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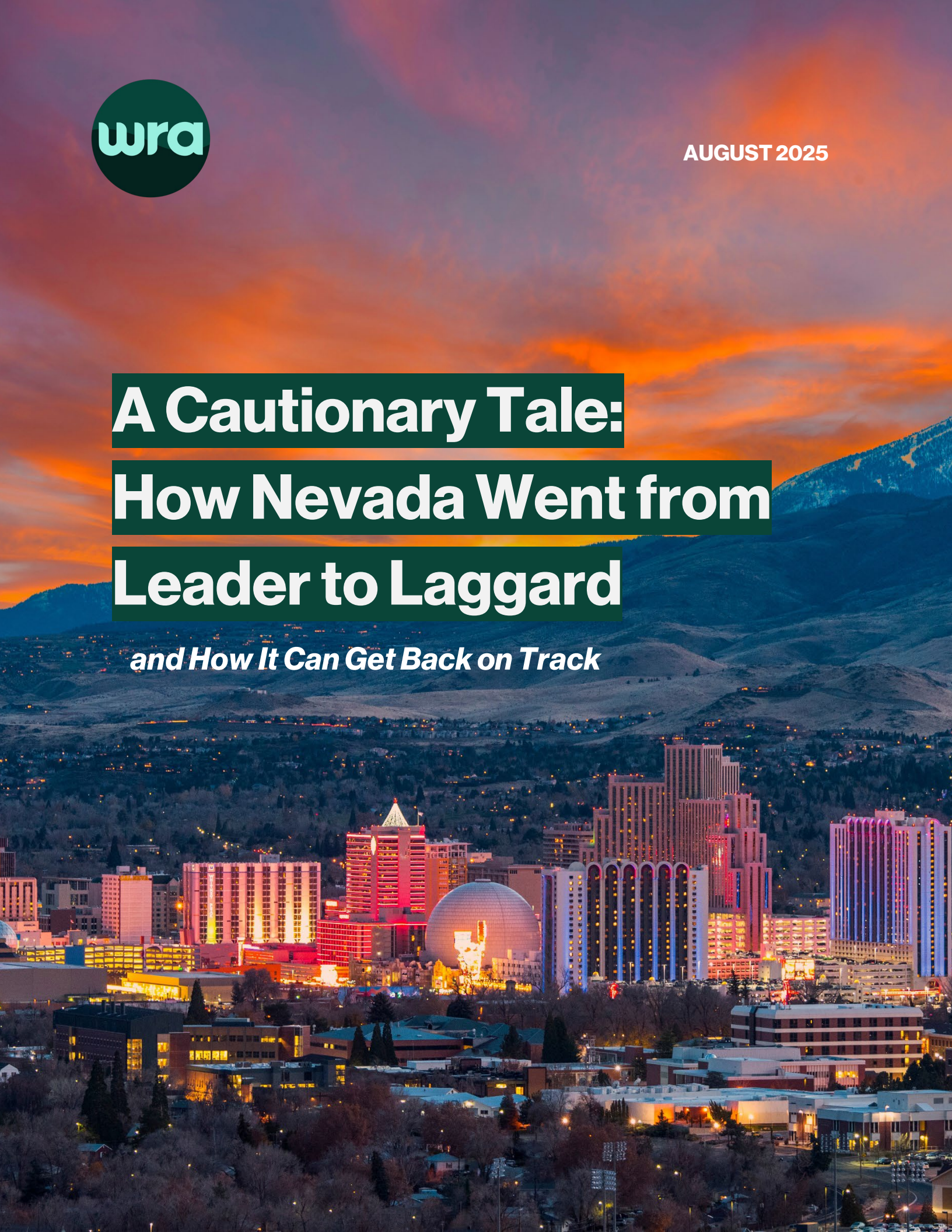
A Cautionary Tale: How Nevada Went from Leader to Laggard

and How It Can Get Back on Track



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Sunrise Mountain in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Introduction

Nevada is in crisis. It is the **driest state in the United States**, home to two of the fastest-warming cities in the nation, and plagued by some of the worst air quality in the country. The state is also facing mounting threats from catastrophic wildfire, dwindling water supply, extreme temperatures, and long-term drought. These challenges don't just pose theoretical threats to jobs and public health, and the damage is not only a concern for the future. Nevadans are suffering right now: premature deaths, chronic health issues, far-reaching economic hardships, loss of tax revenue, and risks of collapsing ecosystems on which the state depends.

