GOAL AREA: Built Environment

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

Introduction

The 7 Objectives in the Built Environment Goal Area evaluate community development patterns, livability, and design characteristics, with emphasis on access and choice for all residents regardless of income. BE-3: Compact & Complete Communities promotes pedestrian-scaled, mixed-use development in high-density areas that support public transit. BE-4: Housing Affordability measures location efficiency through the combined costs of housing and transportation and encourages affordable housing in areas where transportation costs are already low due to public transit accessibility. BE-7: Transportation Choices provides the direct measure of transportation alternatives, affordability, safety, and Vehicle Miles Traveled.

The Built Environment Goal Area addresses other types of infrastructure, such as the provision of clean drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater in BE-2: Community Water Systems. BE-5: Infill & Redevelopment analyzes redevelopment and the condition of public infrastructure to encourage efficient use and reuse of land. BE-6: Public Parkland promotes accessibility to abundant, well-designed parks and greenways. Finally, BE-1: Ambient Noise & Light encourages reducing excessive noise and light trespass that adversely impact residents and local wildlife and protecting views of the night sky.

Objective Number	Objective Title and Purpose	Available Points
BE-1	**Ambient Noise & Light:** *Minimize and manage ambient noise and light levels to protect public health and the integrity of ecological systems*	10
BE-2	**Community Water Systems:** *Provide a clean and secure water supply for all local users through the management of potable water, wastewater, stormwater, and other piped infrastructure*	15
BE-3	**Compact & Complete Communities:** *Concentrate development in compact, human-scaled, walkable centers and neighborhoods that connect to public transit, offer diverse uses and services, and provide housing options for families of all income levels*	20
BE-4	**Housing Affordability:** *Construct, preserve, and maintain an adequate and diverse supply of location-efficient and affordable housing options for all residents*	15
BE-5	**Infill & Redevelopment:** *Focus growth and redevelopment in infill areas to reduce sprawl and ensure existing infrastructure that supports the community is in satisfactory working condition*	10
BE-6	**Public Parkland:** *Create a system of well-used and enjoyable public parkland that feature equitable, convenient access for residents throughout the community*	15
BE-7	**Transportation Choices:** *Promote diverse transportation modes, including walking, biking, and public transit, that are safe, low-cost, and reduce vehicle miles traveled*	15
	Total Points Available:	100

GOAL AREA: Climate & Energy

Reduce climate impacts through adaptation and mitigation efforts and increase resource efficiency

Introduction

The 7 objectives in STAR's Climate & Energy Goal Area aim to reduce climate impacts and increase resource efficiency in order to create safer, healthier, and more resilient communities. CE-1: Climate Adaptation and CE-2: Greenhouse Gas Mitigation are critical to achieving reductions in harmful climate impacts and promoting resource savings through decreased energy, water, and materials use.

Most of the objectives in Climate & Energy focus on achieving incremental increases in resource efficiency. CE-4: Energy Efficiency and CE-5: Water Efficiency encourage communities to reduce energy use over time in buildings and water consumption per capita. CE-6: Local Government GHG & Resource Efficiency offers local governments an opportunity to describe how their internal efforts demonstrate their leadership in this Goal Area. CE-3: Greening the Energy Supply complements the other objectives in the Goal Area by addressing the alternative energy sources for the transportation and the community's electrical power supply.

Finally, through its ambitious waste reduction targets, CE-7: Waste Minimization rewards communities for efforts to reduce, reuse, and recycle materials.

