

## The Sustainable Communities Program

### What is the Sustainable Communities Program?

The Sustainable Communities Program helps communities like yours—whether they are municipalities, large resorts, lake associations, planned communities, or college campuses—take steps to ensure that they are healthy, desirable and vibrant places in which to live, work and play, both today and tomorrow. This program is designed to support a community’s previously identified priorities and build on the ongoing sustainability and planning efforts unique to each community.



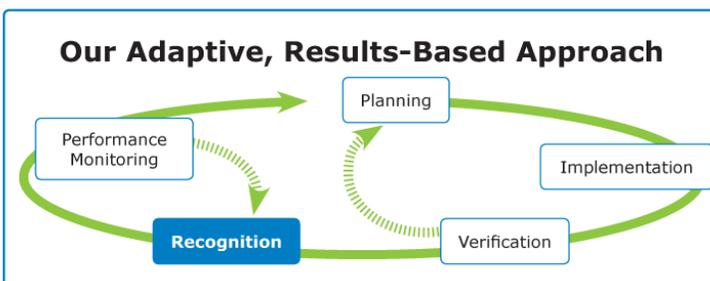
### How Does it Work?

Through the program, Audubon International helps communities establish measurable goals and objectives, develop a comprehensive plan, and take strategic action that leads to meaningful results that benefit community residents and visitors as well as the natural environment. Audubon International provides invaluable technical assistance and guidance along the way to help communities:

- become more economically efficient
- conserve natural and cultural resources
- improve land use planning efforts
- bolster ecotourism
- enhance their image and reputation
- promote citizen engagement
- strengthen community identity and a sense of place
- promote environmental awareness through education about a community’s conservation efforts

### The Three Stages

The SCP has three stages: Assessment, Planning, and Implementation. The first stage of the Sustainable Communities Program commonly requires a site visit by a trained Audubon International professional and establishes a baseline assessment of your community. In the second stage, a goal-oriented vision plan will be developed, earning your community the Audubon Planning for Sustainability Award. In stage three, effecting and reporting progress culminates in full certification, verified with a final site visit by an independent professional.



Each of the stages must be completed to receive and maintain certification. An annual membership fee and progress reporting maintains certification. The base cost of membership is a \$500 or \$750 annual fee depending on size (\$1,000 for private communities), and costs for each stage are set after that to account for differences in the size and needs of each member. Certificates of Recognition, use of Audubon International’s certified member logo, and press releases are issued to highlight your accomplishments.

### Results

Conservation projects in sustainable communities result in conserved wildlife habitat, enhanced beauty and uniqueness of a community, better local transportation systems, expanded tourism and outdoor recreational opportunities, and long-term financial savings in the form of reduced maintenance costs and other operating and capital expenses.

Participation in the SCP distinguishes a community as a leader in sustainability and can generate new forms of revenue that stimulate the local economy. Finally, your care for the environment sets a positive example for others to follow and will preserve a healthy, diverse and beautiful landscape for future generations.

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