



March 17, 2017

Eliot Allen

TransformativeTools.org

Portland Oregon

A Dozen Tools for Accelerating Local Sustainability Leadership



Today's Presentation



- Why urban sustainability appraisal?
- Appraisal tool qualities
- Profiles of a dozen assessment & rating tools
- Tool selection guidance
- Q&A



Learning Objectives



1. Understand the value of urban sustainability appraisal
2. Recognize the qualities of an appraisal tool
3. Be aware of the 12 profiled U.S. tools
4. Know how to select a best-fit tool





Transformative Tools

A global registry of urban sustainability rating tools

[Home](#)

[Tools](#)

[Resources](#)

[About](#)

[Contact](#)

[Cities](#)

[Planned Neighborhoods](#)

[Existing Neighborhoods](#)

[All Neighborhoods](#)

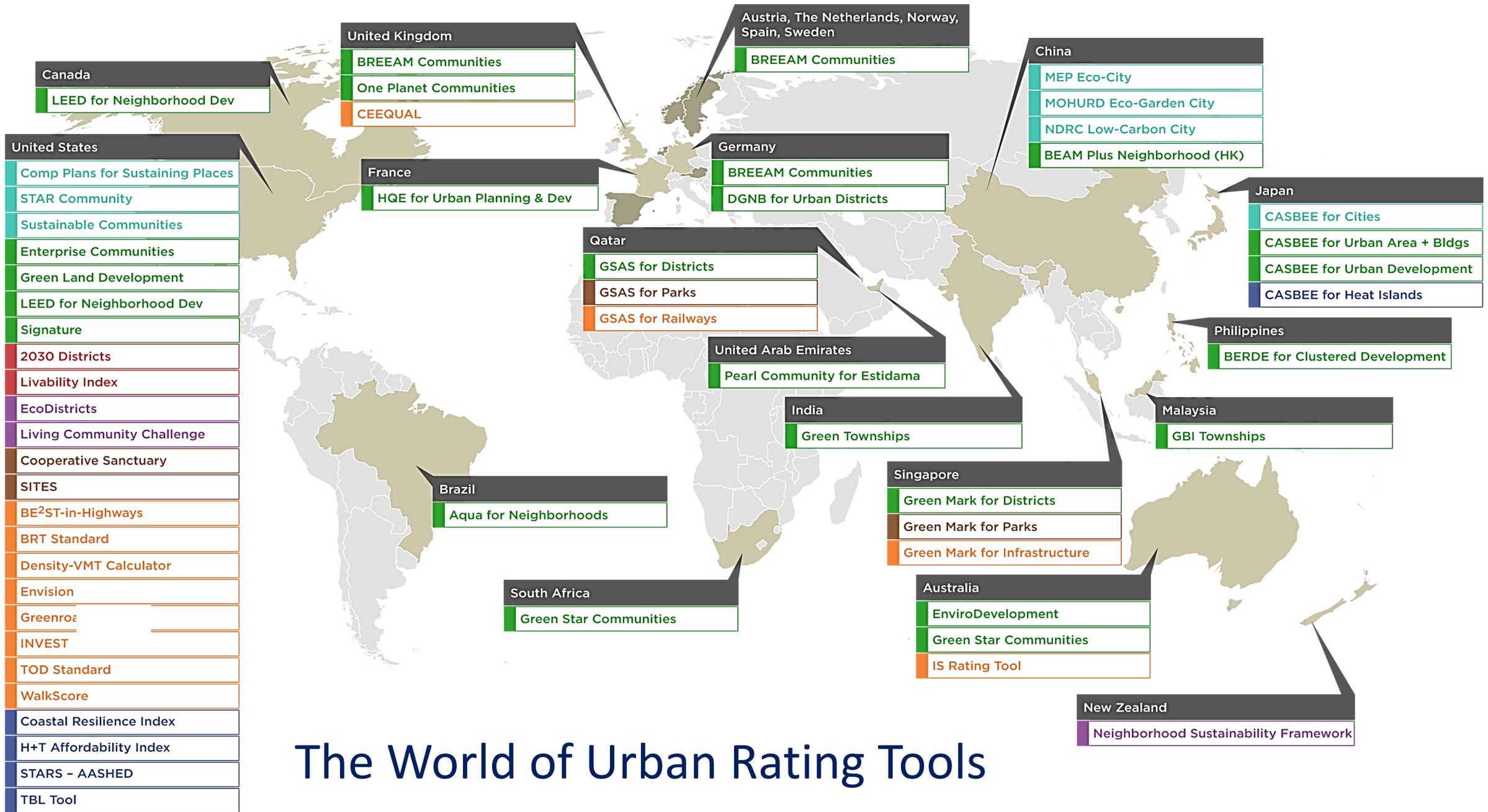
[Landscapes & Parks](#)

[Transportation & Infrastructure](#)

[Special Purposes](#)

[TransformativeTools.org](https://transformativetools.org)

[Tools Registry](#)



The World of Urban Rating Tools

Tool Definition for Today's Webinar

urban

Built environment
beyond buildings

sustainability

Well-being
for future
generations

appraisal

Quantitative
assessment or rating

tool

Publicly
available
nationally in
the U.S.



A Dozen U.S. Tools

Urban Components

- SITES
- Envision

Neighborhoods

- 2030 Districts
- EcoDistricts Certified
- Green Communities
- Living Comm. Challenge
- LEED Neighborhood Dev.
- LEED for Communities

Cities

- Sustaining Places
- Sustainable Communities
- LEED for Cities
- STAR Community

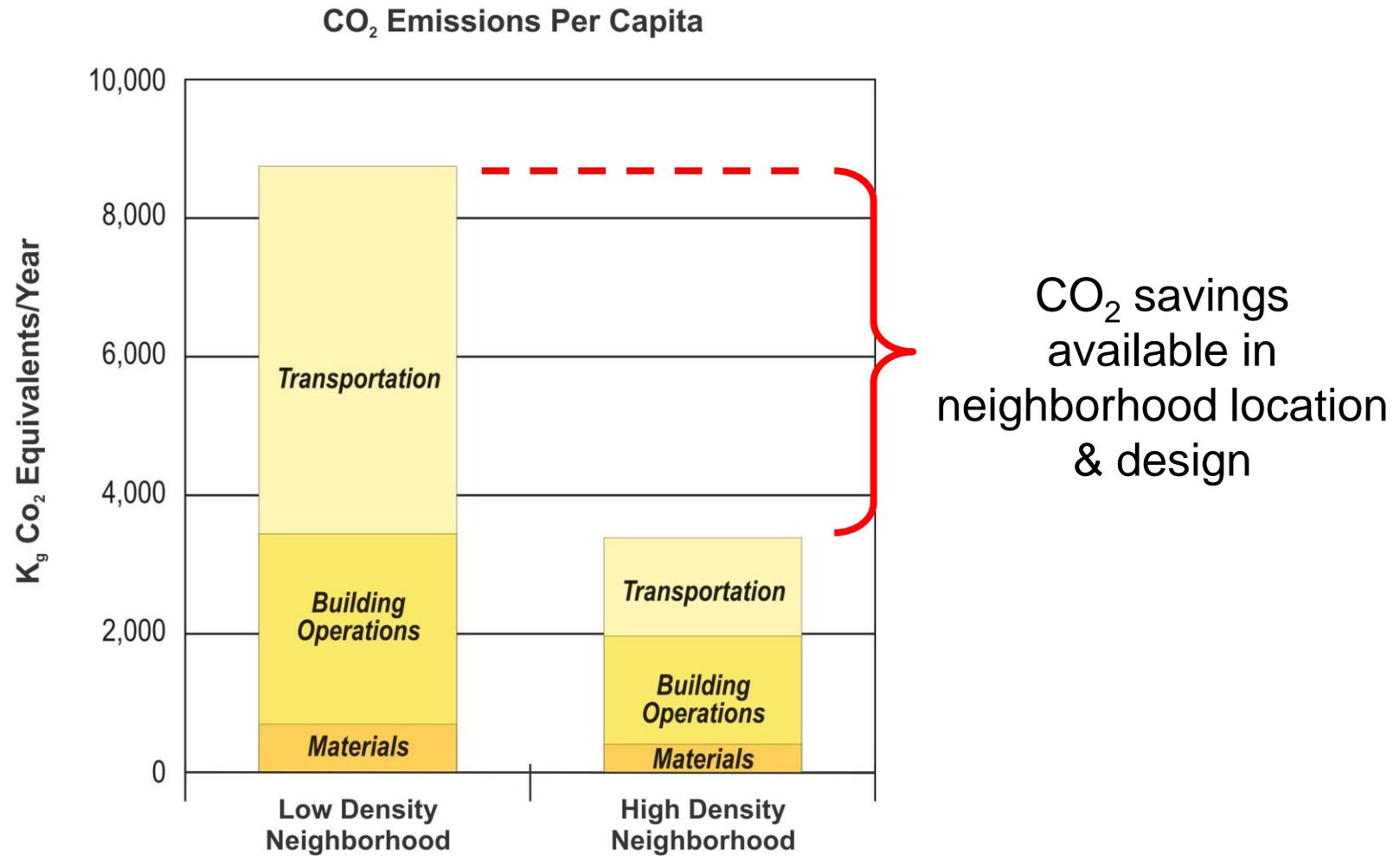


Why Urban Sustainability Appraisal?

