

## For Immediate Release

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### **Cities Selected to Participate in Leadership STAR Community Program**

*Extensive Tools, Training & Mentoring Offered to Support Their STAR-Certification Pursuits*

**Washington, D.C. (August 20, 2014)** – Today, STAR Communities announced the 7 U.S. cities that have been selected to participate in the [Fall 2014 Leadership STAR Community Program](#). With extensive support from STAR Communities staff, the Leadership STAR Communities will work through the [STAR Community Rating System](#) together with the goal of becoming certified sustainable communities.

To date, 17 communities have achieved [STAR certification](#). Another 30 communities are currently pursuing certification. In all, [82 cities and counties](#) covering 34.5 million people in the U.S. and Canada have signed on to use the rating system in some way.

Local governments will gain a deep understanding of their community's strengths and needs to support current and future generations as they gather and collect information required for certification. Once certified, communities will receive national recognition for their efforts and be well positioned to address issues that pose local challenges to sustainability.

"What's great about this group of selected communities is that they are so diverse," reported Hilari Varnadore, STAR Communities executive director. "Some communities have been tracking sustainability performance metrics for a long time, while others are just getting started. Regardless of where they are starting from, pursuing STAR certification demonstrates strong leadership and commitment to improving their community for the long term."

The fall 2014 Leadership STAR Communities are: Beaverton, OR; Blue Island, IL; Dearborn, MI; Las Cruces, NM; Las Vegas, NV; Reading, PA; and Wichita, KS. They will be supported by mentors in: Burlington, VT; Dubuque, IA; Evanston, IL; Fayetteville, AR; Houston, TX; Park Forest, IL; and Phoenix, AZ.

To learn more about the program or to register your community and begin using STAR Communities' tools today, visit the "Get Started" section of our website at [www.STARcommunities.org](http://www.STARcommunities.org).

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**STAR Communities** advances a national framework for sustainable communities through the delivery of standards and tools built by and for local governments and the communities they serve. The organization administers the STAR Community Rating System, the nation's first framework and certification program for local sustainability. For more information, visit [www.STARcommunities.org](http://www.STARcommunities.org). Like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on Twitter [@STARCommRating](#).