

Introduction



This document has been designed to be a “living” plan which enhances the work started by the Visioning Committee almost five years ago. This strategy updates the City’s Vision in the area of sustainability. This document is the foundation of the City’s sustainability project and updates will include refined strategies and action items.

The following two questions and answers are the basic framework of the “greenNLV” strategy for the City of North Las Vegas. Like many cities throughout the country, North Las Vegas, Nevada is looking at what it can do, what it is doing and how to plan for a more sustainable future.

*What is “greenNLV”? North Las Vegas is a City that...has **HOPE!***

- **Harnesses** alternative energy
- **Offers** smart, sustainable and “well-planned”, quality growth
- **Protects** its urban landscape and respects its desert environment
- **Encourages** recycling and maximizes its own recycling efforts

What are the key principles of “greenNLV”?

- **Planting the Seed:** Promotes opportunities for residents to make “greenNLV” a success through water conservation, enhanced recycling and overall resource management. This principle ties into the City Priorities of Community Spirit, Relationships & Pride and Quality Municipal Services.
- **Greening the Way:** The City takes on a leadership role in the community and works with other local, state and federal agencies on sustainability efforts. This principle ties into the City Priorities of Responsible Fiscal Management and Quality Municipal Services.
- **Green Enterprise and Economic Development:** We believe that North Las Vegas can lead the valley in opportunities for clean and sustainable industry. This principle ties into the City Priorities of Pivotal Development/Redevelopment and Economic Development.

- **Built to Last:** The City has worked hard to develop a planning policy that reflects new urbanist ideas and is sustainable. The City will continue with these efforts by implementing “green” principles in the design and operation of its facilities. This principle is tied in with the City Priorities of Well-Planned Quality Growth, Responsible Fiscal Management, and Quality Municipal Services.

Goals, Actions and Objectives

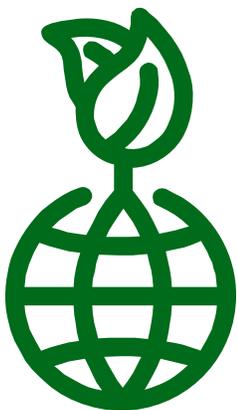
These action items and tactics have been developed to begin the discussion around the HOPE framework as the City moves towards a sustainable future. The key areas of progress toward a more “green” future will occur in two areas:

- I. **The Community at Large (Private Sector)**
- II. **The Public Sector (City, State and Federal agencies)**

The purpose of this document is to identify action items and the overall goals that are tied to the key principles. Some of these items may be funded through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Grant. The actions steps of this plan have been provided in written form. These steps can make the City of North Las Vegas a more sustainable community.

Planting the Seed

Current Projects



- **Enhanced Recycling Program with Republic Services:** Reduce the number of garbage pickups to one day per week by 2011 and implement full scale commingled recycling. The City of North Las Vegas, as members Southern Nevada Recycling Advisory Committee, approached Republic Services to bring forth a more aggressive residential recycling program to the City. As of June 2009 more than 4,000 households will be participating in single stream, commingled recycling with once per week trash pickup and once per week recycling pickup. This program reduces the number of trips by the garbage/recycling trucks, hence reduces the amount of

GHG (green house gasses) released into the atmosphere, and has significantly increased recycling rates in neighborhoods.

- **Water Conservation Efforts:** North Las Vegas works with a myriad of organizations that preserve a clean and safe water supply. The Utilities Department works diligently on water conservation efforts and desert environmental sustainability.
- **Alternative Fuel Use by the City and Improvements to City Fleet Operations:** Over the past five years, the City has purchased hybrid vehicles for use in our non-public safety sector and has moved some of its existing vehicles to alternative fuels.

Future Projects

- **Car Electrification Project:** The City is piloting a “fully” electric car program complete with charging station for internal mail and package distribution. This will eventually lead to charging stations throughout the City for both private and public use.
- **Community Outreach Forums and Town Halls:** The City has used these forums to announce sustainable programs and plans to residents. The City will continue this practice by bringing community partners to these events to promote energy efficiency. The City will work with utility companies on ways that residents can save resources and make the community more sustainable.
- **Reporting Sustainability through “See-it:”** The City has been measuring its performance for the last six years. These efforts will be enhanced and more available to the public, via the internet, through “See-it.” This program will track the City’s overall sustainability efforts online versus using traditional paper methods.