- 80% of the U.S. population in cities
- Built environment decisions last for decades, centuries
- Urgency of critical issues – climate change, equity, resilience



What's at Stake



Toronto



Two Take-Aways

- Using appraisal tools to kindle leadership in your community
- Using the tools to accelerate your community's sustainability progress

Tools as Petri Dishes for Leadership

Leaders

- Citizens/advocates
- Planners/designers
- Developers
- Local governments

Attributes

- Awareness
- Capacity
- Incentives
- Affirmation

Inclusive & Collaborative Appraisal

DECLARATION OF COLLABORATION TEMPLATE

- Intent
- District & backbone org description
- Backbone org role & responsibilities
- Decision-making body (district team)
- Decision-making procedures
- Stakeholder resources
- Imperatives alignment
- Interim boundary & asset map

EcoDistricts Certified



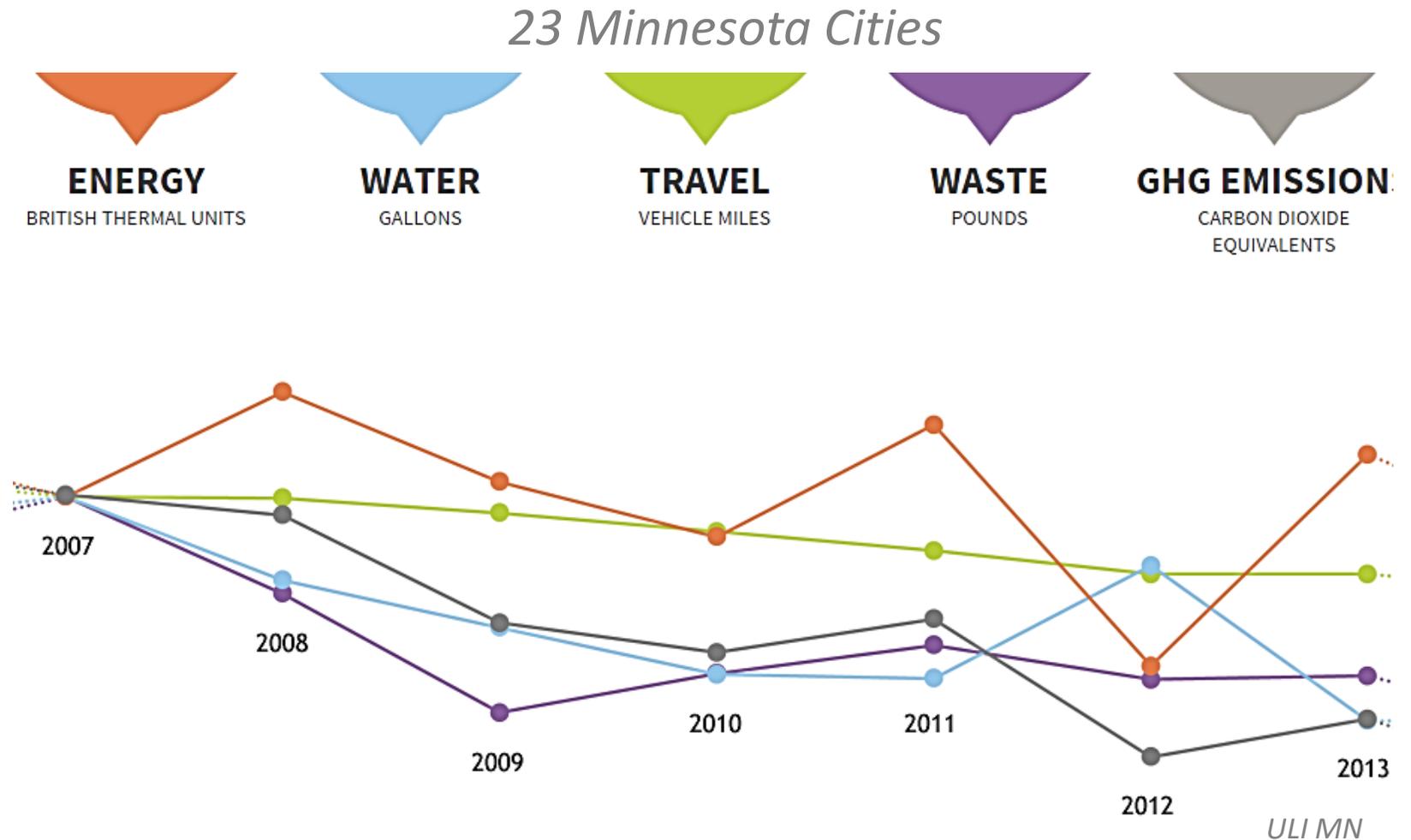
Those Most Vulnerable to Inequities



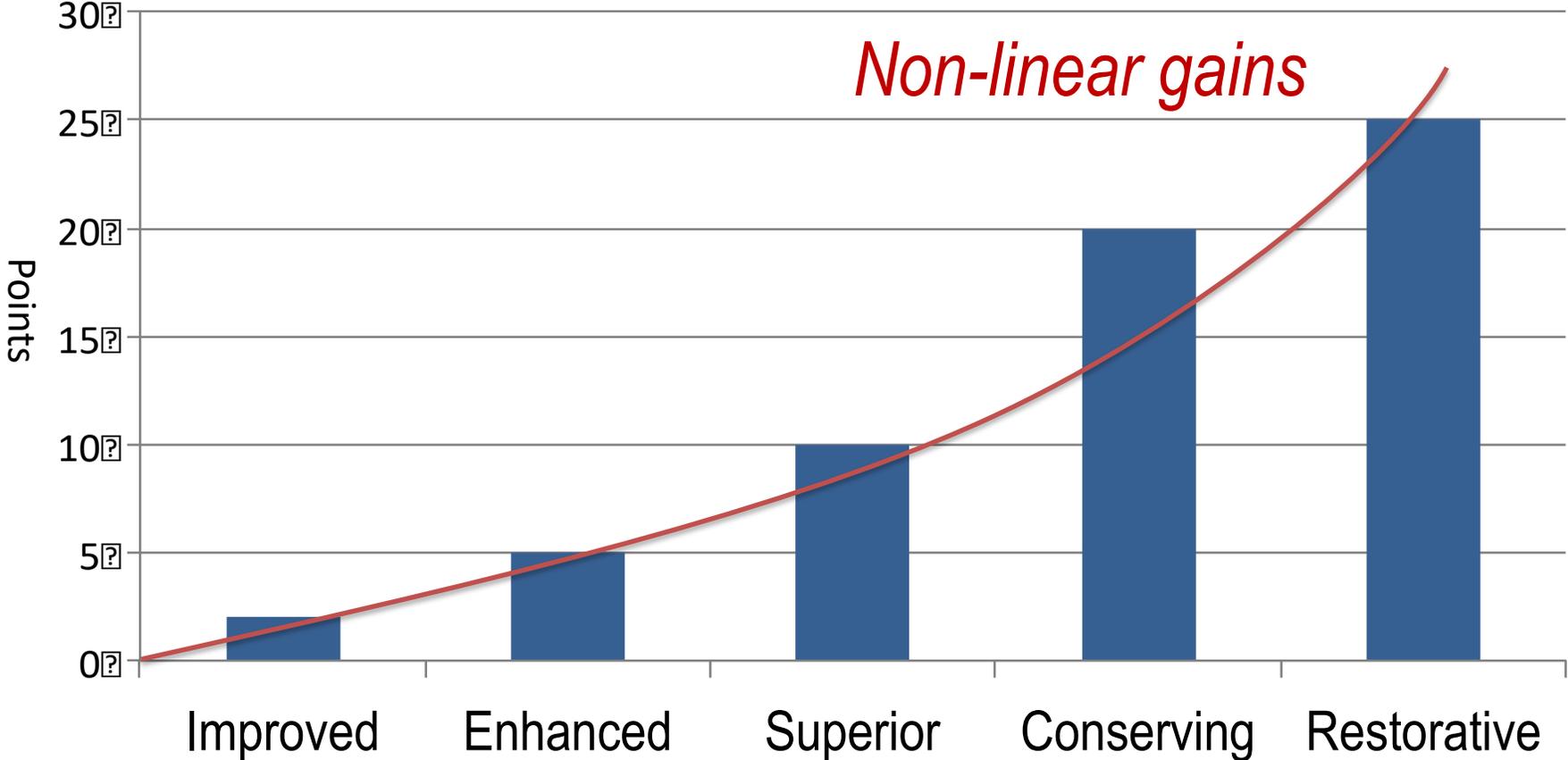
- People of color
- People of low income
- Youth and the elderly
- Recent immigrants and persons with limited English
- People with disabilities
- The homeless

