



MEDIA RELEASE

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CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR SELECTED FOR NATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

The Director of the City of Tucson's Office of Conservation and Sustainable Development (OCSD) has been appointed to a national Energy and Climate committee formed to advise the STAR Community Index program.

The STAR Community Index will be a national, consensus-based framework for improving the livability and sustainability of U.S. communities. ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability USA (ICLEI), the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and the Center for American Progress (CAP) have established a partnership to develop STAR with the goal of launching this tool in January 2010. STAR is inspired by the success of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ developed by USGBC.

ICLEI is currently forming Technical Advisory Committees around eight critical issue areas. These eight committees will be charged with developing the indicators and metrics that will be used in the STAR Index to evaluate the sustainability of U.S. communities. Leslie Liberti, one of 45 initial appointees, will serve on the Energy & Climate Technical Advisory Committee. Appointments to each of the eight committees are made through a qualification-based selection process. Content experts are drawn from the public, private, and non-profit sectors based on their expertise in the specific issue areas.

"Past sustainability frameworks have under-represented the unique issues and needs of cities in the southwest," said Leslie Liberti. "Participating in the creation of the STAR Index is a great opportunity to ensure that the challenges of desert cities are not overlooked."

Once the Index is complete, jurisdictions will be rated by their achievement and will receive a STAR designation similar to the LEED designations. The STAR Community Index will provide a comprehensive system of indicators and metrics that will help local governments set priorities and maximize their investments in strategic actions. Local governments will be able to use the Index to evaluate their own progress and will have the opportunity to "certify" their achievements through independent, third-party verification.