

★ Roll Call Number

Agenda Item Number

38

Date August 13, 2012

Approval to submit application for the STAR Community Index program.

MOVED BY _____ to approve staff submission of application.

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE				
COLEMAN				
GRIESS				
HENSLEY				
MAHAFFEY				
MEYER				
MOORE				
TOTAL				

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

CERTIFICATE

I, DIANE RAUH, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

Mayor

City Clerk

August 8, 2012

The Honorable Mayor
and
Members of the City Council
City of Des Moines



Re: STAR Communities

Dear Mayor and City Council Members:

In 2010, the City of Des Moines applied for and was selected as one of 10 Beta Communities for the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) STAR Communities Index (STAR). STAR is the nation's first framework for evaluating, quantifying, and improving the livability and sustainability of U.S. communities. STAR uniquely combines:

- A framework for sustainability encompassing the social, economic and environmental dimensions of community;
- A rating system that drives continuous improvement and fosters competition; and
- An online system that gathers, organizes, analyzes, and presents information required to meet sustainability goals.

Throughout the duration of the beta phase of STAR, staff has worked diligently with various STAR partners to assist in developing the framework for the various goals and objectives including active and regular participation in the process, contributing to research, content development, system design, and business planning. One of the most critical functions that the Beta Communities has served was to provide targeted feedback from a local government perspective. This has enabled the City of Des Moines the unique ability to ensure that these goals and objectives are feasible for local governments.

As part of the original Memorandum of Agreement with ICLEI, the City of Des Moines was given 12 months of access to STAR Community Index programming. In November, STAR will launch its pilot of the Community Index and has requested that Beta Communities submit a formal application for the Pilot Program. While a formality, this will initiate our access to the 12-month subscription to the STAR Community Index. Annual subscription fees are population-based. Beginning in 2014 the annual subscription fee for Des Moines would be \$7,500.

As we continue to work on improving the livability and sustainability of Des Moines, I believe the STAR Community Index framework will assist staff in establishing goals, enhancing grant competitiveness, and benchmarking and evaluating our existing practices for our long- and short-term goals. Attached you will find the core goals and supporting objectives that represent the STAR Communities Index framework.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rich".

Richard A. Clark
City Manager

Attachment



STAR Community Index – Framework of Goals & Objectives

Built Environment	Climate & Energy	Education, Arts & Community	Economy & Jobs	Equity & Empowerment	Health & Safety	Natural Systems
Ambient Noise & Light	Climate Adaptation	Arts, Culture and Heritage	Business Retention & Support	Civil & Human Rights	Active Living	Green Infrastructure
Compact & Complete Communities	Resource Efficient Infrastructure	Community Cohesion	Community-Based Economic Development	Community Empowerment	Emergency Prevention & Response	Invasive Species
Housing	Greenhouse Gas Mitigation	Education Opportunities	Local Economy	Environmental Justice	Food Access & Nutrition	Land Conservation
Infill & Redevelopment	Greening the Energy Supply	Social & Cultural Diversity	Market Demand	Equitable Services & Access	Community Health & Health System	Natural Resources Protection
Public Spaces	Industrial Sector Resource Efficiency	Historic Preservation	Quality Jobs & Living Wages	Human Services	Indoor Air Quality	Outdoor Air Quality
Transportation Choices	Resource Efficient Buildings	Workforce Readiness	Targeted Industry Sectors	Poverty Prevention & Alleviation	Natural & Human Hazards	Water in the Environment
	Waste Minimization				Safe Communities	Working Lands
					Water for Human Use	