Tools as Sustainability Accelerators

- You can't manage what you don't measure
- When you *do* measure, gains can be accelerated



Envision Infrastructure Rating System



Monetizing Sustainability Gains in Miami Beach

Buildings over 7,000 sq. ft. pay 5% of construction cost to Sustainability Fund

Certification Compliance Schedule

<u>Level of Certification Achieved</u>	<u>Sustainability Fee Reimbursement to Participant for meeting certain Green Building certification levels</u>
<u>Failure to obtain Certification</u>	<u>0% refund of bond or payment of Sustainability fee</u>
<u>LEED Certified</u>	<u>50% refund of bond or payment of Sustainability Fee</u>
<u>LEED Silver Certified</u>	<u>66% refund of bond or payment of Sustainability Fee</u>
<u>LEED Gold Certified or International Living Future Institute Petals or Net Zero Energy Certified</u>	<u>100% refund of bond or payment of Sustainability Fee</u>
<u>LEED Platinum Certified or International Living Future Institute Living Building Challenge Certified</u>	<u>100% refund of bond or payment of Sustainability Fee</u>

Uses of Sustainability Fund

- (1) Environmental restoration projects;
- (2) Environmental remediation projects;
- (3) Environmental monitoring;
- (4) Green infrastructure;
- (5) Enhanced storm water quality and quantity improvements;
- (6) Sustainability planning efforts.



PORTLAND'S NEWEST NEIGHBORHOOD

AN ECO-COMMUNITY, BRINGING US TOGETHER

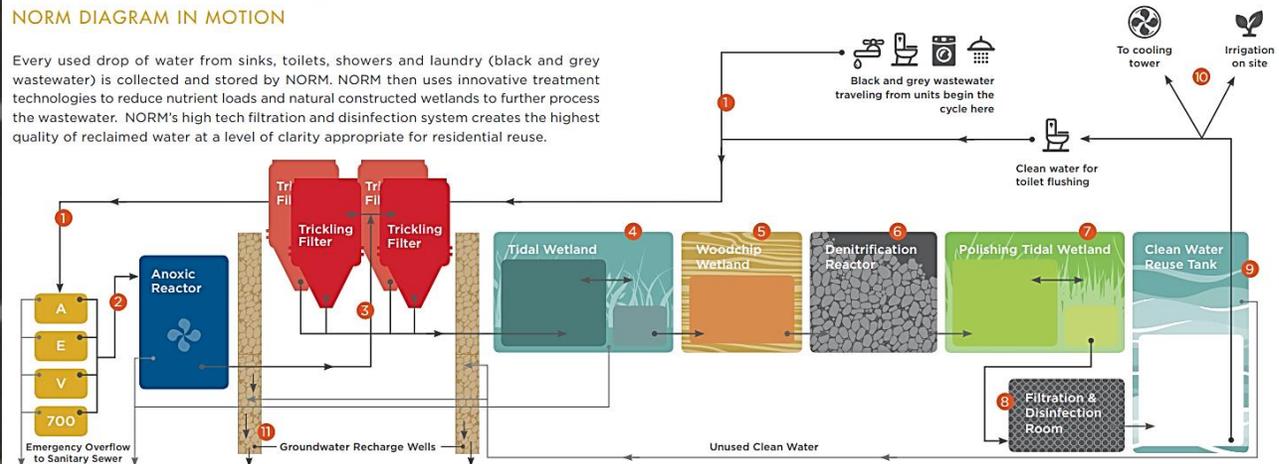
100% Onsite
Wastewater
Treatment

Over \$1 million
saved on SDC

SO HOW DOES THIS WORK?

NORM DIAGRAM IN MOTION

Every used drop of water from sinks, toilets, showers and laundry (black and grey wastewater) is collected and stored by NORM. NORM then uses innovative treatment technologies to reduce nutrient loads and natural constructed wetlands to further process the wastewater. NORM's high tech filtration and disinfection system creates the highest quality of reclaimed water at a level of clarity appropriate for residential reuse.



1. Primary Tanks collect and store wastewater from each building.
2. The Anoxic Reactor helps to reduce nutrient loads from the wastewater.

3. Trickling Filters further reduce nutrient loads and eliminate odor.
4, 5, 6 and 7. Natural Treatment Wetlands work using a tidal-flow (fill and drain) process to foster naturally occurring microbial organisms used to treat wastewater.

8. Mechanical filters screen out fine particles. Ultraviolet (UV) and ozone technology is used to kill pathogens and improve water clarity.

9. and 10. Clean water is stored and distributed for reuse.
11. Any unused treated water is infiltrated into the ground via groundwater recharge wells.

LEED ND
Platinum

Tool Qualities

- Scope and scale of appraisal
- Assessment procedure/criteria
- Costs to use
- Tool maturity
- User support
- Overall usefulness



Appraisal Scope & Scale

- Topical scope – *environmental, economic, social*
- Physical scale – *entire city, neighborhood, component system*
- Built environment status - *planned or existing or both*
- Minimum required elements – *number of acres, buildings*



Appraisal Criteria

- Mandatory, elective, or mixed
- Prescriptive or performance-based criteria
- Criteria adaptable to local conditions/priorities
- Formulation process – transparent, multiple experts, public comment
- Regularly updated



Appraisal Procedure

- One-time, self-assessment by user - *1st party*
- One-time, completed by tool provider - *2nd party*
- One-time, completed by independent reviewer – *3rd party*
- Performance reporting, certification maintenance via *2nd or 3rd party*

Timeframe



- Time required to complete an appraisal:
 - Hours e.g. *Green Communities self-assessment*
 - Weeks e.g. *Sustaining Places*
 - Months e.g. *Envision, LEED ND*
 - Years e.g. *EcoDistricts Certified, Living Community*



Costs



- Tool provider fees
- Reference materials, training
- Expenses to complete process & documentation
- Ongoing costs to maintain rating, report performance



Tool Provider & User Support

- Type of organization, history with tool
- Technical guidance documentation
- Training availability
- Tool-related credential
- Staff/other support services



Overall Usefulness

- Alignment of tool output with user goals & objectives
- Value proposition – how does it move the needle?
- Tool efficiency = benefit / effort

Appraisal Tools as the Swiss Army Knives of Sustainability

- Best thinking on standards, process & indicators
- Public/professional education
- Collaboration platforms
- Self-assessment devices
- Formal certification tracks, performance reporting
- Monetizing sustainability outcomes



A Dozen Tools – *Urban Components*

Urban Components

- **SITES**
- **Envision**

Neighborhoods

- 2030 Districts
- EcoDistricts Certified
- Green Communities
- Living Comm. Challenge
- LEED Neigh. Dev.
- LEED Communities

Cities

- Sustaining Places
- Sustainable Communities
- LEED Cities
- STAR Community



SITES

SITES® is the most comprehensive system
for developing sustainable landscapes.

SITES is used by landscape architects, designers, engineers, architects, developers, policy-makers and others to align land development and management with innovative sustainable design.

