



**Executive Office of the Mayor
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

Reading recognized as certified sustainable municipality

Reading, PA –September 29, 2014. Reading announced today it is among a select group of high performing municipalities to become certified through the Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification program. Reading is recognized at the gold level of certification for meeting the program's rigorous performance criteria which tracks 131 policies and practices that define a sustainable community.

The Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification, is administered by the Pennsylvania Municipal League, is designed for municipalities that are working to save money, conserve resources, and serve vibrant communities. It applauds municipalities for their demonstrated commitment and sustainability performance.

In earning the gold certification, Reading is acknowledged for its progress in addressing such areas as community design and land use, energy efficiency, health and wellness, mitigating blight, intergovernmental cooperation, recycling and waste reduction, fiscal controls, and internal management and operations. Details regarding how Reading is addressing these areas can be found on the certification program's website: www.sustainablepacommunitycertification.org.

"Reading is proud to be recognized as a Gold Certified Community by the Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification program," said Mayor Spencer. "Through this certification effort we are demonstrating our commitment to saving taxpayer dollars, using resources efficiently, and applying best practices in municipal government and community development. We are pleased to be recognized and be part of the regional community of good government."

"We are delighted to see Reading distinguished among local governments that are leading the way in applying sustainability to both their operations and management as well as within the community," said Gail Markovitz, Director of Training, Pennsylvania Municipal League.

The Certified Community by the Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification is intended to bring recognition to municipalities in the region that are applying the policy and practice of sustainability as their way of operating in order to advance community prosperity. It also serves as a mechanism for sharing best practices for creating a more sustainable Pennsylvania.

In addition to the state certification, Reading announced it has just adopted the STAR Communities effort, a national sustainability certification program. It's goal is to become a Five Star community in five years, beginning with a targeted Three Star certification early next year. A team from Reading was recently trained in the STAR framework along with a cohort of other cities from across the country, including Las Vegas, Houston, Los Angeles, and Blue Island, IL. Starting this week, it will begin an ambitious effort to become the first nationally certified municipality in Pennsylvania.

Details about Reading's certification performance can be found by linking to www.sustainablepacommunitycertification.org and www.starcommunities.org.

For more information, please visit www.sustainablepacommunitycertification.org or contact Eron Lloyd, Special Assistant to the Mayor, at 610-655-6585 or eron.lloyd@readingpa.org.

About Reading

The City of Reading, is a Home Rule city in Berks County, Pennsylvania. It's vision is to be recognized as a leading model of sustainable urban living and one of the most vibrant and innovative communities in Pennsylvania. It seeks to offer a shared prosperity among all who live, work, learn, and visit here through a thriving local economy, social well-being, and a healthy natural environment.

About The Pennsylvania Municipal League

The Pennsylvania Municipal League (PML) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization established in 1900 as an advocate for Pennsylvania's 3rd class cities. The PML represents participating Pennsylvania cities, townships, town, boroughs, and home rule municipalities that all share the League's municipal policy interests. PML provides a wide array of municipal services including legislative advocacy (on both the state and federal levels), publications designed to educate and inform, education and training certification programs, membership research and inquiries, consulting-based programs, group insurance trusts, and the statewide Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification. Specific to Southwestern Pennsylvania, PML is partnered with Sustainable Pittsburgh for outreach.

About STAR Communities

STAR Communities is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that works to evaluate, improve and certify sustainable communities. STAR helps cities and counties achieve a healthy environment, a strong economy and well-being for their residents. Technical experts, sustainability leaders and local government officials developed our rating system to provide a transparent and data-driven mechanism to improve local communities. STAR Communities leads communities to chart a clear path toward a sustainable future.

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