



CORE VALUE 3: A HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT



Where are we today?

Clark County boasts some of the most unique geography anywhere in the world, and residents are well aware of their good fortune in this respect. From the heights of Mount Charleston and Red Rock Canyon to the depths of the Colorado River, from the modest confines of Siegfried & Roy Park to the vast expanse of Lake Mead, residents cite the ready access to parks, public lands, and outdoor recreation areas as one of the strongest “positives” of living in the county. While enjoying the natural assets of the county, residents are also keenly aware of the importance of being respectful stewards of the environment.

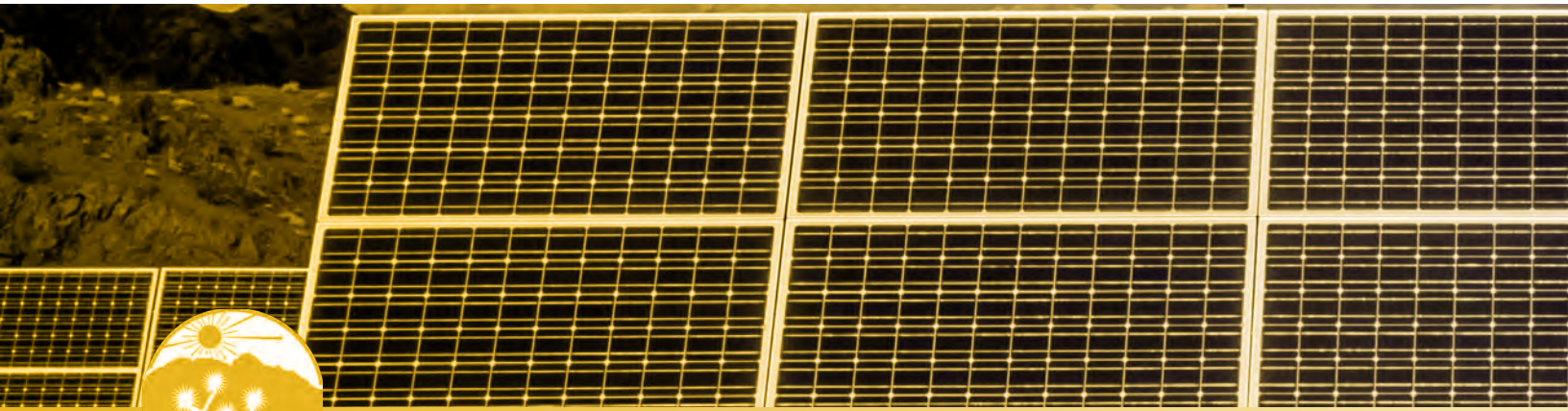
Managing resource use is one frequently cited concern allied closely with the need to preserve existing open spaces from encroachment. Residents have witnessed recent growth that brings development to the very perimeter of open spaces, and while regional growth is forecasted to continue at a slower pace, they are conscious of the need to act now to balance future expansion with conservation. The desired outcomes include growth centered in existing urban areas; compact, mixed use communities that allow a reduction in carbon footprints; and an increased emphasis on sustainable development practices.

There is also concern over how climate change is—and will increasingly—affect county communities and vulnerable residents, but there is agreement that present actions can mitigate future impacts. Residents want to undertake measures to ensure the continued viability of natural resources and the environment so that ensuing generations can benefit from the same assets we enjoy today.

As the supply of vacant land within the Las Vegas Valley diminishes, collaboration with the federal partners who manage much of the land within County borders becomes ever more important.

In 2050, Clark County is a place where...

- Deliberate steps taken in the past have made Clark County more resilient to the effects of extreme heat, drought, and other effects of climate change;
- The built environment has been constructed or retrofitted to diminish intensity of resource use, reduce the emission of greenhouse gases, and increase its resilience to changing climate conditions; and
- Through continued efforts and deliberate focus on compact, sustainable development and low-impact lifestyles, we are able to pass on to the next generation a healthy natural environment.



CV 3: A HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Countywide Goals and Policies

Goal 3.1: Maintain air quality at a level that protects public health and improves visual clarity

POLICY 3.1.1: PRIORITY AIR POLLUTANTS

Monitor air quality conditions and pursue a variety of strategies to reduce priority air pollutants and associated health impacts as identified by the County's *All-In Sustainability and Climate Action Plan*.

POLICY 3.1.2: TRANSPORTATION-RELATED EMISSIONS

Pursue a variety of strategies to reduce reliance on private automobile travel, with the goal of reducing fossil fuel consumption and associated pollutant emissions from vehicles, including efforts to encourage use of electronic vehicles and increase higher-density and transit-oriented development in urban areas of the Las Vegas Valley. [See also, Goal 4.1, *Encourage the expansion and use of multimodal transportation options throughout Clark County*, and related policies]

Goal 3.2: Support County and state efforts to expand the use of clean energy and achieve GHG reduction targets

POLICY 3.2.1: CLEAN ENERGY

Encourage the use of non-fossil fuels and renewable sources of energy in new development and pursue a variety of strategies to reduce energy consumption in existing development. [See also, Goal 3.6, *Focus on incorporating enhanced sustainability and resilience practices into the built environment*, and supporting policies.]

