



**Sustainability Committee
City of Tarpon Springs, Florida
(Virtual Meeting)**

Thursday, October 15, 2020
6:00 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER
ROLL CALL**

- 1. Discussion Community engagement**
 - a. Feedback from listening session – *discussion on this item will include participation of UF/IFAS and will review the listening sessions, also a discussion of our overall scope of the Committee and the SAP. Back up: STAR community rating system background and (functional) matrix, Sustainability Committee founding resolution***
 - b. Continued discussion on Future City Special Events to Promote Engagement; i.e. Earth Day.**
 - c. Path moving forward**
- 2. Presentation: Kevin Powell, Building Development Director**
- 3. Discussion: Follow-up on last meeting presentation: Municipal Arborist**
- 4. Whitcomb Bayou Project/Grant Proposal (Turn the Tide for Tarpon, Inc.). *review of project and grant proposal from Turn the Tide for Tarpon. Back up: email request for project consideration.***
- 5. Future Presenters: *review of City organization chart for ideas on organizing future presentations from staff. Back up: Citywide org. chart***
- 6. Items for next agenda**

**Public Comments
Staff Comments
Committee Comments**

ADJOURNMENT

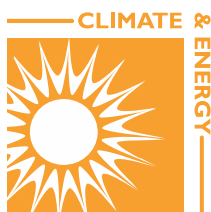
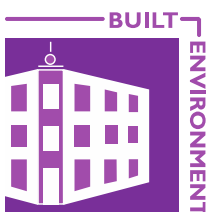
Built Environment	Climate & Energy	Economy & Jobs	Education, Arts, & Community	Equity & Empowerment	Health & Safety	Natural Systems	Innovation & Process
BE-1: Ambient Noise & Light	CE-1: Climate Adaptation	EJ-1: Business Retention & Development	EAC-1: Arts & Culture	EE-1: Civic Engagement	HS-1: Active Living	NS-1: Green Infrastructure	IP-1: Best Practices & Processes
BE-2: Community Water Systems	CE-2: Greenhouse Gas Mitigation	EJ-2: Green Market Development	EAC-2: Community Cohesion	EE-2: Civil & Human Rights	HS-2: Community Health	NS-2: Biodiversity & Invasive Species	IP-2: Exemplary Performance
BE-3: Compact & Complete Communities	CE-3: Greening the Energy Supply	EJ-3: Local Economy	EAC-3: Educational Opportunity & Attainment	EE-3: Environmental Justice	HS-3: Emergency Management & Response	NS-3: Natural Resource Protection	IP-3: Local Innovation
BE-4: Housing Affordability	CE-4: Energy Efficiency	EJ-4: Quality Jobs & Living Wages	EAC-4: Historic Preservation	EE-4: Equitable Services & Access	HS-4: Food Access & Nutrition	NS-4: Outdoor Air Quality	IP-4: Good Governance
BE-5: Infill & Redevelopment	CE-5: Water Efficiency	EJ-5: Targeted Industry Development	EAC-5: Social & Cultural Diversity	EE-5: Human Services	HS-5: Health Systems	NS-5: Water in the Environment	
BE-6: Public Parkland	CE-6: Local Government GHG & Resource Footprint	EJ-6: Workforce Readiness	EAC-6: Aging in the Community	EE-6: Poverty Prevention & Alleviation	HS-6: Hazard Mitigation	NS-6: Working Lands	
BE-7: Transportation Choices	CE-7: Waste Minimization				HS-7: Safe Communities		



SUSTAINABILITY
TOOLS FOR
ASSESSING &
RATING COMMUNITIES



Using the STAR Community Rating System to Integrate Sustainability into Community Planning Efforts