The causes of these unprecedented problems are not independent of each other or a mystery: They are the predictable outcomes of extended reliance on expensive and polluting energy sources to power electricity, buildings, transportation, and industries — an approach that no longer makes economic sense.

Nevada's poor air quality and rising heat are driven primarily by emissions from the transportation sector, electricity generation, industry, and overreliance on dirty fuel sources like methane gas.

Sources of Nevada's Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sector

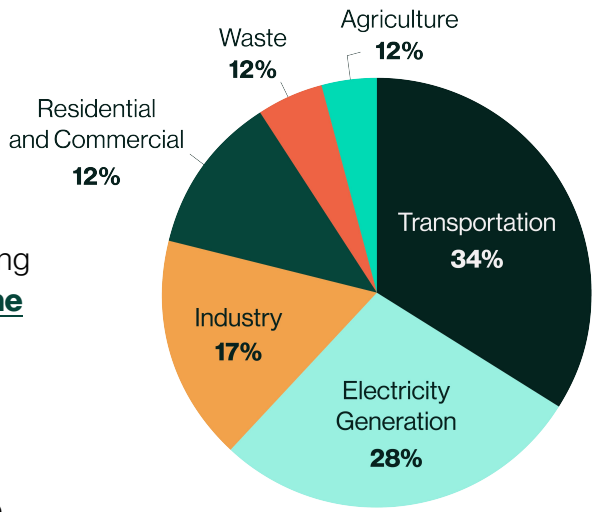


*Figure 1: Relative contributions of Nevada's gross greenhouse gas emissions by sector, according to the **Nevada Division of Environmental Protection**.*

Once a leader in adopting the next generation of stable, reliable, and affordable energy resources, Nevada was on a clear path to securing a better, more resilient future for its residents. Under the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard, which requires electric utilities to ensure a minimum percentage of their electricity is powered by renewable sources each year, the state was making great strides in advancing clean energy and **led the nation** in per capita solar production in 2017. In 2019, the state passed **Senate Bill 358**, which required electricity providers to progressively increase the amount of energy drawn from renewable resources to 50% by 2030. That same year, Nevada lawmakers passed **Senate Bill 254**, which established aspirational goals to reduce climate pollution 28% by 2025, 45% by 2030, and to reach net-zero emissions by 2050, compared to 2005 baseline levels. Though the state has set ambitious, science-based emissions reductions targets, there are no consequences if those goals go unmet.

Today, despite the availability of several proven strategies to tackle these challenges, the state is missing pollution reductions milestones, which could leave Nevada stuck in the past.

Nevada is already slated to fall **4.3%** short of SB 254's 2025 pollution reduction goal and **19.5%** short of the 2030 goal if no additional policies are implemented,