POLICY 3.2.2: FACILITY SITING

Support the expansion of locally-produced renewable/alternative energy to serve Southern Nevada by allowing for the construction and expansion of clean power generating and distribution facilities at a variety of scales.

POLICY 3.2.3: ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Implement measures for the reduction of energy consumption and promotion of energy conservation in Clark County operations, as identified in the County's *All-In Sustainability and Climate Action Plan*. [See also, Goal 3.6, *Focus on incorporating enhanced sustainability and resilience practices into the built environment*, and supporting policies.]

POLICY 3.2.4: EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

Facilitate the expanded use of electric and alternative fuel vehicles and other emerging technologies that support the County's sustainability goals.

POLICY 3.2.5: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Encourage growth that is sustainable for the region, is in alignment with GHG reduction targets, and takes future climate impacts into consideration.

Goal 3.3: Maintain and protect the quality, supply, and reliability of Clark County's water resources for current and future residents

POLICY 3.3.1: WATER RESOURCES

Continue to support Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) efforts and plans to meet current and projected water demands, encourage water conservation, and implement adaptive management strategies.



POLICY 3.3.2: WATER CONSERVATION

Coordinate with partner agencies on educational, programmatic, and regulatory strategies to increase water conservation projects and programs throughout Clark County. Utilize the SNWA Joint Water Conservation Plan to ensure conservation opportunities are optimized and reinforced.

POLICY 3.3.3: WATER QUALITY

Continue to implement an integrated, area-wide water quality management program in accordance with the Clark County 208 Area-Wide Water Quality Management Plan (208 WQMP) and related plans and studies.

POLICY 3.3.4: WASH PROTECTION AND RESTORATION PROGRAMS

Encourage preservation and protection of natural washes and waterways through measures that can improve the quality of water that enters Lake Mead. Utilize the *Las Vegas Wash Comprehensive Adaptive Management Plan* and related plans and studies to ensure land use compatibility with the Clark County Wetlands Park and associated wash improvements.

POLICY 3.3.5: IMPAIRED WATER BODIES

Support efforts to restore water quality to levels that allow impaired lakes, streams, and washes to be removed from the State of Nevada's List of Impaired Rivers.

POLICY 3.3.6: AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY

Encourage the use of vegetative or constructive buffering surrounding area landscapes and farmland to limit the amount of wind erosion and irrigation runoff and protect water quality.

POLICY 3.3.7: STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Focus on maintaining quality of groundwater and public water bodies (e.g., lakes and rivers) with efforts to reduce untreated stormwater runoff through expanded use of

Water Resources Management

The sustainable management of Southern Nevada's water resources is critical to the continued vitality of the region. Clark County works with a variety of partners to protect the quality, supply, and reliability of Clark County's water resources for current and future residents. An overview of some of the major initiatives that help support the implementation of Goal 3.3 is provided in Section 3, Growth Framework. These initiatives include the SNWA Water Resources Plan, SNWA Water Conservation Plan, and Clark County 208 Water Quality Management Plan.

These ongoing initiatives reflect just some of the ongoing efforts by Clark County and its many regional partners to adapt growth-related policies and regulations to improve the resilience of Southern Nevada in the face of a changing climate.

catchment techniques, green infrastructure, vegetative buffers, regular maintenance of stormwater infrastructure, and continued compliance with the County's Joint National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit (Stormwater Permit).

POLICY 3.3.8: FLOOD CONTROL

Coordinate with the Regional Flood Control District (RFCD) on efforts to control localized flooding.

POLICY 3.3.9: GROUNDWATER PROTECTION

Explore land use and vegetation management practices that protect from aquifer contamination, support the proper abandonment of water wells, coordinate the implementation of the 208 WQMP, and support source water protection.

SECTION 2: COUNTYWIDE GOALS AND POLICIES

POLICY 3.3.10: GROUNDWATER RESOURCES

Support initiatives to divert potentially overtaxing, harmful, or inappropriate development away from areas reaching water availability limits or with high groundwater recharge potential and to expand return flows to the Colorado River.

POLICY 3.3.11: SEWER AVAILABILITY

Limit the density of development in areas that do not or are not planned to have access to public wastewater facilities. Require residential development to connect to public sewer systems where these are available and put in place a plan to assist with conversion from individual septic where sewer service has expanded or will expand.

Goal 3.4: Reduce quantities of landfilled waste, potentially extending the operational life of current landfill sites within Clark County

POLICY 3.4.1: RECYCLING

Work with service providers to expand recycling rates within the Las Vegas Valley through wider implementation of curbside recycling programs, to include commercial and multi-family development, and other strategies as appropriate.

POLICY 3.4.2: WASTE DIVERSION

Encourage the adaptive reuse of existing buildings, the incorporation of recycled building materials, and other strategies to divert waste generated by construction, demolition, and renovation from landfills, subject to NRS and Southern Nevada Health District requirements.