Greening the Way

Current Projects



- **Regional Trail Projects and Connectivity:** The City has worked with other local entities and the RTC (Regional Transportation Commission) in the development of a regional trails system that allows for safe travel across the valley when utilizing alternative modes of transportation.
- **Other Regional Transportation Partnership Projects:**
 - **Club-Ride:** City of North Las Vegas employees participate in this program which promotes ride sharing and the use of alternative forms of transportation to reduce air emissions and



fuel consumption.

- **MAX Bus Service (Metropolitan Area Express):** The pilot program, launched on North Las Vegas Boulevard by the RTC, offers express bus services to residents in the mature areas of the City. MAX vehicles use diesel and electric energy. The City supports the use of transit by its residents and staff.
- **Traffic Signal Improvement and FAST (Freeway and Arterial System of Transportation):** The City participates in this program which works to synchronize traffic signals thereby reducing emissions. The City will also seek grant funding to improve the connection of traffic signals, through a network of fiber, which will reduce traffic congestion and wait times. Also, the City currently relies on battery-powered back-ups on traffic signals when power outages occur, however grant funding will be sought after to replace that technology with solar-panel back-up devices.
- **Participation on SNRPC Sustainability Committee:** City staff has participated and worked in concert with other local agencies as part of the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Commission (SNRPC) on valley-wide “green” initiatives and projects.
- **Clean Cities Regional Efforts:** The City of North Las Vegas supports the efforts of Clean Cities by establishing projects for alternative fuel usage and the development of an Electric Infrastructure.
- **SNWA and CWC Participation:** The City supports the conservation efforts of the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) and the Clean Water Coalition (CWC), and is an active participant in these organizations. The conservation of water is critical to Southern Nevada and the City will continue to support programs that ensure water resources for the residents and businesses of North Las Vegas.
- **Participation in the “Green Chips” Program:** The City is working with other private and public entities on this program, which assists residents and businesses with “green” infrastructure and innovations.
- **Participation in ICLEI (International Council for Local Governments):** This is an international association of local governments that have made a commitment to sustainable development. The City has joined this organization for both networking and support of “green” initiatives.

Future Projects

- **Encouraging the use of LEED (Leadership through Environmental Design) principles:** The City encourages the development of LEED complaint sites and the use of LEED principles when designing structures. As the City develops new facilities, staff keeps LEED principles in mind when designing, regardless if the funding for certification is available.

Green Enterprise and Economic Development

Current Project



- **Downtown Master Plan:** The recently approved Downtown Master Plan contains elements of pedestrian-oriented redevelopment. This plan encourages the development of “green-collar” employment in the City’s mature areas.

Future Project

that encourage the expansion of sustainable companies.

- **Encouraging Green Enterprise:** The City’s Economic Development Department will work with “green” companies who seek to relocate or expand in North Las Vegas. The City will work with the State on incentives

Built to Last

Current Projects



- **New City Hall:** The City seeks to build an energy efficient and sustainable structure that will break ground in June 2009. As part of the development of this new facility, the City is seeking LEED Silver certification.
- **Efficiency Upgrades and Projects**
 - HVAC, interior lighting changes, use of natural light and a transition to sustainable materials.
 - Adopt Green technology for the retrofit of existing City buildings, when possible.



- **Changes to Fleet and Fueling:** The City has worked with Clean Cities and other groups in becoming more sustainable. These efforts have been focused on the following:
 - Use of Alternative Fuel Vehicles
 - Modification of fueling sources for existing vehicles
- **Replacement of Infrastructure to sustainable materials and energy efficient materials:** The City has initiated “green” progress with the replacement of traditional traffic signal lights to LED lights. This conversion has saved energy, and staff has been replacing other lighting poles and parks lighting.
- **Adoption of the 2007 International Energy Conservation Code and Southern Nevada Amendments:** This code was designed to reduce air pollutant emissions, moderate peak electric power demand, and control energy costs which comprise the latest energy-saving standards affecting the construction of residential homes and commercial buildings.
- **City Internal/Office Recycling:** The City has an active internal recycling program for office waste and scrap metals. The City, in the future, will purchase recycled products and will reduce paper consumption through the use of electronic transmission. Recently the SIRE system for Council agenda item processing has been deployed. The once paper-process has been replaced by an online-process.
- **Adoption of Plans that support Sustainability:** Over the last few years the City has adopted new urbanist planning principles in the Comprehensive Plan Update, North 5th Street, and Master Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans. All of these plans support transit oriented development (TOD), advance higher densities for mixed-use and coordinate land use and transportation to create a better community.

