



# City of Las Cruces<sup>®</sup>

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

## COUNCIL WORK SESSION SUMMARY ROUTING SLIP

Meeting Date October 12, 2015

TITLE: **SUSTAINABILITY TOOLS FOR ASSESSING & RATING (STAR) COMMUNITIES**

- Are there attachments to the Council Work Session Summary? Yes  No
- Will there be a Video Presentation for this item? Yes  No
- Will there be a PowerPoint Presentation for this item? Yes  No
- If "yes", will a copy of the PowerPoint Presentation be included on the Council Work Session Agenda? Yes  No

DEPARTMENT / ORGANIZATION	SIGNATURE	PHONE NO.	DATE
Drafter/Staff Contact: Lisa LaRocque		Ext. 2177	
Administrator: Eric Martin		Ext. 2616	10/5/15
Department Director Loretta M. Reyes		Ext. 3125	10/5/15
Assistant City Manager/CAO (if applicable)			
Assistant City Manager/COO Daniel Avila		Ext. 2271	10/6/15
City Manager Robert Garza		Ext. 2076	10/6/15



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## Council Work Session Summary

**Meeting Date:** October 12, 2015

**TITLE:** SUSTAINABILITY TOOLS FOR ASSESSING & RATING (STAR) COMMUNITIES

**PURPOSE(S) OF DISCUSSION:**

- Inform/Update
- Direction/Guidance
- Legislative Development/Policy

**BACKGROUND / KEY ISSUES / CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:**

The City of Las Cruces (City) has promoted and implemented many policies, projects, and practices to demonstrate its commitment to becoming a sustainable community. A sustainable community includes a healthy environment, a strong economy and the well-being of the people living in the community. For the past year, the Sustainability Office, with considerable assistance from City staff, NMSU professors and students, and various government agencies and nonprofits, has gathered data outlined in the Sustainability Tools for Assessing and Rating (STAR) Community Rating System to illustrate Las Cruces' collective progress in forwarding sustainable practices.

The STAR Community Rating System helps communities identify, validate, and support implementation of best practices as a sustainable community. The STAR certification program was released in 2012. Las Cruces will be the 40<sup>th</sup> city to become certified, joining other important communities such as Tacoma, Washington; Burlington, Vermont; Washington, D.C.; Raleigh, North Carolina; Austin, Texas; and Tucson, Arizona.

The STAR Community Rating System is built on a framework of sustainability goals, objectives and evaluation measures. The Sustainability Office will provide an overview of this framework, highlight some of the community's achievements, and share future outreach strategies to help prioritize next steps with the community. The Sustainability Office would also like to recognize others that have contributed to this effort and present the Mayor and Council with STAR Communities certification plaque.

**SUPPORT INFORMATION:**

1. N/A