Land is a crucial component of the built environment and can be planned, designed, developed and

SITES v2

Rating System

For Sustainable Land Design and Development



Sustainable
SITES
Initiative™

SECTION 1: SITE CONTEXT

SECTION 2: PRE-DESIGN ASSESSMENT & PLANNING

SECTION 3: SITE DESIGN — WATER

SECTION 4: SITE DESIGN — SOIL + VEGETATION

SECTION 5: SITE DESIGN — MATERIALS

SECTION 6: SITE DESIGN — HUMAN HEALTH + WELLBEING

SECTION 7: CONSTRUCTION

SECTION 8: OPERATIONS + MAINTENANCE

SECTION 9: EDUCATION + PERFORMANCE MONITORING

SECTION 10: INNOVATION + EXEMPLARY PERFORMANCE

SITES CERTIFICATION | 200 TOTAL POINTS

CERTIFIED	70
SILVER	85
GOLD	100
PLATINUM	135



SITES

SustainableSites.org

Focus	Criteria	Procedure	Cost
Landscapes	Rating system, no cost	1-time, point- based rating of project plan	\$8,000 >



How SITES Moves the Sustainability Leadership Needle

- Deep singular focus: dedicated exclusively, rigorously to sustainable landscapes
- Rewards public engagement & education – sparking leadership



ENVISION: A RATING SYSTEM FOR SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

The industry now has detailed guidance and metrics for sustainable infrastructure projects of every size and type.

[Learn More](#)

Create your free Envision account now.

[Get Started](#)

ENVISION - 60 Credits in 5 Categories Worth 758 Points



QUALITY OF LIFE

Purpose, Community, Wellbeing



LEADERSHIP

Collaboration, Management, Planning



RESOURCE ALLOCATION

Materials, Energy, Water



NATURAL WORLD

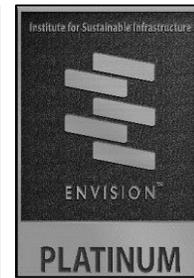
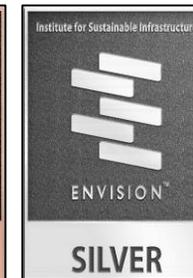
Siting, Land, Water, Biodiversity



CLIMATE AND RISK

Emissions, Resilience

Percentage of Points Achieved
20% 30% 40% 50%



ENVISION

SustainableInfrastructure.org

Focus	Criteria	Procedure	Cost
Infrastructure	Rating system, no cost	1-time, point- based rating of project plan	\$10,000 > by project cost



How ENVISION Moves the Sustainability Leadership Needle

- Embraces critical elements: civil engineering profession & infrastructure investments
- Rewards engagement & collaboration – inducements to leadership



A Dozen Tools - *Neighborhoods*

Urban Components

- SITES
- Envision

Neighborhoods

- **2030 Districts**
- **EcoDistricts Certified**
- **Green Communities**
- **Living Comm. Challenge**
- **LEED for Neigh. Dev.**
- **LEED for Communities**

Cities

- Sustaining Places
- Sustainable Communities
- LEED Cities
- STAR Community



GRAND RAPIDS, MI

2030 Districts are designated urban areas committed to meeting the energy, water, and transportation emissions reduction targets of the 2030 Challenge for Planning.

10 MILLION SQUARE FEET

[ALBUQUERQUE](#)

[AUSTIN](#)

[CLEVELAND](#)

[DALLAS](#)

[DENVER](#)

[GRAND RAPIDS](#)

[ITHACA](#)

[LOS ANGELES](#)

[PITTSBURGH](#)

[PORTLAND](#)

[SAN ANTONIO](#)

[SAN FRANCISCO](#)

[SEATTLE](#)

[STAMFORD](#)

[TORONTO](#)

With over **294 MILLION SQUARE FEET** of commercial building space, 2030 Districts are rapidly emerging

2030 DISTRICTS Performance Targets

Existing buildings:

- 50% reduction by 2030 - energy use, water use, transportation GHG emissions

New buildings:

- Energy – immediate 50% reduction, carbon neutral by 2030
- Water – immediate 50% reduction
- Transp GHG – immediate 50% reduction



2030 DISTRICTS

2030districts.org

Focus	Criteria	Procedure	Cost
Central business districts	Website description, toolkits	Self-appraisal, shared results, coop purchasing & action	Varies by local district



How 2030 DISTRICTS Moves the Needle

- Grass-roots, self-organizing action - induces leadership
- Shared data, tech assistance, communal buying power, to hit targets





EcoDistricts Certified

A New Model of Urban
Regeneration

[GET THE PROTOCOL](#)

The EcoDistricts Protocol

VERSION | **1.2**

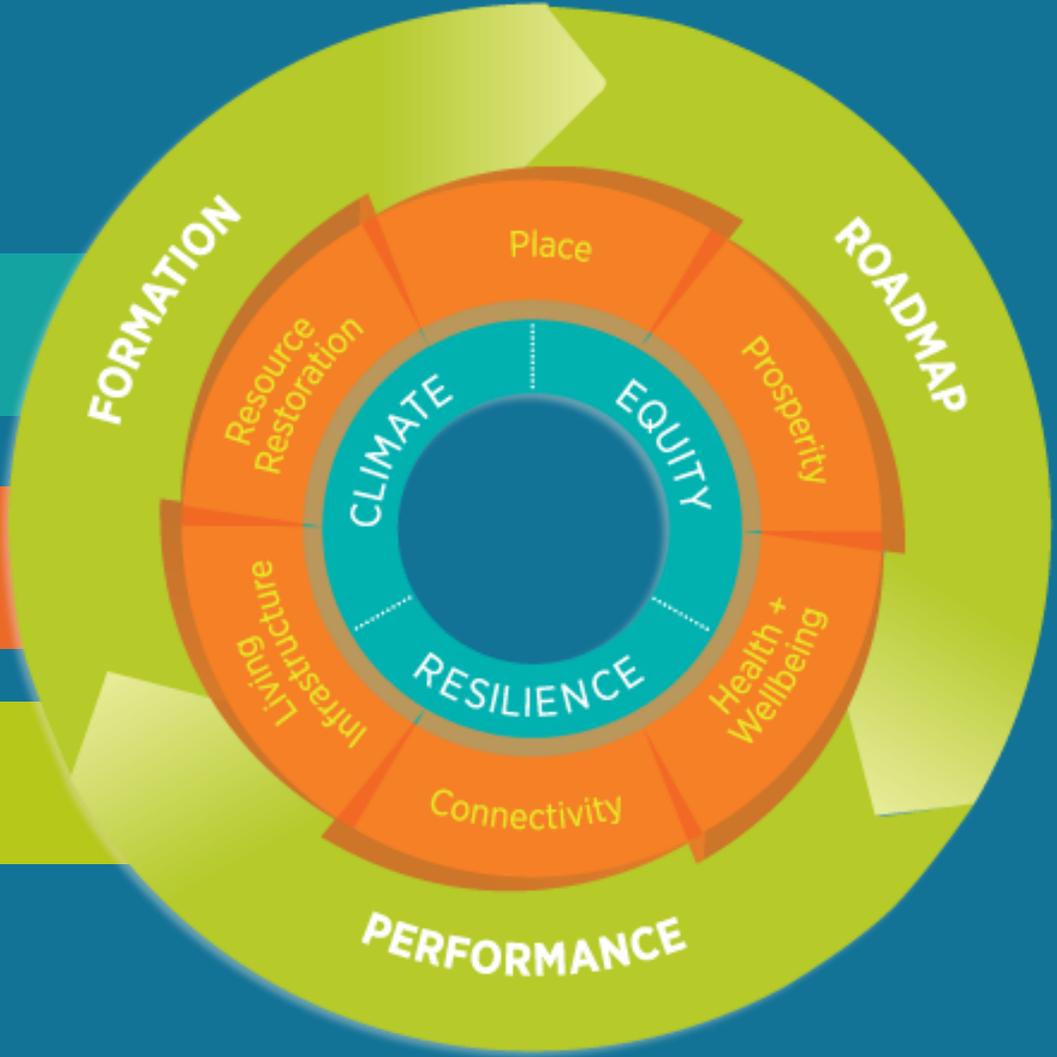
The Global Performance Standard that Empowers Sustainable Neighborhood- and District-Scale Development