STAR COMMUNITIES

SUSTAINABILITY TOOLS FOR ASSESSING & RATING COMMUNITIES

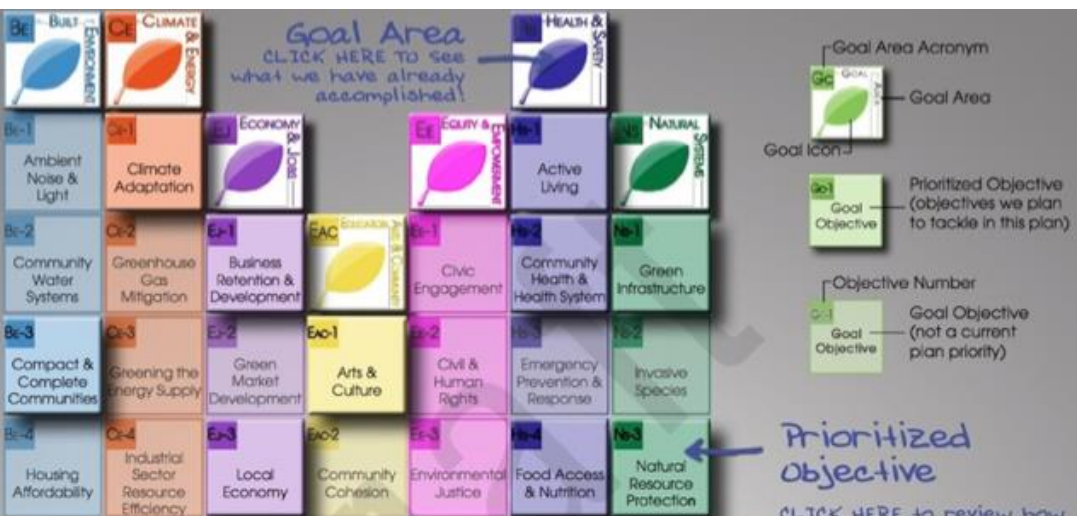
STAR Communities is a nonprofit organization that works to evaluate, improve, and certify sustainable communities. We administer the STAR Community Rating System™ (STAR), the nation’s leading framework and certification program for local sustainability. Cities and counties use STAR to measure their progress across social, economic, and environmental performance areas. Built by and for local governments, STAR is a catalyst for local action and is transforming the way that communities address sustainability progress.

One of the top reasons that U.S. cities and counties come to STAR Communities is because they are looking for ways to strengthen and support local planning efforts. This document is designed for local government staff and planners and provides guidance on how to use the STAR Community Rating System to integrate sustainability into comprehensive, strategic, and sustainability plans.

This report was published in May 2016 and was written by Lacey Shaver and David Abell.

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Goal Area
CLICK HERE TO see what we have already accomplished!

Goal Area Acronym
GC GOAL

Goal Area

Goal Icon

Prioritized Objective
Goal Objective (objectives we plan to tackle in this plan)

Objective Number
GC-1 Goal Objective (not a current plan priority)

Prioritized Objective
CLICK HERE TO review how



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Integrating Sustainability into Community Planning

Sustainability is commonly defined as the ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. As local governments strive to create healthy, prosperous communities with a high quality of life for their current residents, they must also prepare for the needs of the future. Addressing modern day challenges, such as climate change, an increasingly globalized economy, aging infrastructure, and income inequality requires innovation, collaboration, and lots of planning.

One of the primary ways that communities prepare for the future is through local community plans, and so it is important that communities begin to integrate the principles of sustainability into their planning efforts. In fact, the American Planning Association identifies comprehensive plans as the prime way to address sustainability in their “Sustaining Places” initiative:

Planning for sustainability is the defining challenge of the 21st century. Overcoming deeply ingrained economic and cultural patterns that result in resource depletion, climate instability, and economic and social stress requires holistic problem solving that blends the best scientific understanding of existing conditions and available technologies with the public resolve to act. Planning processes allow communities to look past immediate concerns, evaluate options for how best to proceed, and to move towards a better future. The Comprehensive Plan has the legal authority to act as the vehicle for guiding community development, the scope to cover the necessary functions and facilities, and the history of practice to inspire public acceptance of its policies. Planning can provide the necessary analysis, the requisite communitywide reflection and education, and the momentum required to respond to these monumental challenges

- David Godschalk and William Anderson, *Sustaining Places: The Role of the Comprehensive Plan*, APA Planning Advisory Services, 2012

By integrating sustainability into a comprehensive plan, a community can transition from talking about sustainability in the abstract to identifying concrete practices, implementing solutions, and measuring impact. The STAR Community Rating System™ (STAR) is a valuable tool that helps cities and counties to become healthier, stronger, and more resilient.

