



CITY OF HENDERSON NEWS RELEASE

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OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND COUNCIL SUPPORT
FOR IMMEDIATE NEWS RELEASE

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Henderson Given High Marks for Sustainability Efforts

Henderson, Nev. – The City of Henderson earned high marks from a national nonprofit organization for its efforts to make the community more sustainable and resilient.

Henderson was certified in the STAR Community Rating System, which recognizes municipalities for excellence in sustainability. The city became only the 17th community to achieve a 4-STAR ranking and was the 45th community nationwide to achieve certification from STAR Communities (Sustainability Tool for Assessing & Ranking Communities).

“This designation confirms that the city’s dedicated effort to make our community, and our organization, more sustainable has been successful,” said Mayor Andy Hafen, who first unveiled the achievement at the State of the City address.

STAR is the only national certification tool for benchmarking a community-wide sustainability assessment and rating. STAR helps communities evaluate their strengths and weaknesses across seven areas: the built environment; climate and energy; economy and jobs; education, arts and community; health and safety; and natural systems.

In March 2015, the city joined STAR Communities’ Leadership Program, a one-year program that offers support to cities and counties as they gather data, report and certify. This effort enabled the city to gather a baseline assessment of Henderson’s sustainability progress, as well as compare best practices with other communities nationwide.

Communities pursuing STAR certification accumulate points for their achievements, which are then used to determine their ratings. There are three STAR certification levels: 3-STAR Community (200-399 points), 4-STAR Community (400-599 points), and 5-STAR (600+ points). The city received its final score of 426.1 points and the Certified 4-STAR Community Rating for national excellence in sustainability.

“Sustainable cities provide a healthy environment, support a strong economy, and continually improve the well-being of the community,” said Hilari Varnadore, Executive Director of STAR Communities. “The data and information that Henderson gathered through the process will them continue to make improvements that benefit the whole community.”

For more information, visit cityofhenderson.com or Starcommunities.org.

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About City of Henderson: Incorporated in 1953, Henderson is Nevada’s second largest city with nearly 280,000 residents. Henderson is a premier city, nationally recognized for its stunning parks, trails, master-

planned communities, outstanding quality of life and patriotic past. Recognized as one of **America's Best Places to Live** (*MONEY and Liveability.com*), one of **America's Best Cities** (*Business Week*), one of the top six **safest cities in America** (*Forbes, InsuranceProviders.com, Law Street Media, Movato.com*), and a **Bicycle Friendly Community** (*League of American Bicyclists*), Henderson is a progressive and vibrant city committed to maintaining premier amenities and services for all who choose to live, learn, work and play in Henderson...a place to call home.