ECODISTRICTS CERTIFIED Framework

3 IMPERATIVES

6 PRIORITIES

3 IMPLEMENTATION PHASES



ECODISTRICTS CERTIFIED

EcoDistricts.org

Focus	Criteria	Procedure	Cost
Neighborhood regeneration & development	Protocol, no cost	3-phase self-directed process, with performance reporting	\$10,400 certification; \$1,200/2 yrs cert maint



How ECODISTRICTS CERTIFIED Moves the Needle

- Functions as an engagement device, requires collaborative governance – kindling leadership
- Requires a carbon neutral target
- Uses performance reporting of locally-selected indicators for continuous improvement



[Financing & Development](#)

[Solutions & Innovation](#)

[Policy & Advocacy](#)

[Research & Resources](#)

[Where We Work](#)

[Blog](#)

GREEN COMMUNITIES

[Home](#) > [Solutions & Innovation](#) > [Green Communities](#)



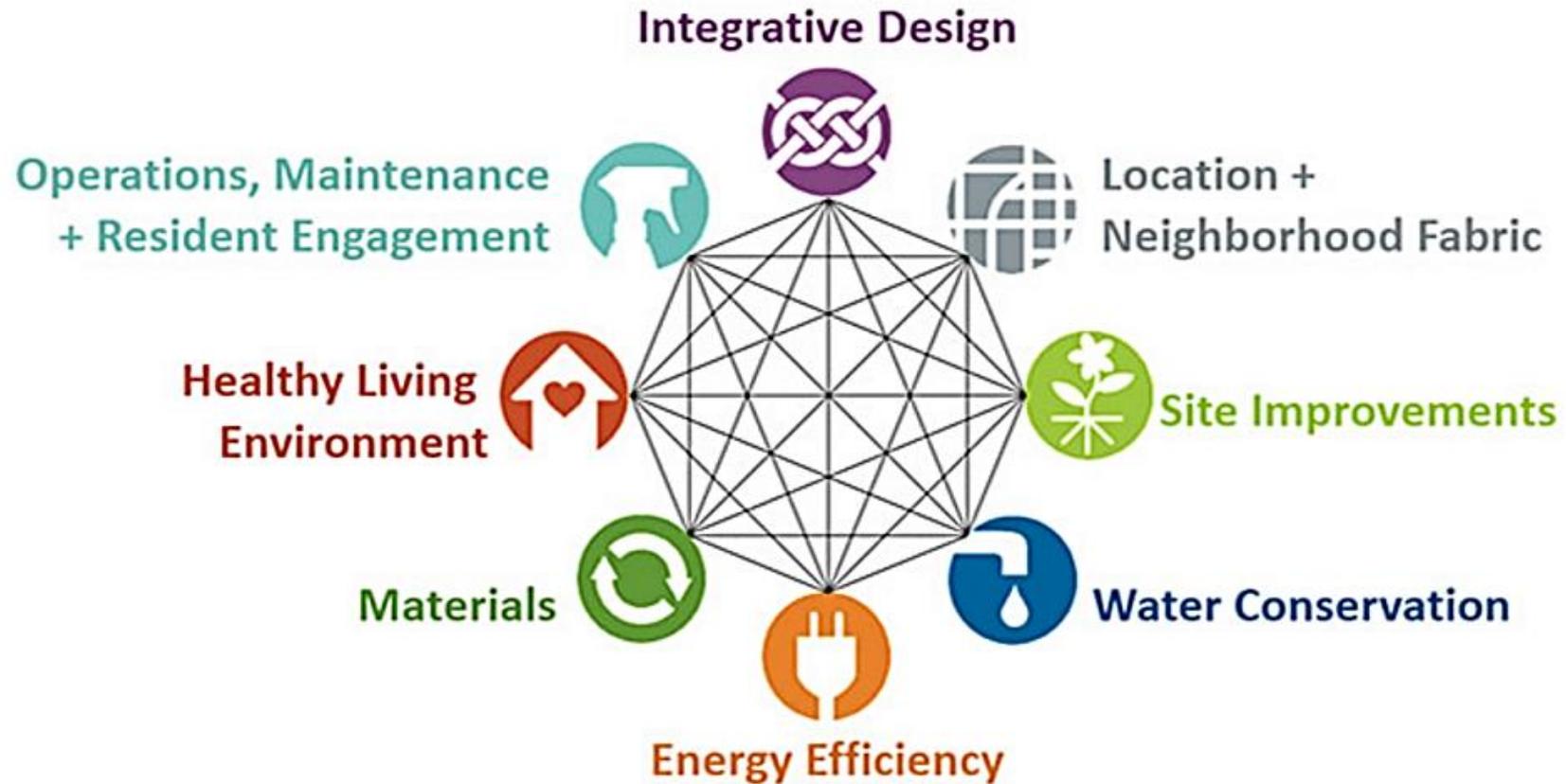
Enterprise Green Communities helps developers, investors, builders and policymakers make the transition to a green future for affordable housing.

ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- [Building Sustainable Organizations](#)
- [Design Leadership](#)
- [Equitable Transit-Oriented Development](#)
- Green Communities**
 - [Certification](#)
 - [Criteria & Certification](#)
 - [Tools & Services](#)
- [Health & Housing](#)
- [Public Sector Consulting & Technical Assistance](#)
- [Rural & Native American Housing](#)

[Contact Us](#)

GREEN COMMUNITIES Framework



New construction – min. 35 points



GREEN COMMUNITIES

EnterpriseCommunity.org

Focus	Criteria	Procedure	Cost
Affordable housing	Rating system, no cost	1-time, point-based rating of plan & as-built	Free certification



How GREEN COMMUNITIES Moves the Needle

- Dedicated to affordable housing
- Mandatory charrette
- Rewards integrative design, resident engagement, performance monitoring





LIVING COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

How do we create communities that are good for everyone?

The Living Community Challenge is a framework for master planning, design, and construction. It is a tool to create a symbiotic relationship between people and all aspects of the built environment.

The program is a call to action to governments, developers, and planners to create communities that operate like forests.

[GET THE BASICS](#)

[VIEW THE STANDARD](#)

LIVING COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

PETALS & IMPERATIVES

PLACE

- 01. Limits to Growth
- 02. Urban Agriculture
- 03. Habitat Exchange
- 04. Human-Powered Living



MATERIALS

- 11. Living Materials Plan
- 12. Embodied Carbon Footprint
- 13. Net Positive Waste



WATER

- 05. Net Positive Water



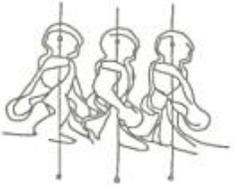
ENERGY

- 06. Net Positive Energy



EQUITY

- 14. Human Scale + Humane Places
- 15. Universal Access to Nature & Place
- 16. Universal Access to Community Services
- 17. Equitable Investment
- 18. Just Organizations



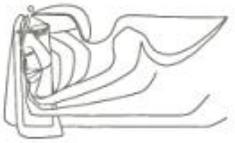
HEALTH & HAPPINESS

- 07. Civilized Environment
- 08. Healthy Neighborhood Design
- 09. Biophilic Environment
- 10. Resilient Community Connections



BEAUTY

- 19. Beauty + Spirit
- 20. Inspiration + Education



LIVING COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

living-future.org

Focus	Criteria	Procedure	Cost
Neighborhood dev & redev	LCC Standard, no cost	3-phases, 100% prerequisites, 1 yr ops data	\$11,200 > by acreage



How LIVING COMMUNITY CHALLENGE Moves the Needle

- 100% prerequisites
- Aspirational standards, e.g. net positive energy/water/waste, social justice, sharing programs, nonprofit sector support, public art, disaster preparedness





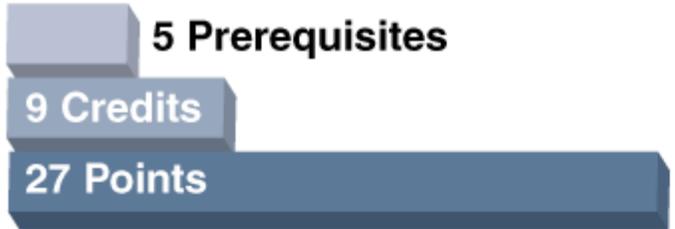
LEED ND

**NEIGHBORHOOD
DEVELOPMENT**



LEED ND Rating System

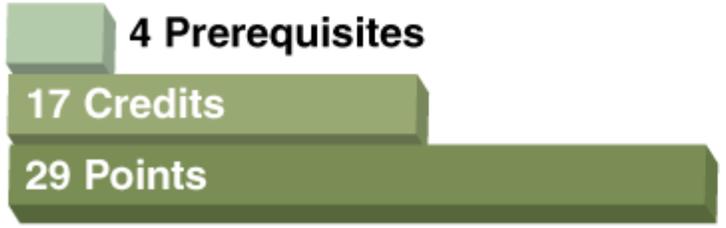
Location



Design



Construction



**LEED-ND
CERTIFIED**

**40-49
pts**



**LEED-ND
SILVER
CERTIFIED**

**50-59
pts**



**LEED-ND
GOLD
CERTIFIED**

**60-79
pts**



**LEED-ND
PLATINUM
CERTIFIED**

**80+
pts**



LEED for NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

usgbc.org

Focus	Criteria	Procedure	Cost
Large development projects	Rating system, no cost	1-time, point-based rating of plan or constructed project	\$19,500 > by acreage



How LEED ND Moves the Sustainability Leadership Needle

- Smart locations for sustainable growth & redevelopment
- Rewards stakeholder outreach & engagement
- Basis for urban design policies and standards



Action-Oriented, Measurable Green Performance.

