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NEWS RELEASE

April 27, 2015 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STAR Community Certification Announcement on Friday

DUBUQUE, Iowa — The City of Dubuque will hold a special event to announce a national sustainability certification at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, May 1, in the Aigler Auditorium on the third floor of the Carnegie-Stout Public Library at 360 W. 11th Street. The public is invited to attend this free event.

The announcement follows a year-long, collaborative process coordinated by City staff with assistance from partner organizations and stakeholders to complete the STAR Community Rating System. The system is the nation's first comprehensive framework and certification program for evaluating local sustainability, encompassing economic, environmental and social performance measures. Local leaders use the rating system's evaluation measures to assess their current level of sustainability, set targets for moving ahead, and measure progress along the way. As of February 2015, 23 communities have been certified and more than 90 communities are engaged with STAR.

For communities that pursue certification, the rating system encompasses economic, environmental and social performance measures for both local governments and the broader community. Communities must complete an online application detailing their achievements across 44 sustainability objectives, with a total of 526 different measurable indicators. The process generally takes about a year. STAR Communities' verification team then reviews the community's application as an independent third-

party and awards a rating (three, four, or five stars) based upon a total cumulative score of points achieved.

More than 30 partner organizations participated in preparation of Dubuque's application. The May 1 event will include the certification announcement, an explanation of Dubuque's application and process, as well as related future plans. For additional information, please contact Sustainable Communities Coordinator Cori Burbach at 563-564-0343 or cburbach@cityofdubuque.org.

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