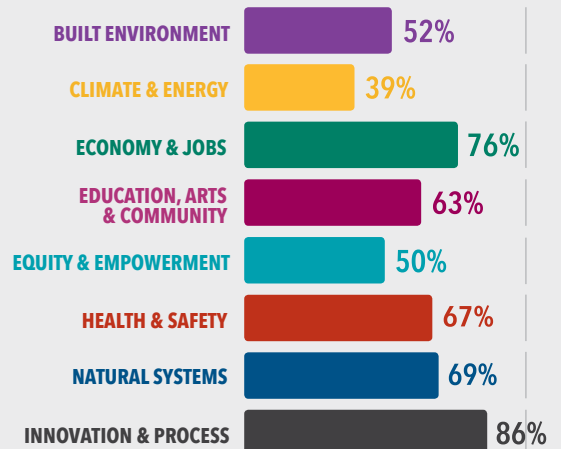


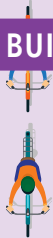
CEDAR RAPIDS IS A CERTIFIED 4-STAR COMMUNITY!



The Sustainability Tools for Assessing and Rating (STAR) Community Rating System is the nation's leading certification program for community sustainability. STAR awards points based on a community's success across 49 objectives in eight goal areas.



BUILT ENVIRONMENT



64.6
miles of
bike lanes

1,160
new affordable
housing units
since 2010



CLIMATE & ENERGY

20%
clean energy
in 2016



ECONOMY & JOBS

OVER
\$100k

in MICRO loans to small
businesses since 2016



1,618
new jobs in targeted
industry sectors



INNOVATION & PROCESS

Aa1

Bond Rating
demonstrates fiscal
responsibility &
City strength



1st

"Solar Ready"
city in Iowa



NATURAL SYSTEMS

\$90k in matching
grants for
permeable
paving, soil quality restoration,
& rain gardens in 2017



Middle Cedar
Partnership Project
partners with farmers
upstream to improve
water quality



EDUCATION, ARTS & COMMUNITY

Urban Ag Ordinance makes open
lots usable for growing food



EQUITY & EMPOWERMENT

10 neighborhoods
assisted by
Neighborhood Service
Delivery Initiative



HEALTH & SAFETY

Complete Streets Policy –
street construction projects
consider needs of pedestrians,
bikes, busses, and cars



OUR 4-STAR JOURNEY

FROM THE CITY MANAGER

After almost a year of work, Cedar Rapids is incredibly proud to have achieved a 4-STAR rating from STAR Communities. STAR is the nation's leading framework for measuring the environmental, economic, and social health of a community. This is a significant accomplishment recognizing years of commitment from City leaders and staff.

Sustainability is more than a buzz word — it is a fundamental component of strong communities that endure and thrive. Sustainability is woven into our core philosophies at the City of Cedar Rapids, driving our initiatives, goals, and partnerships as we work to become a national model for environmental excellence. Our Certified 4-STAR Community Rating affirms the work we have done and points to future opportunities.

More than 500 data points reflecting diverse initiatives and accomplishments were submitted to complete the STAR application. Our submission highlighted the City's many successful green initiatives, including projects like the Middle Cedar Partnership Project, the Stormwater Cost-Share Program, and the MICRO loan program. Individuals from throughout the City's many departments, community partners, the iGreenCR Team, and other stakeholders have been key supporters in these initiatives and the data collection.

City Council and staff can now use the STAR assessment to make more informed decisions for our community and continue this vision of excellence for future generations. Moving forward, we will align insights from the report with Council priorities and key City planning documents such as EnvisionCR to create Cedar Rapids' first Sustainable City Government Plan.

Building a sustainable city requires a commitment from City government as well as every business, organization, and individual. When public and private organizations become better stewards of the environment, they create positive economic benefits for themselves and the entire community. I am proud of the commitment of City staff and the incredible contributions we continue to see from members of the community.

The City of Cedar Rapids will continue to build on our success and focus on creating a strong, vibrant culture of sustainability, serving as an example for the entire community.



Jeff Pomeranz
City Manager



UNDERSTANDING STAR

The rating system is comprised of eight goal areas covering 49 objectives. STAR distributes points for outcomes achieved or actions taken in each objective. Outcomes are aspirational levels of achievement. Actions — such as partnerships, education, policies, practices, and assessments — move a community in the direction of an outcome.

KEY PARTNERS

Many City staff and community partners supported and compiled data for the STAR assessment:

- Alliant Energy
- Cedar Rapids Community School District
- Cedar Rapids Linn County Solid Waste Agency
- Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance
- Cedar Rapids Public Library
- Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Hawkeye Area Community Action Program
- The Heritage Agency on Aging
- Kirkwood Community College
- Linn County
- United Way of East Central Iowa
- UnityPoint Health—St. Luke's Hospital

FAST FACTS

Cedar Rapids is the sixth Iowa community to earn STAR certification and the first under the expanded Version 2.0.

Iowa has the nation's second-most STAR Communities, tied with Texas. Florida is first with seven. In Iowa, STAR Communities include Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, Dubuque, Des Moines, Charles City, and Davenport.

LEARN MORE

City Sustainability & STAR Report
www.CityofCR.com/sustainability

STAR Communities
www.StarCommunities.org

*Cedar Rapids is a vibrant urban hometown
— a beacon for people and businesses
invested in building a greater community
now and for the next generation.*