Future Projects

- **SkyView Multi-Generational Center:** This facility is under design and the City is evaluating materials and options that will make this a more energy efficient building.
- **Use of Recycled/Eco-Friendly Materials for Infrastructure:** This would include the use of “green” materials for roadways and other surfaces. The City already uses some recycled materials in its asphalt mix. As more materials and innovations become available, these opportunities will be explored.
- **Citywide Energy Audit:** Determine energy needs and efficiencies throughout the City. Develop a priority plan for projects that will promote the long-term sustainability of City facilities.



- **Review and revise City Policies and Operations:** Investigate environmentally friendly programs for employees and the cost-benefits to the City.
 - Examples include, but are not limited to, telecommuting, document production solutions, default duplex printing, power reductions from equipment, and the mandated purchasing of recycled supplies and Energy Star equipment.
 - Increase opportunities for re-use & repurposing; emphasis on energy/water conservation at City facilities.
- **Revise other planning documents:** With the development of this plan it may be necessary to revise and review previous documents to ensure consistency with the City's sustainability efforts and mirrors current terminology.
- **Solar Panels on Covered Parking:** The City is investigating the use of solar panels on covered parking as an additional power source for new and existing facilities.

From Visioning 2025 to greenNLV



Closing the Gap...While setting lofty goals for a sustainable future is often the politically-correct thing to do, goals should be aligned with other strategic plans and priorities. Therefore, City staff has sought to initially align the “greenNLV” strategy with Visioning 2025 which was adopted 5 years ago as a 20-year strategic plan for the City. The City Priorities and areas of emphasis in this plan fit into a sustainable framework. The citizens who developed this plan envisioned a different and better City in the year 2025.

Thus, the goal of this document will be to include potential sustainable elements from Visioning 2025 and to provide an opportunity for residents to augment this plan with more input as implementation begins. The “greenNLV” strategy will become an element of the overall Visioning 2025 plan.

City Priorities include:

- Achieving North Las Vegas Vision 2025
- Well-Planned Quality Growth
- Economic Development
- Community Services and Cultural Amenities
- Responsible Fiscal Management
- Quality Municipal Services

Visioning 2025 sets forth the framework for some of the items outlined in this strategy. The Visioning 2025 plan was adopted in March 2005 and the strategies shared as part of this section will tie into the revised sustainable goals and objectives.

In the section of **Planned Quality Growth**, citizens outlined four areas of emphasis: Land Use, Transportation, Water and Air Quality.

Land Use Relevant Goals and Strategies

- Apply smart growth techniques when planning new developments.
- Encourage mixed-use developments.
- Establish guidelines for the appropriate use of green pathways and people-oriented amenities.



Transportation Relevant Goals and Strategies

- Provide greater mobility through the development of mass transit corridors.
- Provide greater access to park and ride lots.
- Develop bike lanes, trails and sidewalks for alternative use.

Water Relevant Goals and Strategies

- Preserve a clean and safe water supply.
- Actively participate with other state and local agencies.
- Promote continued water conservation by residents and businesses.

Air Quality Relevant Goals and Strategies

- Continue to improve air quality in the City of North Las Vegas.
- Promote and encourage alternatives to single passenger travel.
- Encourage the attraction of high tech, low pollutant industries.

In the section of **Economic Development** citizens expressed the need for a vibrant and strong tax base.

Economic Development Relevant Goals and Strategies

- Diversify the North Las Vegas Economy
 - Attract a variety of businesses into North Las Vegas that serve the divergent needs of its citizens in the five pivotal areas as noted in Visioning 2025.

All other areas Relevant Goals and Strategies

In the other sections of the Visioning 2025 Plan, the citizens expressed the desire for a community that is not only safe, but has a positive image. The “greenNLV” plan ties the strategic direction given in 2005 with the newly adopted sustainability elements. As the City revisits the strategic visioning document in the next few years, these other areas will more directly reflect environmental balance and sustainable elements.