Arc helps you measure performance, make improvements and benchmark against other projects.

Discover Arc



LEED for Communities

Benefits of Arc for cities and communities

Shows commitment to a higher quality of life by focusing on air and water quality, pollution, CO₂ emissions, and resident equity and engagement

[READ MORE →](#)



Arc is ushering in a new era of green buildings, neighborhoods, communities and cities.

Imagine a world where we are performing at the highest levels possible in terms of energy, water, resources and human health. A world where the spaces where we live, work, learn and play are net positive and where everyone using the space is involved in its improvement.

That future is possible with Arc.

Get started

[BUILDINGS →](#)

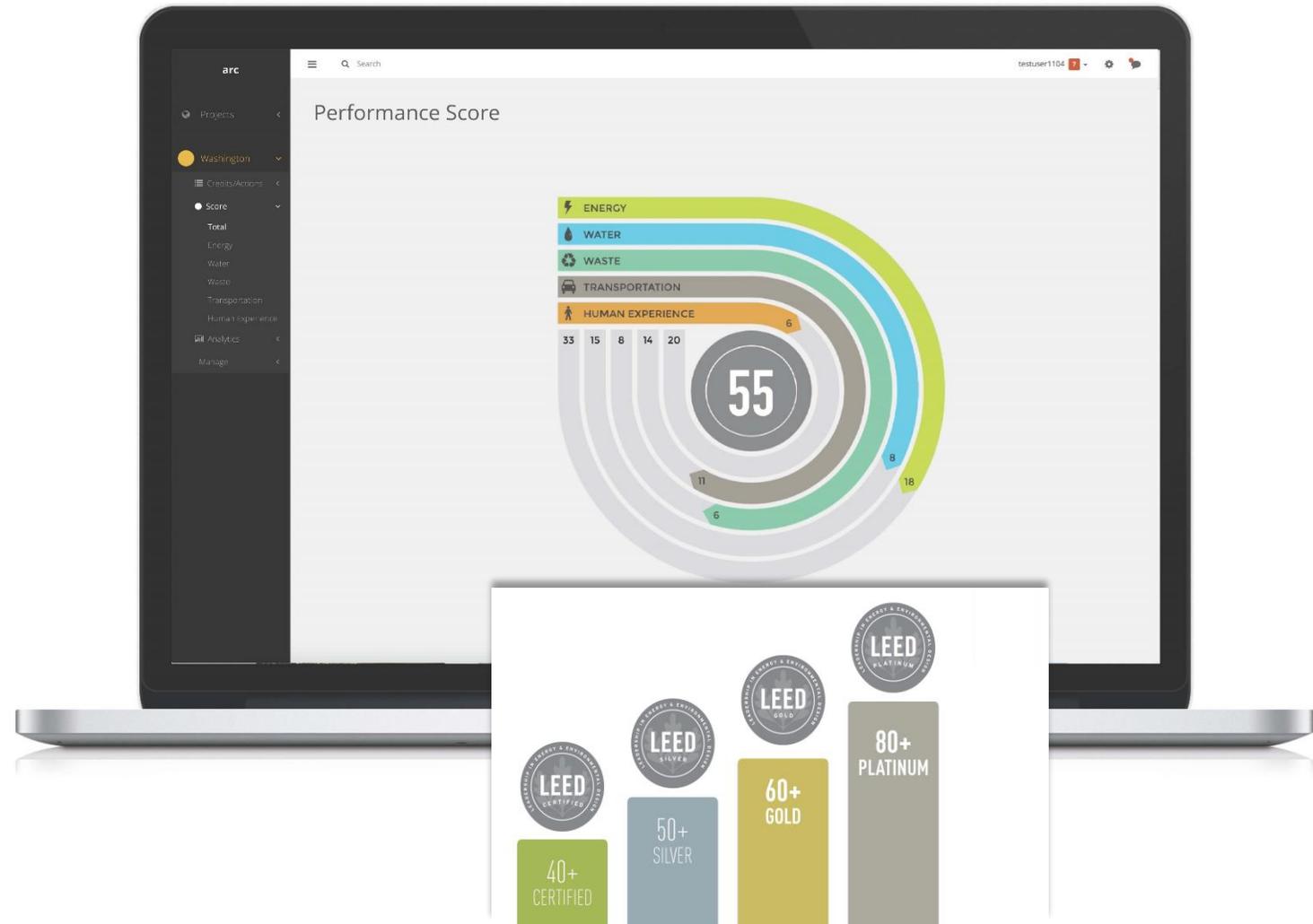
[COMMUNITIES →](#)

[CITIES →](#)

Communities provide data across 5 categories to generate a score:

- Energy
- Water
- Waste
- Transportation
- Human Experience

SCORING 1-100



LEED for COMMUNITIES

ArcSkoru.com

Focus	Criteria	Procedure	Cost
Performance indicators	Website description	Annual indicator reporting, converted to performance score	\$2500 registration + \$10,000/yr > by sq kilometers



How LEED for COMMUNITIES Moves the Needle

- Annual performance reporting
- Requires community engagement



A Dozen Tools - *Cities*

Urban Components

- SITES
- Envision

Neighborhoods

- 2030 Districts
- EcoDistricts Certified
- Green Communities
- Living Comm. Challenge
- LEED Neigh. Dev.
- LEED Communities

Cities

- **Sustaining Places**
- **Sustainable Communities**
- **LEED for Cities**
- **STAR Community**



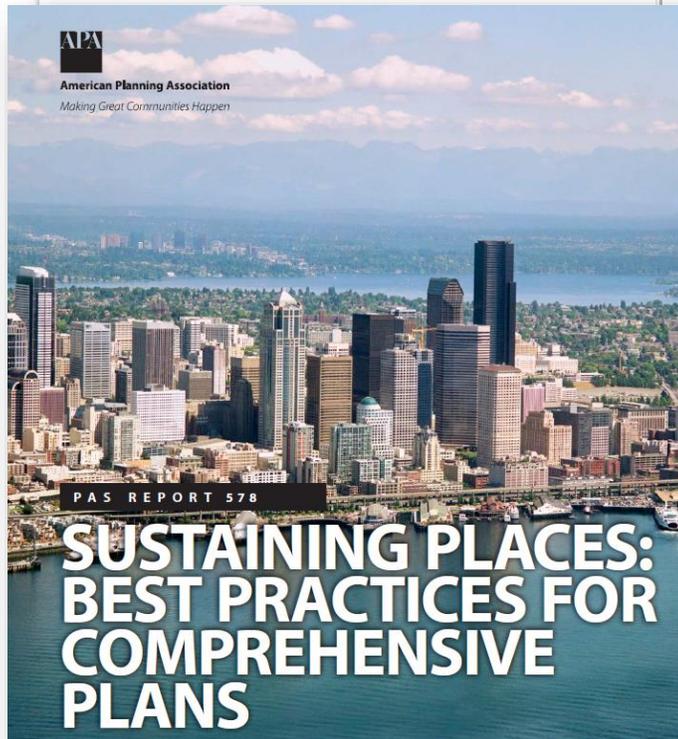


American Planning Association

[About APA](#) | [Membership](#) | [Events](#) | [Education](#) | [Outreach](#) | [Resources](#) | [Jobs & Practice](#) | [APAPlan](#)

Search

Making Great Communities Happen



Comprehensive Plan Standards for Sustaining Places

Welcome to APA's initiative on developing standards for comprehensive plans.