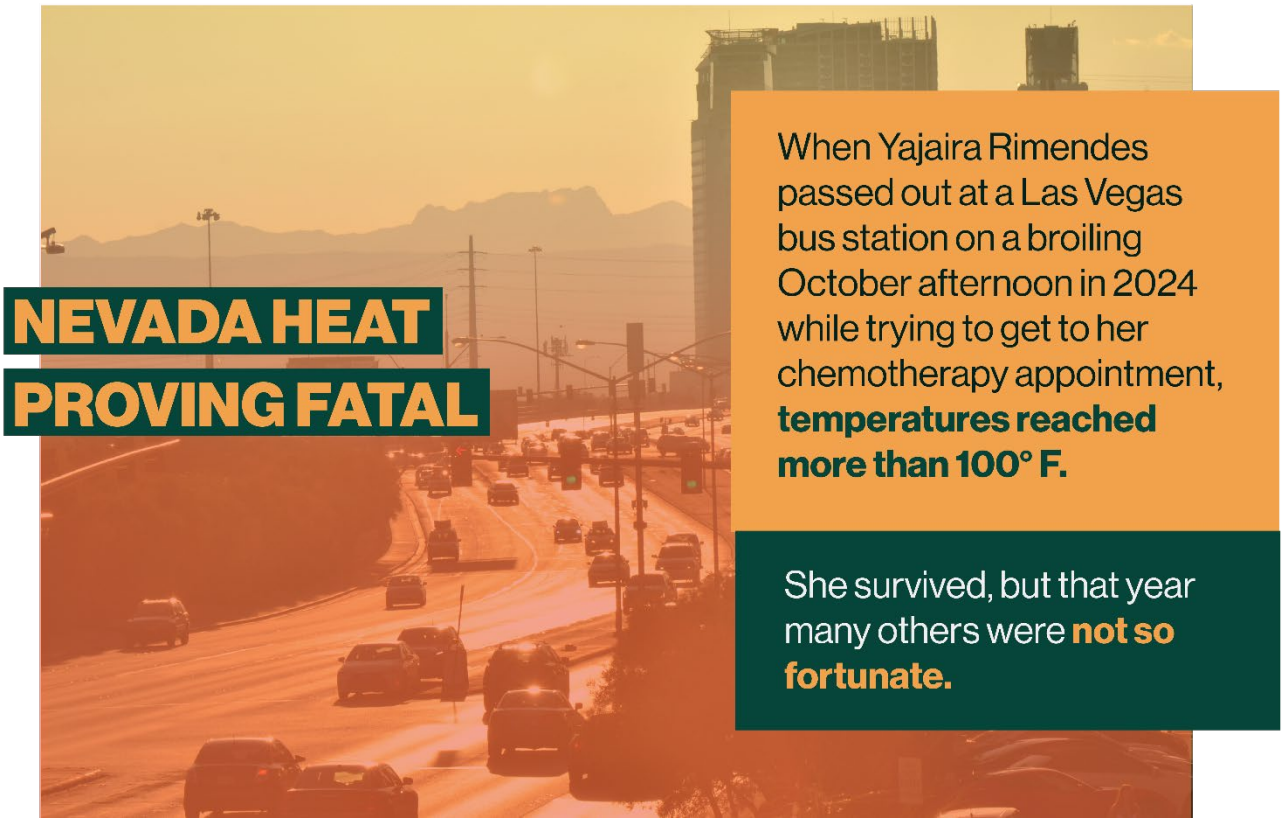
according to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection's 2022 greenhouse gas emissions inventory.

Every year that passes without robust efforts to address the problem, Nevada's goals fall further out of reach. **But the path to a better future is clear: prioritizing more affordable, reliable, and clean energy solutions for Nevada's most polluting sectors.**

The benefits of a transition to clean, domestically produced energy are abundant: lower power bills, energy independence, stable jobs, clean air and water, and a chance to lead the nation in the clean energy industry. Thankfully, it's not too late to change course for the better, but it will require proactive leadership and immediate action to get Nevada back on track.

Nevada is in Crisis

Heat



Original reporting *by Jennifer Solis with The Nevada Current, published on April 21, 2025.*

Nevada is home to two of the fastest-warming cities in the United States, and it is becoming a fatal problem.

While the lower 48 states have warmed by an average of 2.6°F, both of Nevada's largest population centers are bearing the brunt of warming temperatures. Climate Central analyzed average summer temperatures from 1970 to 2024 and found that **Reno was the fastest-warming city in the U.S., with average temperatures heating by 7.8°F, and Las Vegas was second, heating by 5.9°F.**

Reno was also identified as one of **the top 13 locations** with more summer days above its normal temperatures — 45 to 67 more days to be exact.