POLICY 3.4.3: FOOD DIVERSION

Encourage regional and state efforts to divert food from banquets/casino events, restaurants, grocery stores, schools, vendors, and manufacturers that would otherwise be destined for the landfill for distribution to those in need. [See also, Goal 2.3, *All Clark County residents have access to the high-quality health and social services they need*, and supporting policies]

Goal 3.5: Manage access to public lands to balance habitat, recreational, environmental, aesthetic, and economic value

POLICY 3.5.1: APPROPRIATE USES

Encourage multiple uses on open lands unless activities could pose a detriment to natural resources and habitats, or long-term health of the land.



POLICY 3.5.2: STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS

Continue to maintain compliance with state and federal regulations, such as the ESA, Clean Water mandates, Nevada laws regarding critically endangered plant species, and all other applicable laws and regulations, when non-federal development activity occurs.

POLICY 3.5.3: DESERT CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Continue administration of the Desert Conservation Program and the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Program (MSHCP) to ensure a balance between development and species conservation.

POLICY 3.5.4: INVASIVE SPECIES

Actively plan for the prevention, eradication, and management of noxious weeds and invasive species in natural areas.

Desert Conservation Program

Clark County's Desert Conservation Program helps to ensure that species covered under the ESA can continue to survive in the wild by maintaining habitat for them. The program also allows for development, through an incidental take program. An incidental take is an otherwise legal action—such as development and construction—that disturbs the habitat in which protected species reside. The County has secured a permit from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) allowing for the disturbance of up to 145,000 acres through incidental take. A fee paid by the developer or construction company is required for any disturbance activity, and the fee is used for the acquisition of sensitive habitats, habitat restoration, public information and education, research, the Wild Desert Tortoise Assistance Line and installation and maintenance of fencing along roadways to reduce tortoise mortality. In addition to the desert tortoise, there are 77 other species that are protected through the Desert Conservation Program.



Goal 3.6: Incorporate enhanced sustainability and resilience practices into the built environment

POLICY 3.6.1: URBAN HEAT ISLAND EFFECT

Mitigate the urban heat island effect in existing and new development through site and building features that provide shade, reduce the footprint of hardscaped areas, and otherwise help to reduce heat absorption by exterior surfaces.

POLICY 3.6.2: COMPACT, MIXED-USE, AND TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT

Encourage compact, mixed-use, and transit-oriented development, or any combination thereof, in locations that will lessen reliance on automobiles as the primary means of access to necessary services and encourage reduction in vehicle miles traveled. [See also, Goal 4.1, *Encourage the expansion and use of multimodal transportation options throughout Clark County, and related policies*]

POLICY 3.6.3: GREEN BUILDING

Reduce energy consumption by encouraging the integration of passive heating and cooling principles, superior insulation, energy efficient windows, use of environmentally-certified materials, and other techniques that improve energy efficiency in the design of new homes and buildings. Prioritize the use of incentives for net zero development.

POLICY 3.6.4: WATER RECYCLING

Encourage the reuse of treated effluent for area green space including, but not limited to, parks and golf courses.



POLICY 3.6.5: DROUGHT-TOLERANT LANDSCAPING

Using the SNRPC Plant List as a guide for appropriate plant choices, encourage the use of drought-tolerant, climate resilient, and desert-appropriate landscaping and the use of and irrigation systems that are designed for maximum water use efficiency.

POLICY 3.6.6: MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION

Prioritize efforts to reduce transportation-related carbon emissions through expanded and inter-connected multi-modal transportation options. [See also, Goal 4.1, *Encourage the expansion and use of multimodal transportation options throughout Clark County, and related policies*]

POLICY 3.6.7: GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Encourage the inclusion of green infrastructure such as rain gardens, permeable pavers, infiltration planters, and rainwater harvesting systems to larger scale infrastructure investments including pervious pavement with infiltration, vegetated swales, green roofs, bioretention, and grey water recycling systems.

POLICY 3.6.8: TRANSMISSION CAPABILITY

Encourage the development of transmission capability and interconnectivity for distributed energy, cogeneration and alternative energy sources, including regional interconnectivity and transmission capability.

Relationship to the County’s All-In Sustainability and Climate Action Plan

The goals and policies of Core Value 3 support a more sustainable and resilient Clark County by:

- Maintaining and improving air and water quality;
- Expanding the use of clean energy;
- Reducing landfilled waste;
- Protecting public lands and the natural environment; and
- Incorporating sustainability and resilience practices into the built environment.

GOALS	GHG Reduction Potential	INCREASED RESILIENCE			Equity Considerations
		Social	Economic	Built Environment	
Goal 3.1: Maintain air quality at a level that protects public health and improves visual clarity					
Goal 3.2: Support County and state efforts to expand the use of clean energy and achieve GHG reduction targets					
Goal 3.3: Maintain and protect the quality, supply, and reliability of Clark County’s water resources for current and future residents					
Goal 3.4: Reduce quantities of landfilled waste, potentially extending the operational life of current landfill sites within Clark County					
Goal 3.5: Manage access to public lands to balance habitat, recreational, environmental, aesthetic, and economic value					
Goal 3.6: Focus on incorporating enhanced sustainability and resilience practices into the built environment					