

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Council Communication</b> Office of the City Manager</p>	<b>Date:</b> November 22, 2010
	<b>Agenda Item No.</b> 26 <b>Roll Call No.</b> <u>10-1940</u> <b>Communication No.</b> <u>10-706</u> <b>Submitted by:</b> Richard A. Clark, City Manager

**AGENDA HEADING:**

Approving application to ICLEI, Local Governments for Sustainability, to become a beta community in the STAR Community Index program.

**SYNOPSIS:**

ICLEI is seeking assistance in a new pilot program, which will create a standardized process to measure sustainability performance. A total of five communities will be selected for the beta version of STAR Communities. ICLEI will collaborate with the beta communities throughout the software development process, and work closely with them to define the goals, requirements, prototype and final STAR software platform.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Amount: \$25,000

Funding Source: Fiscal Year 2010-11 Operating Budget, Economic Development Enterprise Account, SP743, FIN98077.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The City of Des Moines has set a goal to be a leader in setting policies and practicing service delivery innovations to promote environmental sustainability. The proposed program can further this community goal by establishing a standardized performance measurement process, promoting the City’s progress with the general public and comparing Des Moines’ progress with other communities. This index could also be utilized as the City moves forward with the regional sustainable planning grant.

The funds for this program will provide the City with a web-based platform for managing and communicating sustainability efforts, access to implementation support from ICLEI and partners to create a standard sustainability dashboard that can be tailored to meet the needs of Des Moines and access to the STAR online platform for two years after the platform launches.

The STAR Community Index is a pilot program that will include features to enable local governments to analyze, map and manage all their sustainability data in one place, and to present that information to internal managers, executives and the public using a sustainability dashboard that interfaces with a city’s or county’s website.

STAR will provide a national, consensus-based system with indicators and metrics that will help local

governments set priorities and maximize their investments in strategic actions. They will have the opportunity to “certify” their achievements through independent, third-party verification.

This new level of standardization and integrity in a rating system will give local governments more confidence in their investment decisions. In turn, as local governments implement model policies and best practices they will benefit from improved performance in greenhouse gas emission reductions, environmental protection, new jobs and more robust local commerce, and healthier communities.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE**

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

Acceptance of program, if awarded, and provide funds as required.

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