Objective Number	Objective Title and Purpose	Available Points
CE-1	**Climate Adaptation:** *Strengthen the resilience of communities to climate change impacts on built, natural, economic, health, and social systems*	15
CE-2	**Greenhouse Gas Mitigation:** *Achieve greenhouse gas emissions reductions throughout the community*	15
CE-3	**Greening the Energy Supply:** *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
CE-4	**Energy Efficiency:** *Minimize energy use and demand in the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors as a means to increase energy efficiency in the community*	15
CE-5	**Water Efficiency:** *Minimize water use and demand as a means to conserve water in the community*	10
CE-6	**Local Government GHG & Resource Efficiency:** *Lead by example by reducing local government greenhouse gas emissions and minimizing energy and water use in local government facilities and specified local infrastructure*	15
CE-7	**Waste Minimization:** *Reduce and reuse material waste produced in the community*	15
	Total Points Available:	100

GOAL AREA: Economy & Jobs

Create equitably shared prosperity and access to quality jobs

Introduction

The 6 objectives of STAR's Economy & Jobs Goal Area work together to promote equitably shared prosperity and access to quality jobs. EJ-1: Business Retention & Development and EJ-3: Local Economy both focus on supporting existing businesses within the community to retain workers and drive expansion to create a self-reliant local economy. Economic development efforts should consider not only the number of businesses, but the mix of businesses that suit the community and respond to its needs.

Recognizing that a robust local economy also needs to attract and incubate new businesses, EJ-5: Targeted Industry Development and EJ-2: Green Market Development seek to focus industry clusters and promote emerging green industries that protect the environment while strengthening and diversifying the local economy.

EJ-4: Quality Jobs & Living Wages evaluates workers' quality of life through increased household income and living wages, while EJ-6: Workforce Readiness recognizes the importance of a skilled workforce to fulfill local business needs and take advantage of available job opportunities.

Objective Number	Objective Title and Purpose	Available Points
EJ-1	**Business Retention & Development:** *Foster equitable economic prosperity and stability by retaining and expanding businesses in all neighborhoods with support from the business community*	20
EJ-2	**Green Market Development:** *Increase overall market demand for products and services that protect the environment*	15
EJ-3	**Local Economy:** *Create an increasingly self-reliant community through a robust local economy that strongly supports small independent businesses*	15
EJ-4	**Quality Jobs & Living Wages:** *Expand job opportunities that support upward economic mobility, offer supportive workplace policies, and pay living wages so that all working people and their families can afford basic necessities without governmental assistance*	20
EJ-5	**Targeted Industry Development:** *Increase local competitiveness by strengthening clusters of businesses, suppliers, and associated institutions*	15
EJ-6	**Workforce Readiness:** *Prepare the workforce for successful employment through increasing attainment of post-secondary education and improving outcomes of workforce development programs*	15
	Total Points Available:	100

GOAL AREA: Education, Arts & Community

Empower vibrant, educated, connected, and diverse communities

Introduction

The 6 Objectives of STAR's Education, Arts & Community Goal Area promote an educated, cohesive, and socially connected community. EAC-3: Educational Opportunity & Attainment evaluates achievement and equitable access to a quality education so that all students may realize their full potential. EAC-1: Arts & Culture and EAC-5: Social & Cultural Diversity respect and celebrate the contributions that the arts and diversity bring to vibrant neighborhoods and communities.

Recognizing the importance of social connections within the community, EAC-4: Historic Preservation seeks to preserve the historical buildings and cultural resources that link the community to its past, while EAC-2: Community Cohesion encourages positive social interaction amongst neighbors. EAC-6: Aging in the Community addresses many issues of intergenerational importance, but focuses on enhancing quality of life as people age.

Objective Number	Objective Title and Purpose	Available Points
EAC-1	**Arts & Culture:** *Provide a broad range of arts and cultural resources and activities that encourage community member participation, creative self-expression, and community revitalization*	**15**
EAC-2	**Community Cohesion:** *Promote socially cohesive neighborhoods where residents are connected, have a sense of place, and feel committed to their community*	**20**
EAC-3	**Educational Opportunity & Attainment:** *Achieve equitable attainment of a quality education for individuals from birth to adulthood*	**20**
EAC-4	**Historic Preservation:** *Preserve and reuse historic structures and sites to retain local, regional, and national history and heritage, and reinforce community character*	**15**
EAC-5	**Social & Cultural Diversity:** *Celebrate, respect, and represent the diverse social and cultural backgrounds of the community and its members*	**15**
EAC-6	**Aging in the Community:** *Encourage active aging by optimizing opportunities for health, participation, and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age*	**15**
	Total Points Available:	**100**

GOAL AREA: Equity & Empowerment

Ensure equity, inclusion, and access to opportunity for all residents

Introduction

The 6 Objectives in STAR's Equity & Empowerment Goal Area promote equity, inclusion, and access to opportunity and community resources for all community members. While equity and empowerment are also addressed in other Goal Areas and objectives, such as EAC-3, Outcome 3: Equitable Graduation Rate, this Goal Area delves deeper into key aspects of social equity.