STAR allows cities and counties to set a clear path for sustainability and track progress towards meaningful results that save money and improve communities. The rating system provides a robust, data-driven framework that allows communities to define sustainability for themselves and then evaluate and improve economic, environmental, and social performance.

While comprehensive plans provide long-term guidance for the future development of a community, other supporting plans aid in the day-to-day implementation and management of the local government: short-term strategic plans and plans that address specific issues, such as a hazard mitigation plan, climate action plan, or sustainability plan. The measures and guidance in the STAR Community Rating System can be adapted to support all types of plans. This document will show those involved in developing or updating planning documents of all types how to use and adapt the STAR Community Rating System to meet their needs.

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-15

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA, CREATING A SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE; PROVIDING FOR MEMBERSHIP; PROVIDING FOR TERMS OF OFFICE; PROVIDING FOR DUTIES; PROVIDING FOR RULES OF PROCEDURE; PROVIDING FOR REPORTING RESPONSIBILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the City Charter authorizes the Board of Commissioners to appoint various boards and committees; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners is seeking a balanced approach in City planning and actions so as to achieve social, environmental, and financial vitality for the future of the City of Tarpon Springs; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners recognizes the economic benefits of sustainability measures to operational efficiency (ie. energy efficiency), the tourism economy (ie. cleaner coastlines & waterways), and overall community economic health (property value and business vitality); and wishes to encourage the growth of green jobs within the City of Tarpon Springs, as well as the adoption of sustainable practices by existing businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners wishes to promote the use of methods, systems and materials that are harmonious with land, water, energy natural resources and natural cycles; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners wishes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase energy efficiency, conserve water, reduce waste, and utilize environmentally responsible products and technologies; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners wishes to reduce the impacts of a changing climate, including sea-level rise, extreme rainfall, extreme heat events, droughts, flooding and storms, which threaten current community priorities, human wellbeing, property, infrastructure, and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners wishes to reduce rising sea levels, intense rainfall and other climatic stressors that will compromise crucial drainage infrastructure and drinking water supplies (through saltwater intrusion into rivers and the aquifer); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners wishes to lead by example as a green municipality and encourage sustainability as an integral part of the future development of the city; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners wishes to work cooperatively with leaders in the nonprofit and academic communities, the private sector, the Federal government, the State of

Florida, regional entities, Pinellas County and local governments throughout Pinellas County and Central Florida in matters relating to sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners wishes to empower every resident of the city, regardless of social demographics or economic means, by informing city residents of practical and attainable ways to live sustainably; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners wishes to create a Sustainability Advisory Committee to assist in the development and implementation of a city-wide sustainability action plan; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners wishes to create a Sustainability Advisory Committee to advise and make recommendations to the City Commission that advance the intent of this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA, THAT:

Section 1. Created. There is hereby created a Sustainability Advisory Committee.

Section 2. Number of members: composition. The Board of Commissioners shall initially appoint five (5) regular members and two (2) alternate members of the Sustainability Advisory Committee.

Section 3. Appointment and terms of members.

- a) The Board of Commissioners shall designate one regular member and one alternate member to serve a one year term, two regular members and one alternate member to serve a two year term, and two regular members to serve a three year term. Committee members shall serve without compensation.
- b) Following the initial appointment of members of the Committee, the Board of Commissioners shall annually appoint persons to fill the positions of members whose terms have expired. Members of the Committee so appointed shall serve three year terms.
- c) Members of the Sustainability Advisory Committee serve at the pleasure of the Board of Commissioners and may be removed from the Committee by the Board of Commissioners for any reason.
- d) If the position of a member becomes vacant for any reason, the Board of Commissioners shall appoint another person to serve the unexpired term of vacated position.
- e) No member shall serve more than a total of 6 years.

Section 4. Qualifications of members.

