STAR Community Index
The City of Indianapolis (City) was recently accepted as a STAR Pilot Community (www.starcommunities.org). Participation in the STAR Community Program as an early adopter will provide the City with a highly efficient, widely accepted, and cost-effective tool to focus, communicate, and fully leverage its sustainability successes on the path to meeting Mayor Ballard’s goal of becoming the most sustainable city in the Midwest. The City plans to engage the community as implementation partners through an Advisory Committee to begin prioritizing STAR objectives to pursue through municipal operations and public-private partnerships. STAR certification for the City of Indianapolis may be pursued under the program.

Background
The STAR Community Index is the first framework for evaluating, quantifying, and improving the livability and sustainability of U.S. communities. Much like a “LEED for Cities,” STAR provides a framework for municipal sustainability management, and offers levels of certification. STAR provides the following:
- A common and credible framework for leadership in sustainability encompassing the social, economic and environmental dimensions of community;
- A rating system that drives continuous improvement and fosters competition; and
- An online data tool to gather, organize, analyze, and present information required to meet sustainability goals.

Participants and Advisors include the National League of Cities, National Association of Counties, and International City/County Manager’s Association. The US Conference of Mayors actively participates with STAR Steering Committee Member organization, ICLEI. Over the past six years, more than 200 volunteers representing 50 cities and counties, state and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, national associations, universities, utilities, and private corporations have contributed to the development of the STAR system.

The following cities are participating as STAR Pilot Communities and will gain national recognition as the first U.S. cities rated in the index:

- Albany, NY
- Atlanta, GA*
- Austin, TX*
- Broward County, FL
- Chandler, AZ
- Chattanooga, TN*
- Cleveland, OH
- Davenport, IA
- DeKalb County, GA
- Des Moines, IA*
- El Cerrito, CA
- Evanston, IL
- Fort Collins, CO
- King County, WA*
- Lee County, FL
- Northhampton, MA
- Portland, OR
- Riverside, CA
- Rockingham County, NC
- Santa Fe, NM
- Santa Monica, CA
- New York, NY*
- St. Louis, MO*
- Seattle, WA
- Tacoma, WA
- Tucson, AZ
- Victoria, BC
- Washington, DC*
- Woodbridge Township, NJ

(* indicates participation as a 2010 Beta Community)
Priority Activities

1. Benchmark Existing Programs against STAR Framework – 2013
   - Benchmark City of Indianapolis Sustainability Programs and Community Initiatives against the STAR framework. Currently underway.
   - Align Existing Metrics and Note Gaps.
   - Work with partners to develop a plan to track and document STAR metrics not currently being tracked.

2. Engage Appropriate Staff and Community Support – Q2 2013, ongoing
   - Engage an Advisory Committee* and cross-departmental staff working group* in order to do the following:
     - Fully support implementation of the STAR Community Index
     - Seek STAR Certification if applicable
     - Align sustainability priorities, goals, action plans, and reporting mechanisms
     - Garner support and seek funding to support implementation actions
     - Develop and implement results-based communications strategy. Currently underway.

3. Align Reporting Mechanisms with STAR Framework – 2013, ongoing
   - Publish first City of Indianapolis STAR Benchmark Report. Targeted for Q3 2014*

   Work with Advisory Committee and cross-departmental staff working group to formalize a STAR Action Plan that aligns and articulates the City’s priorities, goals, implementation and reporting mechanisms; and actively seeks to align with existing community-wide planning mechanisms.
# The STAR Community Rating System

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

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