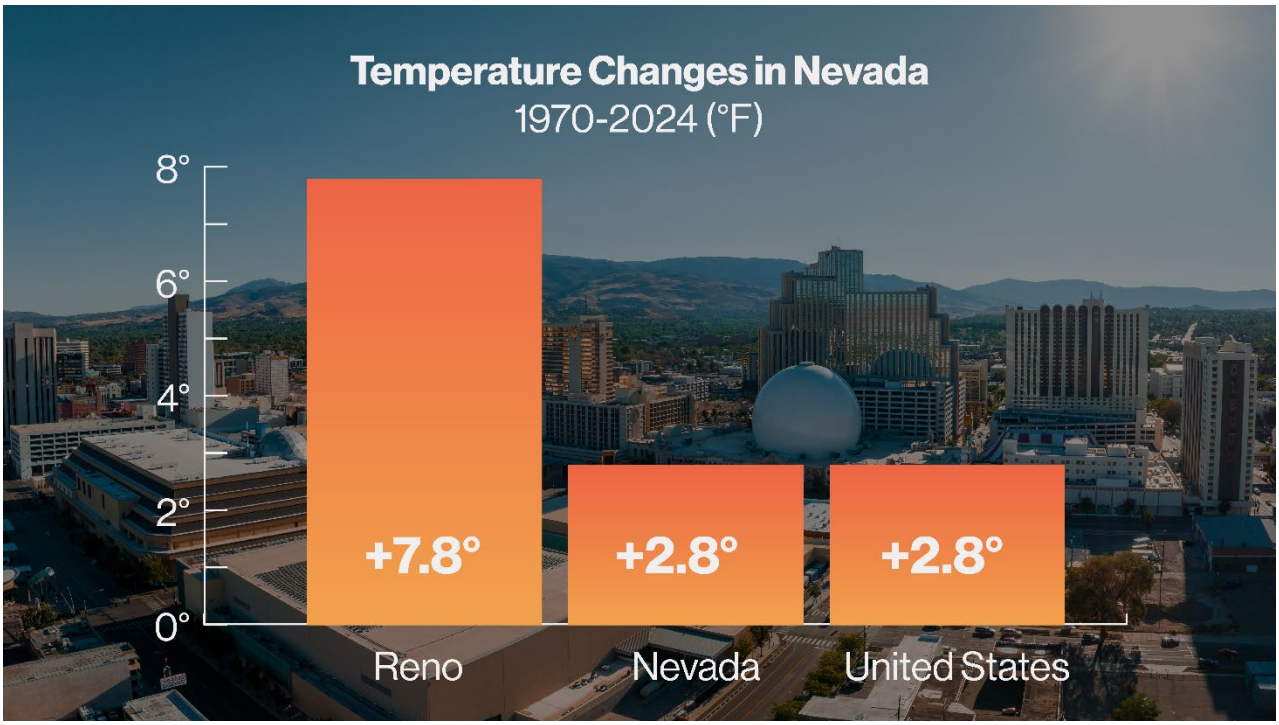


*Figure 2: **Climate Central** data shows the average temperature change from 1970-2024 in Reno, the nation's fastest-warming city, compared to Nevada and the United States as a whole.*

Nevadans are quickly realizing they are on the frontlines of extreme heat impacts as temperatures are rising faster than the rest of the country. Statewide, emergency rooms saw **3,750 visits** for heat-related illness in the summer of 2024, which is 28% more visits compared to the **summer of 2023**.

In 2024, 513 Nevadans died from heat-related deaths — a record-breaking number and a 73% increase compared to the 296 heat deaths recorded the year before. Of those deaths in 2024, about 80% occurred in Clark County. The **Office of State Epidemiology** found that people in Nevada are "highly susceptible to heat-related illnesses," especially in Southern Nevada.

Heat doesn't just threaten lives and livelihoods during the day. Reno and Las Vegas are experiencing **hotter summer nights** compared to the average low temperatures from 1970-2022. Mortality risk on hot nights could be 50% higher than those with cooler evenings, and predicted heat-related deaths could **increase sixfold** by the end of the century due to warmer nighttime temperatures. Hotter nights mean there is little reprieve from oppressive daytime temperatures, and surfaces like concrete and asphalt **radiate that warmth** back over many hours, keeping temperatures high even after the sun sets. As one of the most urbanized states in the nation, with **94% of the population** living in urban areas, the "urban heat island effect" has likely worsened these warming trends, particularly in cities like Las Vegas.

*Figure 3: Sample data from a Reuters' article, "**The Floor is Lava**," shows the differences in surface temperature between asphalt and grass when air temperatures reach 100°F.*

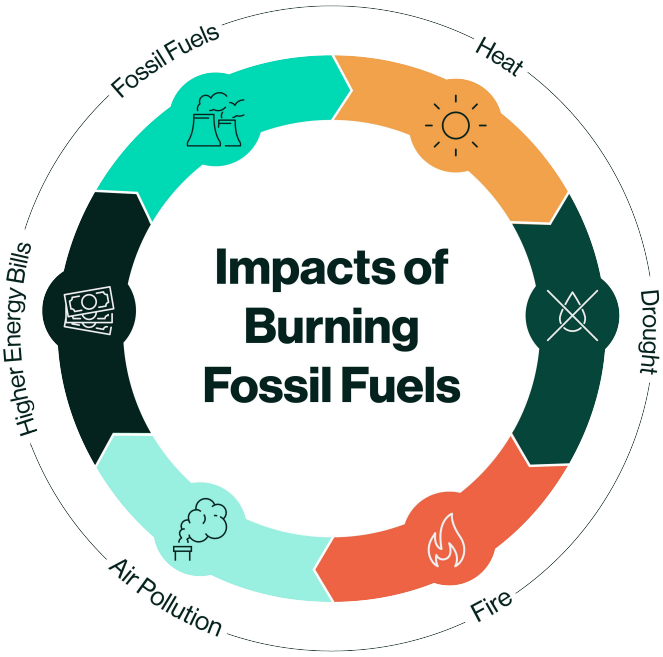
This deadly heat is not normal, and Nevadans know it. As reported by **the Nevada Current** in April 2025, Yajaira Rimendes, who has lived in Las Vegas for decades, said that the hot weather is different now. She shared that it is more persistent and intense, and harder to stay cool in her mobile home.