- a) Whenever possible the Board of Commissioners shall appoint members who have demonstrated expertise, training, education, interest, or experience in fields related to sustainability and the practical application thereof, such as: physical, biological, or health sciences, engineering, environmental law, environmental education, corporate responsibility, environmental science, energy management, environmental health and safety, sustainability communications, green building, land use planning, water conservation, resiliency planning, or other related fields.
- b) Members should not only have an interest in environmental stewardship and the future of the City, but should also be: open to alternate points of view, analytical and balanced thinkers, collaborative problem solvers, excellent communicators and flexible advisors at the direction of the Board of Commissioners and their assigned City staff.
- c) Members must meet the eligibility requirements of Section 8 of the City Charter, including being a resident of the City.
- d) City employees, elected City officials, members of other City Advisory Boards or Committees and appointed City officers may not serve as members of the Sustainability Advisory Committee, as provided by the City Charter.

Section 5. Duties of the Sustainability Advisory Committee. The Sustainability Advisory Committee shall serve at the direction of the Board of Commissioners to review and make recommendations to same regarding City sustainability and resiliency. The Board of Commissioners may regularly review and provide input and direction to the advisory committee to ensure the Board's priorities are being considered. Subject areas may include:

- a) Increasing energy efficiency, conserving water, reducing waste, protecting sensitive natural areas, reducing GHG emissions, utilizing environmentally responsible practices, products and technologies, potential for new green businesses and jobs.
- b) Participate in the development of a city-wide sustainability action plan as prepared by and implemented by the City Manager and staff.
- c) Review and provide input on information for sustainable practices to be distributed to the public and businesses by the City.
- d) Compile and update City sustainability activities to date so as to maintain a current status of City progress in this area.
- e) The Board of Commissioners, the City Manager, and/or the Committee may place items on the Committee agenda for discussion. Resulting actions and their implementation shall be approved in advance by the Board of Commissioners.

- f) Perform such other duties and assignments as requested by the Board of Commissioners, or the City Manager.

Section 6. Duties of the City Manager and assigned staff. It is the desire of the Board of Commissioners that the Sustainability Advisory Committee be empowered and enabled to provide meaningful and practical advice and recommendations regarding sustainability matters.

- a) The City Manager or his/her designate is directed to provide such information, guidance, and assistance to the Sustainability Advisory Committee as is necessary for the Committee to accomplish its duties in accordance with Board of Commissioners direction.
- b) The City Manager or his/her designate shall act as liaison between the Board of Commissioners and the Committee.

Section 7. Election of officers; meetings.

- a) The Sustainability Advisory Committee shall annually, in January of each year, elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson.
- b) The Committee shall meet at a frequency of one time per month, or additional meetings if approved by the City Manager. The days, times and places for such meetings will be as requested by the City Manager or his or her designate, as may be necessary to accomplish the Committee's duties.
- c) Any changes to established meeting days, times and locations must be pre-approved by the City Manager with proper public notice.
- d) Alternate members of the Committee, by order of seniority of appointment, shall sit in place of absent regular members of the Committee at meetings of the Committee.
- e) Alternate members of the Committee, unless sitting in place of an absent member, shall not vote on any matter, but may speak on any matter before the Committee.
- f) A quorum for the conduct of business shall be not less than three regular and alternate members of the Committee.
- g) A majority of the voting members of the Committee present at a meeting shall be necessary to make any determination required by the Committee.
- h) Meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public and minutes shall be kept. A public record of the Committee's minutes and resolutions shall be maintained and made available for inspection by the public.

Section 8. Robert's Rules of Order. Robert's Rules of Order, newly revised, shall be used for procedural rules in the absence of the adoption of alternative procedures.

Section 9. Reports. The Committee shall, not less often than once a year, make a written report to the Board of Commissioners. The written report shall detail the accomplishments of the City's Sustainability initiatives and any other information requested by the Board of Commissioners. The report shall also include future recommended sustainability projects and goals. This report shall be submitted by March 31 of each year.

Section 10. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon passage and adoption.

From: Paul Robinson [<mailto:paul.robinson0211@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2020 11:40 AM
To: Chris Alahouzos <calahouzos@ctsfl.us>
Cc: Mark LeCouris <mlecouris@ctsfl.us>; Paul Smith <psmith@ctsfl.us>
Subject: Proposed grant application

External Email - Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Mayor Alahouzos,

It was a pleasure speaking with you Wednesday. It's always good to talk with someone who is knowledgeable about the risks that flooding poses to our city. It is also reassuring that, under your leadership and the leadership of City Manager LeCouris, Tarpon is moving forward on multiple projects to prevent/minimize flooding in several locations.