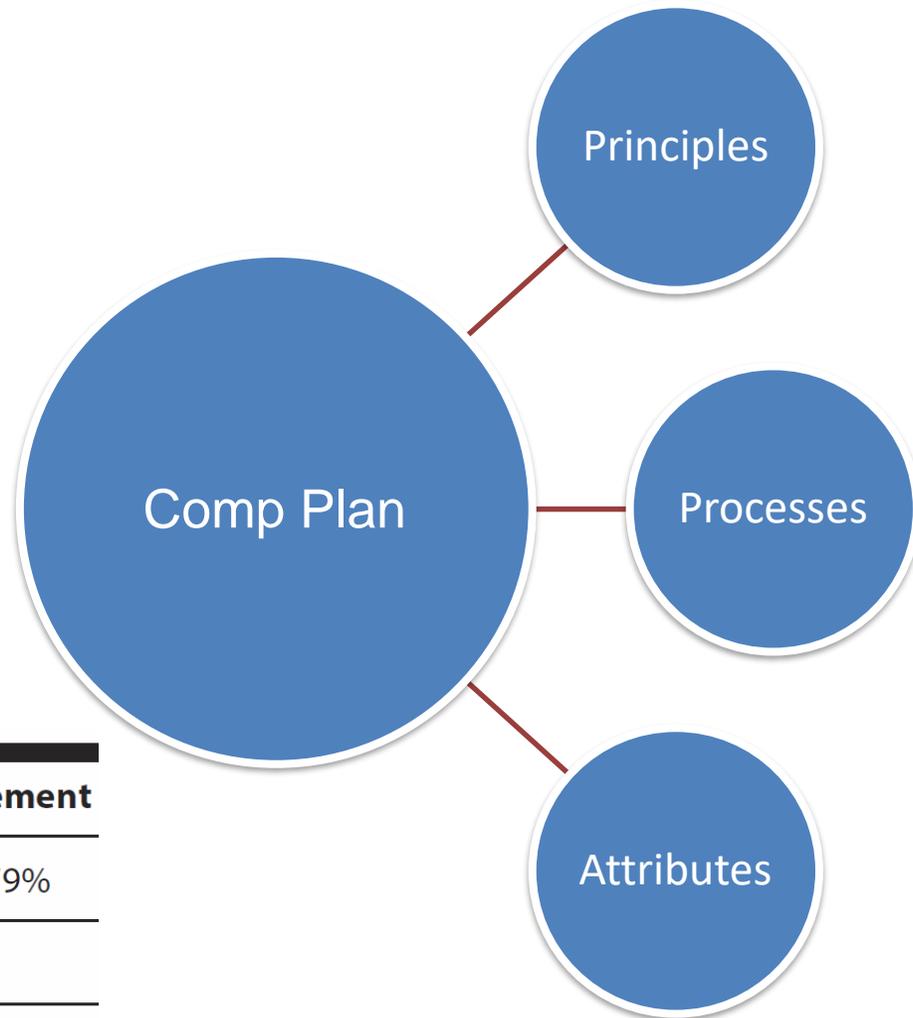
Background

APA's work in developing the comprehensive standards grew out of a larger APA initiative, **Sustaining Places**.

Through the Sustaining Places Initiative, the comprehensive plan was recognized as ideal vehicle for addressing the sustainability challenge:

Planning for sustainability is the defining challenge of the 21st century. Overcoming deeply ingrained economic and cultural patterns that result in resource depletion, climate instability, and economic and social stress requires holistic problem solving that blends the best scientific understanding of

SUSTAINING PLACES Framework



Level of Achievement

Designated: 70–79%

Silver: 80–89%

Gold: 90–100%

Principles

1. Livable Built Environment
2. Harmony with Nature
3. Resilient Economy
4. Interwoven Equity
5. Healthy Community
6. Responsible Regionalism

SUSTAINING PLACES

planning.org

Focus	Criteria	Procedure	Cost
City & county comprehensive plans	Sustaining Places Best Practices - PAS 578	1-time, point-based rating of plan	Free pilot



How SUSTAINING PLACES Moves the Needle

- Dedicated to the most impactful community plan
- Supports self-assessment during local process



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

About the Sustainable Communities Program

Sustainable Communities Program Overview

The **Sustainable Communities Program** (SCP) is an international, science-based, third-party certification program that guides communities through a customized journey to become healthy and vibrant places in which to live, work, and play. That vision is founded in the three pillars of sustainability: a healthy local environment, quality of life for citizens, and economic vitality. The program is tailored to your community to ensure that its specific needs, priorities, resources, and challenges are addressed.

The certification process is a joint effort between your sustainability coordinator and an appointed Audubon International staff person. Your community will

establish priorities,
develop a plan, and
take action

to create a more sustainable future for residents, businesses, and visitors.

Along the way, Audubon International provides tailored guidance, tools, and technical assistance. You will set the pace for addressing each of the fifteen broadly defined [sustainability focus areas](#). Audubon International will help you share your community's successes with our international network.

This program works with public sector communities such as towns and cities (in the Public Track) or



Benefits of
Membership



Download an Overview of The
Sustainable Communities Program



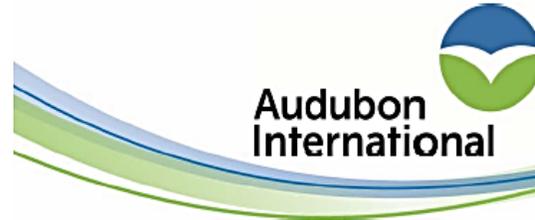
Read Members' Success
Stories



Frequently Asked
Questions

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Focal Areas & Stages



STAGE ONE:
Community Outreach, Education, and Assessment



STAGE TWO:
Planning for *Sustainability*



STAGE THREE:
Implementing the Plan



1. Agriculture
2. Economic Development and Tourism
3. Education
4. Environment
5. Governance
6. Public Health
7. Housing
8. Open Space and Land Use
9. Planning, Zoning, Building and Development
10. Population
11. Public Safety and Emergency Management
12. Recreation
13. Resource Use (water, energy, waste)
14. Transportation
15. Volunteerism and Civic Engagement



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

AudubonInternational.org

Focus	Criteria	Procedure	Cost
Stakeholder engagement in planning, implementation	Stage handbooks available to registrants; indicators locally selected	3-phases, provider-local collaboration, indicator reporting; recertified biennially	\$500-1,000/yr by sector and stage



How SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES Moves the Needle

- Functions as an engagement device, cultivator of leadership
- Accessible for small/moderate-size cities
- Comprehensive approach, tailored to locality





LEED for Cities

Benefits of Arc for cities and communities

Shows commitment to a higher quality of life by focusing on air and water quality, pollution, CO₂ emissions, and resident equity and engagement

READ MORE →



Arc is ushering in a new era of green buildings, neighborhoods, communities and cities.

ArcSkoru.com

Imagine a world where we are performing at the highest levels possible in terms of energy, water, resources and human health. A world where the spaces where we live, work, learn and play are net positive and where everyone using the space is involved in its improvement.

That future is possible with Arc.

Get started

BUILDINGS →

COMMUNITIES →

CITIES →

- City provides data across 5 categories to generate score:

- Energy
- Water
- Waste
- Transportation
- Human Experience

SCORING 1-100



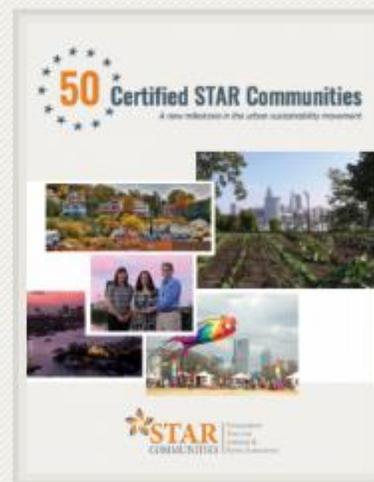
[ABOUT US](#)[GET STARTED](#)[ANNUAL REPORTING](#)[STAR CERTIFIED](#)[EDUCATION](#)[NEWS](#)

MEASURE PROGRESS. IMPROVE YOUR COMMUNITY.