From July through September 2024, Las Vegas recorded 74 days above 100°F, with an average high of nearly 105°F, marking the hottest summer period since record keeping began in 1937, according to the **Nevada State Climate Office**. That same year, **an extreme heat wave hit Reno in July, setting a record as the hottest month in the city's documented history**, according to the **National Weather Service**.

This unprecedented heat forces people to stay indoors and **disproportionately impacts certain groups**. More at risk are elderly, infants, children, pregnant people or those with disabilities or chronic medical conditions, athletes, outdoor workers, individuals experiencing homelessness, and those without air conditioning. Low-income households also **tend to be more reliant** on older, less efficient air conditioners, driving up energy bills for the communities most at risk and forcing families to make the impossible choice: suffer sky-high energy bills or life-threatening heat?

Elected officials are taking note that Nevadans are suffering from the heat. In 2025, the state legislature passed Assembly Bill 96, which requires Clark and Washoe counties to develop formal heat plans and promotes the development of shaded infrastructure, public cooling spaces, and accessible and clean drinking water. Senate Bill 260 establishes protections for outdoor workers, who are most at risk of health issues from extreme heat and air pollution.

But the underlying cause of soaring heat — a changing climate caused by the excessive burning of fossil fuels — remains an issue still to be fully addressed. Modeling and data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (**NOAA**) suggests that higher emissions are expected to increase fatal heat through this century.



Burning fossil fuels creates a feedback loop that exacerbates heat, drought, fire, and pollution. Hotter temperatures increase reliance on air conditioning, driving up customers' energy bills. As utilities turn on fossil-fuel plants to meet high demand, more pollution is released, heat worsens, and the feedback loop continues.

Climate change is a threat multiplier. Higher temperatures increase reliance on air conditioning units, driving up utility bills for residents. Then, utilities burn more dirty fossil fuels to meet energy demand, emitting more climate-warming pollutants and exacerbating these issues rather than solving them.

Drought

Not only does heat pose immediate health and safety risks, but it also intensifies drought and diminishes already strained water resources, according to NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information **2022 State Climate Summaries.** Nevada is experiencing an unprecedented period of dryness that has expanded droughts. Most of Nevada's counties have been designated as natural disaster areas due to extremely arid conditions, according to NOAA.

In 2024, Las Vegas experienced no measurable rain for 214 consecutive days. This was the second time in 88 years that the city saw no rain for more than 200 days.