Turn the Tide for Tarpon Inc.(TTT), a 501c3 non profit corporation, wishes to work with Tarpon Springs City Government to prevent flooding along the shores of our bayous. We are specifically focused on Whitcomb Bayou as a starting place. We believe a successful project here can serve as a model for future action.

We are aware that jurisdiction for the area around Whitcomb is shared between City and County and that to be successful we must work with both governments; we see this as a long term positive.

External funding for flood prevention/mitigation is available from the federal government. We are aware of 7 grants currently available from FEMA, DoD and HUD. The most promising seem to be BRIC grants from FEMA. (please see attached)

TTT has several members who are experienced in writing grant proposals. We also have an offer of assistance from an international civil engineering firm with a track record of securing billions in funding for organizations and municipalities.

We propose to jointly apply for a grant with the City to restructure the shoreline of Whitcomb Bayou. This will accomplish multiple things:

- * It will prevent flooding
- * It will stabilize and widen the existing banks
- * It will protect property values and the tax base, a key factor in securing funding
- * It will clean the water if constructed with proper materials.

We have been assured that this is just the kind of endeavor that FEMA favors for BRIC.

Per your suggestion I am copying Paul Smith, Director of Public Services and City Manager Mark LeCouris. I'm hoping we can all meet to move forward on this project.

I am available at any time.

Sincerely,

Paul Robinson

Vice Chair, City of Tarpon Springs Sustainability Committee

Treasurer, Turn the Tide for Tarpon, Inc.

BUILDING RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE & COMMUNITIES (BRIC) PROGRAM – FEMA

Notice of Funding Opportunity Released

The BRIC program aims to categorically shift the federal focus away from reactive disaster spending and toward research-supported, proactive investment in community resilience.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) has replaced the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) in FY2020 as FEMA's new pre-disaster hazard mitigation program. BRIC is a result of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA), passed by Congress in October 2018. The new program focuses on comprehensive mitigation and resilient infrastructure projects funded by a **6% set aside of disaster spending**.

Previously, funding for PDM grants relied on annual congressional appropriations. The DRRA establishes a reliable source of set-aside funding, the National Public Infrastructure Pre-Disaster Fund, which will empower eligible applicants to plan and execute mitigation programs to reduce disaster risk.

NOFO RELEASE

The BRIC NOFO was released on August 3, 2020. The program has indicated a **total of \$500M** will be available and will be comprised of three funding categories:

- **National Competition - \$446.4M**
- **State/Territory - \$33.6M**
- **Tribal Set Aside - \$20M**

The National Competition will be open to all states and entities that have experienced a disaster declaration in the last 7 years.

APPLICATION FUNDING CAPS

The funding caps (federal share) for the BRIC program are:

- **National Competition Cap - \$50M per application**
- **State/Territory Caps - \$600K (up to \$300K for mitigation planning and planning-related activities)**

PROGRAM PRIORITIES IN FY2020

- Public infrastructure projects
- Projects that mitigate risk to one or more lifelines
- Projects that incorporate nature-based solutions
- Increased funding to Applicants that facilitate the adoption and enforcement of the latest published editions of building codes

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Eligible applicants can utilize funding through the program to support several initiatives and projects including the following:

- **Mitigation Projects** – Cost-effective projects designed to increase resilience and public safety; reduce injuries and loss of life; and reduce damage and destruction to property, critical services, facilities, and infrastructure.
- **Capability- and Capacity-Building Activities** – Enhance the knowledge, skills, and expertise of the current workforce to expand or improve the administration of mitigation assistance.
- **Management Costs** – Provide financial assistance to reimburse the recipient and subrecipient for eligible and reasonable indirect costs, direct administrative costs, and other administrative expenses associated with a specific mitigation project or C&CB activity.

APPLICATION AND FUNDING DEADLINES

- Application Period Opening: **September 30, 2020**
- Application Deadline: **January 29, 2021**
- Pre-Award Selection Notice: **June 2021**

*City of Tarpon Springs, Florida
Organizational Chart
by Department
FY 2019*