Interested in how the STAR Community Rating System™ can help your community become more transparent, accountable, and sustainable? Watch this recorded webinar featuring Mayor Jeri Muoio of West Palm Beach, FL and Geoff Fruin, city manager for Iowa City, IA, and STAR staff to learn more about STAR's programs and services and how communities are using certification to further local sustainability.

[WATCH THE WEBINAR](#)

50 CERTIFIED STAR COMMUNITIES REPORT



More than 50 cities and counties have been certified under the STAR Community Rating System!

To celebrate this huge milestone, we put together a [report](#) about the first 50 certified communities, lessons learned, and ways

that STAR is helping towns, cities, and counties to become more sustainable, equitable, and resilient.

STAR COMMUNITY Goals & Scoring

Goals

- Built environment
- Climate & energy
- Economy & jobs
- Education, arts, community
- Equity & empowerment
- Health & safety
- Natural systems



Certified 5-STAR Community (600+ points)

Certified 4-STAR Community (400-599 points)

Certified 3-STAR Community (200-399 points)



STAR COMMUNITY

StarCommunities.org

Focus	Criteria	Procedure	Cost
Local governments	Rating system, no cost	1-time, point-based rating; also annual indicator reporting	\$3,000 cert; \$1,000/yr reporting



How STAR COMMUNITY Moves the Needle

- Dedicated to local government sustainability leadership
- Comprehensive, rigorous, standards
- Monitored outcomes



Contact tool providers for complete/latest info

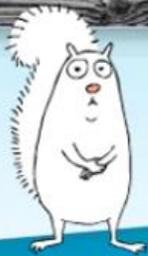


Electricity

Water

Stream

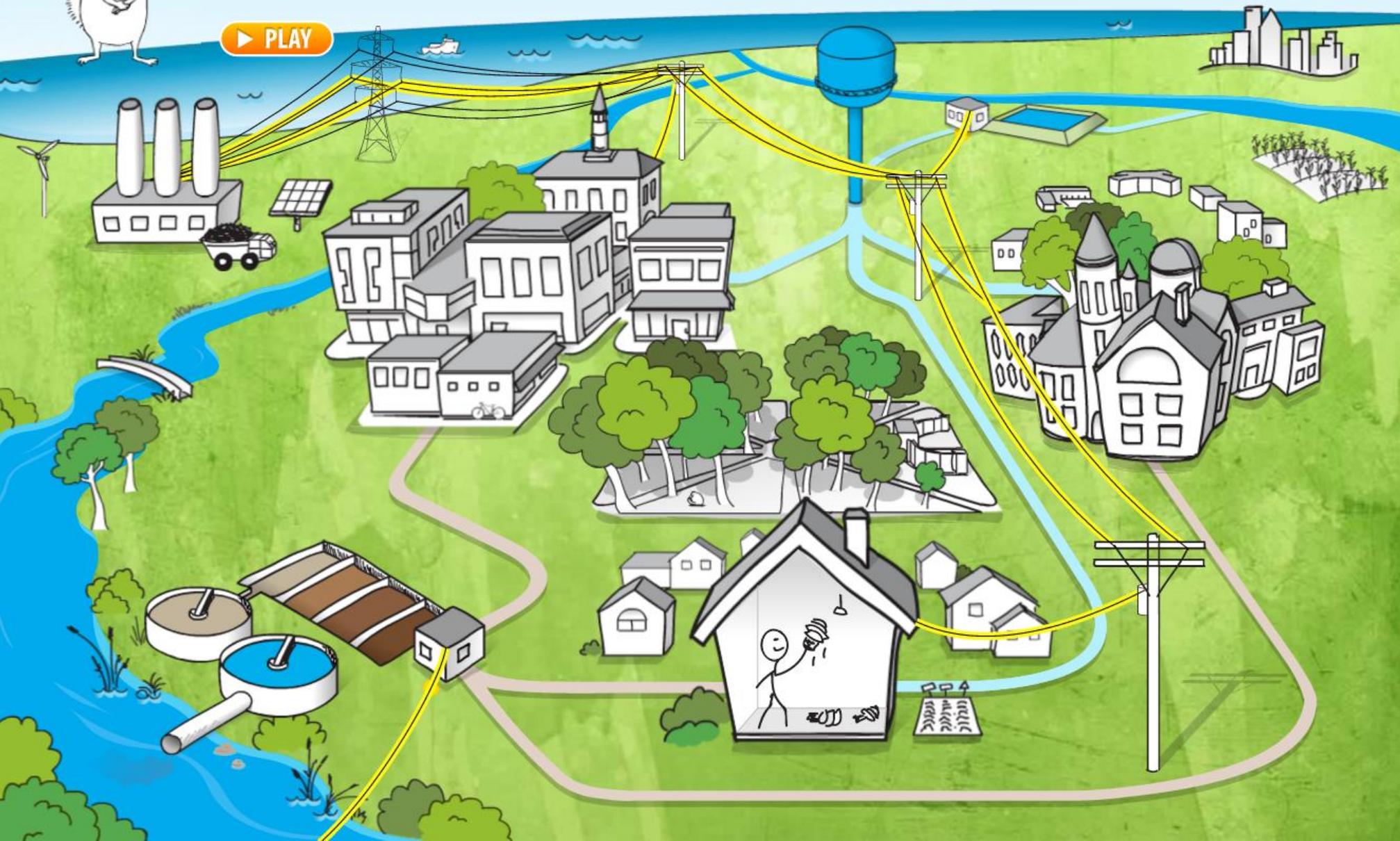
Weather



OBERLIN, OHIO

EnvironmentalDashboard.org

▶ PLAY



City Electricity Use

1.6

kilowatts per person right now

LOW HIGH

Water Treatment Electricity

2.3

watts per person right now

LOW HIGH

CO₂ Emissions

2.4

lbs per person for electricity right now

LOW HIGH

Air Temperature

31

deg f right now

LOW HIGH

Tool Selection Guidance



1. Scale, scope, criteria
2. Intended users
3. Budget
4. Others' experiences
5. Tool efficiency
6. Alignment with your goals

Tool efficiency = output benefit / input effort

$$2 / 1 = 2 \quad \textit{preferred}$$

$$1 / 1 = 1 \quad \textit{acceptable}$$

$$1 / 2 = 0.5 \quad \textit{questionable}$$





Considerations in Selecting an Urban Sustainability Rating Tool

[TransformativeTools.org](https://www.TransformativeTools.org)

1. Country & Language

In what country is the user located, and what language is required?

2. Type and Scale of Rating

What scale and type of built or social environment will be rated? Development projects, neighborhoods, or entire cities? Existing or planned areas? Comprehensive ratings, or by major component, such as infrastructure or landscapes?

7. Timeframe

How much time is required to complete a rating? Hours, months, or years?

8. Costs

What are the tool provider fees for a rating? In addition to provider fees, what are the labor and other expenses incurred by a user to complete the rating process? Are there ongoing costs to maintain a rating?

11. Tool Provider & User Support

What type of organization provides a rating tool, and what is its history with such tools? Are staff or other support services available to users? Does the provider offer tool training? A tool-related credential?

12. International Standards

If a rating tool offers formal certification, does it conform to applicable International Standard Organization (ISO) standards for certifying bodies and the assessment

Recapped Learning Objectives



- Understand the value of urban sustainability appraisal
- Recognize the qualities of an appraisal tool
- Be aware of major U.S. tools
- Know how to select a best-fit tool



Leverage the Tools, Move the Needle

- Use them to engage stakeholders, collaborate, and *lead*
- Use them to manage by measurement, and see economic, social, and environmental gains *accelerate*





Transformative Tools

A global registry of urban sustainability rating tools

[Home](#)

[Tools](#)

[Resources](#)

[About](#)

[Contact](#)

[Cities](#)

[Planned Neighborhoods](#)

[Existing Neighborhoods](#)

[All Neighborhoods](#)

[Landscapes & Parks](#)

[Transportation & Infrastructure](#)

[Special Purposes](#)

TransformativeTools.org

[Tools Registry](#)

Questions?

Urban Components

- SITES
- Envision

Neighborhoods

- 2030 Districts
- EcoDistricts Certified
- Green Communities
- Living Comm. Challenge
- LEED for Neigh. Dev.
- LEED for Communities

Cities

- Sustaining Places
- Sustainable Communities
- LEED for Cities
- STAR Community

Eliot Allen

eliot@transformativetools.org