EE-1: Civic Engagement measures process equity through voting, participation on local boards and committees, and community sense of empowerment. EE-2: Civil & Human Rights promotes the respect, protection, and fulfillment of civil and human rights by all members of the community.

EE-3: Environmental Justice addresses neighborhoods and populations overburdened by environmental pollution, which leads to disproportionate environmental, economic, and health impacts. EE-4: Equitable Services & Access evaluates the spatial distribution of foundational community assets, such as public schools, public transit, and healthful food, and rewards communities for reducing disparities in access.

Finally, objectives in the Equity & Empowerment Goal Area enable all residents to lead lives of dignity and address issues related to intergenerational inequity. EE-5: Human Services assures that the most vulnerable community members have timely access to necessary services, while EE-6: Poverty Prevention & Alleviation focuses on the ability of people living in poverty to obtain economic stability, and ensures the local government is working to alleviate the immediate effects of poverty.

Objective Number	Objective Title and Purpose	Available Points
EE-1	**Civic Engagement:** *Facilitate inclusive civic engagement through the empowerment of all community members to participate in local decision-making*	15
EE-2	**Civil & Human Rights:** *Respect, protect, and fulfill the civil and human rights of all members of the community*	10
EE-3	**Environmental Justice:** *Ensure no neighborhoods or populations are overburdened by environmental pollution*	15
EE-4	**Equitable Services & Access:** *Establish equitable spatial access to foundational community assets within and between neighborhoods and populations*	20
EE-5	**Human Services:** *Ensure that essential human services are readily available for the most vulnerable community members to ensure all residents receive supportive services when needed*	20
EE-6	**Poverty Prevention & Alleviation:** *Alleviate the impacts of poverty, prevent people from falling into poverty, and proactively enable those who are living in poverty to obtain greater, lasting economic stability and security*	20
	Total Points Available:	100

GOAL AREA: Health & Safety

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

Introduction

The 7 Objectives in STAR's Health & Safety Goal Area recognize that the development of healthy, safe, and resilient communities requires proactive efforts to prevent disease, injury, and premature death by fortifying protective factors and reducing risk factors that undermine healthy outcomes.

Several objectives are closely focused on reducing obesity and preventing related illnesses like diabetes and heart disease. HS-1: Active Living encourages physical activity for adults and kids through community design and activities that promote walking, bicycling, and other forms of recreation. HS-4: Food Access & Nutrition measures the accessibility of fresh, healthful food and recognizes efforts to encourage healthy eating. HS-2: Community Health serves as the overall, composite measure of public health and integration of health considerations into local decision-making. HS-5: Health Systems addresses the structural and professional components of health care in the community, such as hospitals, clinics, and providers.

The remaining objectives address planning efforts to prevent and alleviate the impacts of hazardous events, emergency situations, violence, and crime. HS-6: Hazard Mitigation focuses on reducing vulnerability to existing community risk areas. HS-3: Emergency Management & Response evaluates the preparedness of emergency responders to efficiently and effectively respond to emergencies. HS-7: Safe Communities, seeks to reduce violence and crime through proven prevention strategies.

