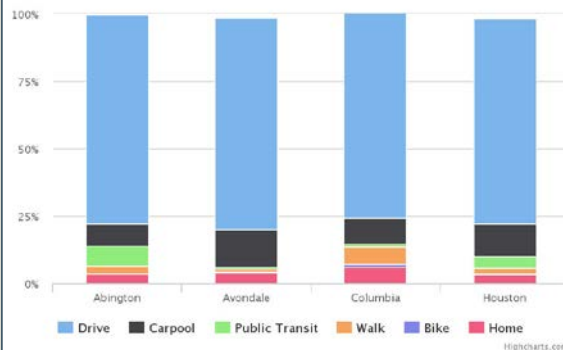
DESIGNATED GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE



Transportation Mode Split



Transportation Mode Split



Transportation Mode Split



# Download STAR Version 2.0

## www.STARcommunities.org

THE RATING SYSTEM    CERTIFICATION    WHO'S INVOLVED    GET STARTED    NEWSROOM    ABOUT US



## STAR COMMUNITIES

SUSTAINABILITY TOOLS FOR ASSESSING & RATING COMMUNITIES

- The Rating System
  - What is a Sustainable Community?
  - Why STAR?
  - STAR Framework
  - History & Development
  - Committee Membership
  - Download the STAR Rating System
- Certification

## DOWNLOAD THE STAR RATING SYSTEM

For the past year, STAR Communities staff, committee members, member communities, and volunteers have engaged in the first major [update](#) of the rating system and its accompanying technical guide. The culmination of this effort is **Version 2.0 of the STAR Community Rating System**, which features new and updated metrics based on feedback from content experts and local government users. Version 2.0 was released in October 2016.

The STAR Community Rating System – our framework of sustainability goals, objectives and evaluation measures – is available to download for FREE from this page. You may also be interested in purchasing the [Technical Guide](#), the





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## WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

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