



**STAR  
SPECIAL  
ISSUE**



# City of Lawrence

**The Flame | December 2016**

*“We Have  
Tomorrow —  
Bright Before  
Us, Like A  
Flame.”*

*Langston Hughes*

## Lawrence Recognized as a National Leader in Sustainability

*City, community partners work together to achieve 4 STAR ranking*

Lawrence is the FIRST community in Kansas to receive a 4-STAR rating for national excellence in sustainability. The STAR Communities framework evaluates local governments on economic, environmental and social factors to measure sustainability and rates communities out of 5 STARS.

### What is STAR?

The STAR Community Rating System (STAR) is the first national certification program to recognize sustainable communities. STAR was built by and for local governments.

The STAR framework integrates economic, environmental, and social aspects of sustainability. There are 7 goal areas, and 44 objectives by which cities are evaluated. These include both actions of the city government and the community at-large.

Since the launch of the certification system in 2012, 51 communities have achieved STAR Certification, including regional and peer cities such as Wichita, Kansas City (MO), Columbia, Iowa City, Dubuque, Des Moines, St. Louis, Indianapolis, and Fort Collins.

### Our City of Lawrence Score:

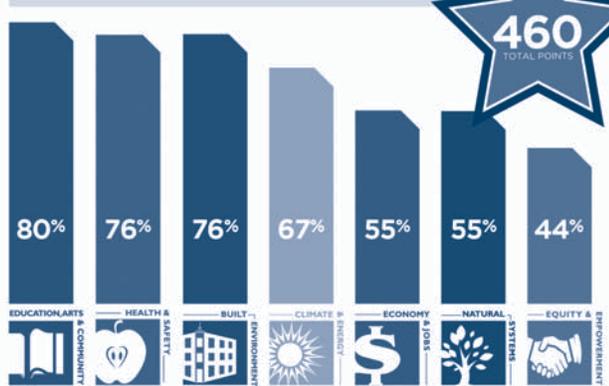
The city received a 4 STAR rating (out of 5). This makes us the highest rated community in Kansas. The graphic to the right shows areas where the city excelled and areas for improvement.

### Why Does This Matter?

A 4 STAR rating puts Lawrence in a prestigious tier in the STAR certification system. Of the 51 certified communities, only 20 have achieved a 4 STAR rating. Only four have achieved the 5 STAR rating. National leaders in sustainability such as Portland, OR and Austin, TX are in this 4 STAR tier with us.



### STAR GOAL AREAS



### LAWRENCE LEADING THE WAY

We received over 95% of available points available in these 10 categories:

- Greenhouse Gas Mitigation
- Educational Opportunity & Attainment
- Emergency Prevention & Response
- Safe Communities
- Outdoor Air Quality
- Resource Efficient Public Infrastructure
- Public Spaces
- Business Retention & Development
- Resource Efficient Buildings
- Community Water Systems

### AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT:

Climate Adaptation, Environmental Justice, Invasive Species, Quality Jobs & Living Wages



# Where Do we Go From Here?

*Using STAR to create a better community*



We undertook the STAR certification not only to assess our progress towards sustainability, but also to set targets for moving forward. The STAR framework provides a nationally-recognized set of best practices for sustainability, and we look forward to continuing to improve!

The STAR Community Rating System supports best practices that have been to move the needle on community-level conditions and outcomes.

The chart to the right shows the STAR goals and objectives. Every city department and division within the city, along with our community partners, will be working to use the STAR objectives in defining our policies and through service delivery of our programs. We'll use the STAR framework to enhance the quality city services we provide and continue to build on our sustainable practices.

The city plans to use the STAR framework as part of their Strategic Plan, which is currently in development and will help to set community priorities and goals for the foreseeable future.

For more information about the score and the STAR certification process, check out the City's STAR website: [www.lawrenceks.org/sustainability/STAR](http://www.lawrenceks.org/sustainability/STAR).

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



## Tree-Cycle

Recycling your Christmas tree following the holidays is a great way to return it to nature. Lawrence residents may place live-cut trees at the curb or alley by 6:00 a.m. on your 'trash day' the week of January 3rd – 6th for tree-cycling collection. Christmas trees will be collected separate from trash and given a second life as wildlife habitat. If you forget to set out your Christmas tree the first week in January 2017, crews will run through all City neighborhoods on Monday, January 9th collecting all remaining trees. Please remove all artificial items including tinsel, lights, ornaments and tree stands. For more information, visit [www.LawrenceRecycles.org](http://www.LawrenceRecycles.org).

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*Committed to providing excellent city services that enhance the quality of life for the Lawrence community*