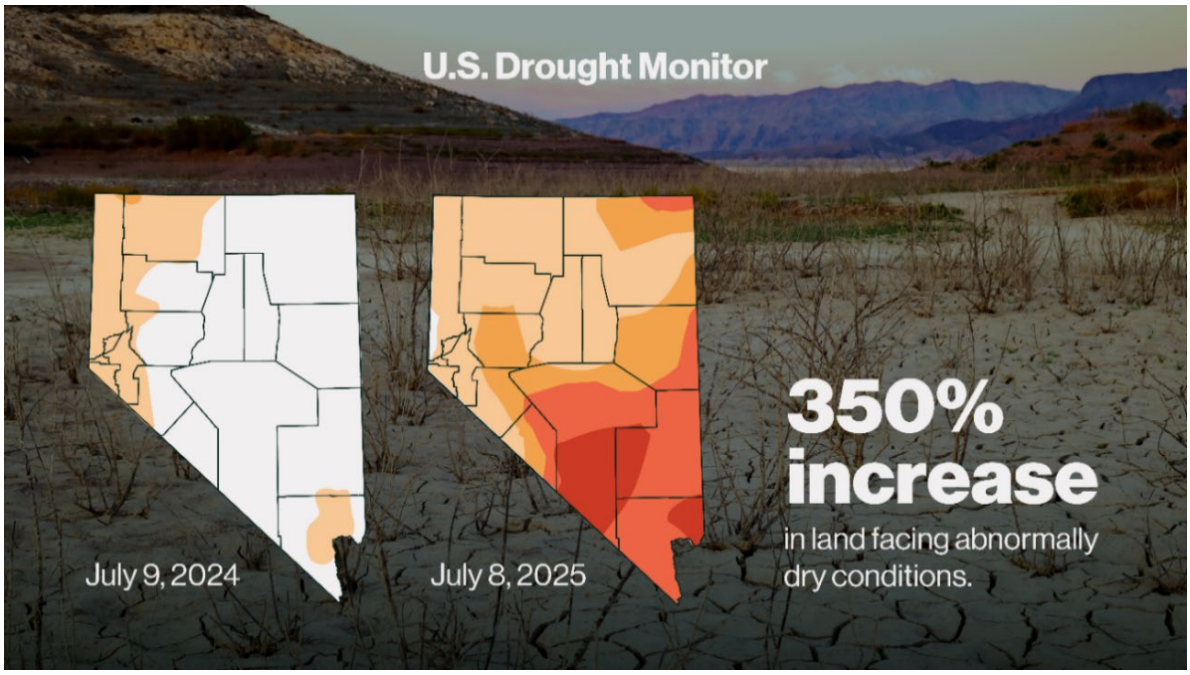


Figure 4: U.S. Drought Monitor data from July 2024 to July 2025 indicates there is a 350% increase in Nevada lands facing abnormally dry conditions.

This is part of an ongoing and unsettling trend. From July 2024 to July 2025, the state saw a 350% increase in land facing abnormally dry conditions, according to the **U.S. Drought Monitor**. That means 99.63% of Nevada's land is experiencing some form of drought, an area that's home to an estimated 2 million residents.

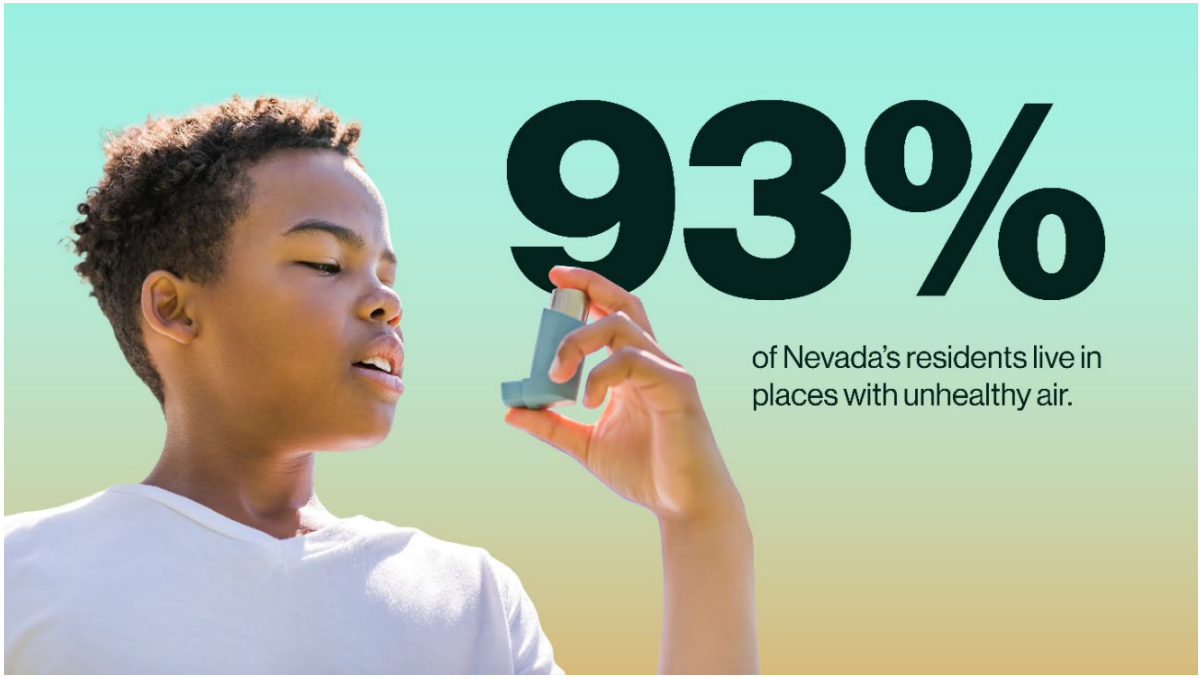
Drought has economic impacts as well. According to reporting from the Nevada Independent, Nevada's beef cattle industry — historically the state's largest agricultural commodity — is in decline.