Objective Number	Objective Title and Purpose	Available Points
HS-1	**Active Living:** *Enable adults and kids to maintain healthy, active lifestyles by integrating physical activity into their daily routines*	15
HS-2	**Community Health:** *Achieve positive health outcomes and minimize health risk factors associated with behaviors and poor indoor air quality in schools and homes*	15
HS-3	**Emergency Management & Response:** *Reduce harm to humans and property by utilizing collaborative approaches to increase capability and capacity to respond to emergency incidents*	15
HS-4	**Food Access & Nutrition:** *Ensure that adults and children of all income levels have physical and economic access to fresh and healthful food and have opportunities to learn about nutritious eating and food safety*	15
HS-5	**Health Systems:** *Provide high quality local health systems that are accessible and responsive to community needs*	10
HS-6	**Hazard Mitigation:** *Reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to life and property from existing hazard events through an on-going process that occurs before, during, and after disasters*	15
HS-7	**Safe Communities:** *Prevent and reduce crime and increase perceptions of safety through interagency collaboration and with residents as empowered partners*	15
	Total Points Available:	**100**

GOAL AREA: Natural Systems

Protect and restore the natural resources upon which life depends

Introduction

The 6 objectives in the Natural Systems Goal Area help communities protect and restore the places that provide resources to support life. The NS Goal Area takes an ecosystem services approach and recognizes the wide range of benefits natural systems provide, such as food, water, and natural regulating processes affecting climate and floods. Ecosystem services also extend to cultural benefits like aesthetic value and recreation.

NS-5: Water in the Environment and NS-4: Outdoor Air Quality bring attention to the reality that clean water and air are vital for humans and other species to thrive. NS-2: Biodiversity & Invasive Species recognizes that achieving biodiversity requires a two-prong approach of protecting habitats and controlling the spread of destructive non-native species.

With an emphasis on connectivity and collaboration, NS-3: Natural Resource Protection focuses on issues at a broad ecosystem and ecoregional scale. This objective is complemented by NS-1: Green Infrastructure, which aims to integrate natural design with the built environment and emphasizes benefits that extend beyond stormwater harvesting to include localized cooling and air quality. NS-6: Working Lands recognizes the environmental and economic contributions of land management to the Natural Systems Goal Area.

Objective Number	Objective Title and Purpose	Available Points
NS-1	**Green Infrastructure:** *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*	**20**
NS-2	**Biodiversity & Invasive Species:** *Maintain the urban ecosystem habitat at levels that promote biodiversity and manage or prevent invasive species*	**10**
NS-3	**Natural Resource Protection:** *Protect, enhance, and restore natural ecosystems and cultural landscapes to confer resilience and support clean water and air, food supply, and public safety*	**20**
NS-4	**Outdoor Air Quality:** *Ensure that outdoor air quality is healthy for all segments of the human population and protects the welfare of the community*	**15**
NS-5	**Water in the Environment:** *Protect and restore the biological, chemical, and hydrological integrity of water in the natural environment*	**20**
NS-6	**Working Lands:** *Conserve and sustainably manage lands that provide ecosystem services and raw materials*	**15**
	Total Points Available:	**100**

Innovation & Process

Recognize important local government practices and processes that guide the implementation of sustainability and accelerate community-scale achievement across STAR Goal Areas

Introduction

The Innovation & Process (IP) category is an avenue for discovering emerging and cutting-edge practices that communities are implementing to improve local sustainability. IP also rewards communities for putting into place best practices and processes to underpin and support continuous improvement in sustainability outcomes. There are 4 sections in this category: Best Practices & Processes; Exemplary Performance; Local Innovation; and Good Governance.

Section	Title and Purpose	Available Points
IP-1	**Best Practices & Processes:** *Recognize important local government practices and processes that underpin the implementation of sustainability measures and accelerate community-scale achievement across STAR Goal Areas*	**10**
IP-2	**Exemplary Performance:** *Reward performance in Community Level Outcome measures or Local Action measures that significantly exceeds the evaluation criteria established by the existing STAR Community Rating System*	**10**
IP-3	**Local Innovation:** *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*	**20**
IP-4	**Good Governance:** *Recognize the achievement of demonstrated outcomes and good practices in governance that elevate achievement and success rates across multiple goals and objectives*	**10**
	Total Points Available:	**50**