Original reporting *by Amy Alonzo from the Nevada Independent, published March 2, 2025.*

Between 2017 and 2022, Nevada's beef production dropped by 6%. **The causes of the decline** are many, according to a new report from the Nevada Department of Agriculture. But the list is topped by drought conditions and high supplemental feed prices. If Nevada was on track to meet emissions reductions targets, it would prevent $172 to $786 million in economic damages by 2030 and up to $4 billion by 2050, according to state's 2020 Climate Strategy.

Air Pollution

Nevadans are also experiencing some of the worst air quality in the nation. **While nearly half of Americans are affected by air pollution, Nevadans are disproportionately impacted.**



*Data provided by the **American Lung Association** 2025 State of the Air report.*

The American Lung Association ranked Las Vegas and Reno in the top 25 most polluted U.S. cities, and in its **2025 State of the Air report** Clark, Washoe, and Lyon counties all earned failing grades for ozone and particle pollution, driven by carbon emissions and wildfire smoke.

Communities of color in Nevada are unequally burdened, as they are more likely to live somewhere with at least one failing air-quality grade. Compared to their white counterparts, people of color are **61% more likely** to live in a county with unhealthy air and more than three times more likely to live in a county that fails all three air-quality grades, according to the association. Data from Clark County school districts shows the highest rate of asthma by race is among **Black and Latino students**. Dirty air causes negative health impacts like childhood asthma attacks, lung cancer, heart attacks, strokes, and premature death.

The **American Lung Association** finds that there have been major health benefits due to Clean Air Act successes in reducing emissions over time, and a widespread shift to **renewable energy** is crucial to achieving breathable air. But pollution from industry, tailpipes, and energy generation is making it harder to attain the healthy air Nevadans need.

Through a widespread shift to clean energy and zero-emission transportation, Nevada would avoid 675 premature deaths, 14,800 asthma attacks, and 78,900 lost workdays for a public health benefit of $7.5 billion between 2020 and 2050, according to the **2022 State of the Air report**.

There is strong popular support in Nevada for the solutions that are needed. Pollution and its negative impacts are a nonpartisan issue. Seventy-eight percent of Nevadans think air pollution and smog are a serious problem, according to the **2025 State of Conservation in the West** poll. In the same poll, **73% of Nevadans support the government taking action to reduce pollution that contributes to climate change**.

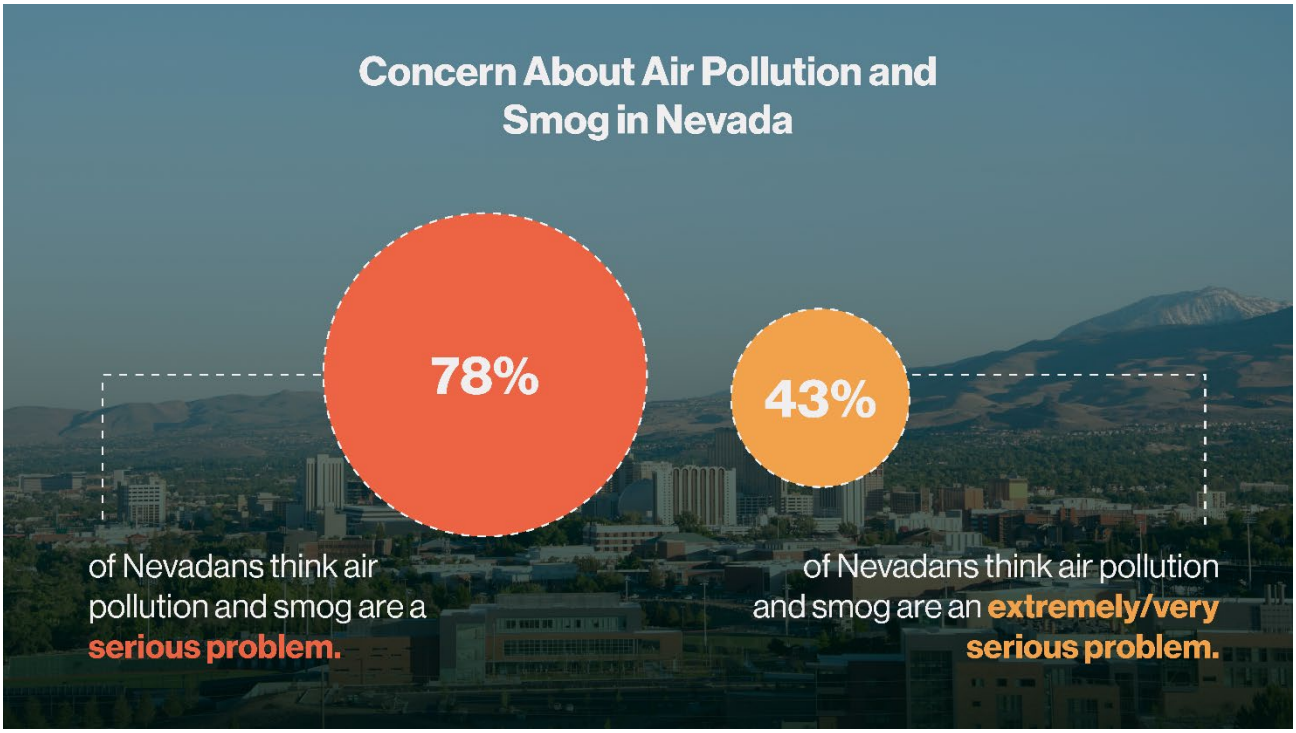


Figure 5: Nevadans' concern about air pollution and smog, according to the 2025 State of Conservation in the West poll.

Wildfire

Extreme drought paired with rising heat creates tinderbox-like conditions, worsening catastrophic wildfires around the state. In the West, natural wildfire has always played an important role in maintaining healthy ecosystems, but in recent decades they have increased in frequency, severity, and length. The West's history of suppressing wildfires at all costs, including fires that may have been beneficial in rejuvenating overgrown areas, has led to a century of hazardous buildup of dense vegetation — fuel that can turn a small burn into a huge, destructive blaze.

With a climate that is trending hotter and drier, these fuels dry out faster and contribute to more destructive wildfires. **In the Southwest, periods with higher risk of more intense, catastrophic wildfire are projected to increase by more than 20 days per year by the end of the 21st century**, according to **a recent study** by the Desert Research Institute, and these periods are set to persist into the winter months as well.

More frequent and increasingly intense, catastrophic wildfires threaten homes, communities, and infrastructure, while also increasing risk for insurance providers, which can make home insurance unaffordable or inaccessible. **A report** found that **Nevadans have already seen home insurance rates rise by 24% from 2019 to 2024, with severe wildfire attributed as a major cause of rising premiums.**

Nevadans have already seen home insurance rates rise by **24%** from 2019 to 2024,

according to Insurance.com's February 2025 home insurance rate increases report.

The state's largest utility, NV Energy, recognizes this risk. The company has asked the Public Utilities Commission (PUCN), the agency that regulates the state's largest utilities, for authorization to establish a $500 million self-insurance fund to provide adequate coverage for disastrous wildfires.

Actuarial expert Nathan Pollak **testified** before the PUCN that there is "significant risk" that catastrophic wildfires could cause financial damages of $1 to $2 billion in the next 10-20 years. The utility and its customers could potentially be on the hook to pay these additional costs.

Wildfires have always been a natural, beneficial part of the landscape, refreshing soil nutrients and enhancing biodiversity. But worsening drought and extreme heat are increasingly turning these normally healthy blazes into extra-hot megafires that pose a year-round threat to Nevada communities. These massive fires cause ripple effects on the environment and nearby

communities, including mounting air-quality issues from smoke, erosion, devastating flooding, reduced water quality, loss of wildlife habitat, and aesthetic damage to beautiful landscapes.

Increased fire danger also yields more fire restrictions on public lands, like in June 2024, when the Bureau of Land Management and the Nevada Division of Forestry placed most of the public land in Northern and Western Nevada under fire restrictions. **Healthy, intact public lands are the foundation of Nevada's booming outdoor recreation industry, which brought in $8.1 billion in value-added gross domestic product in 2023** — that makes the state the fourth fastest-growing outdoor economy in the U.S. — according to the **Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation**. Of course, more visitors to public lands means more chances for a stray campfire, firework, or cigarette to light an uncontrollable blaze.

Nevada's public lands provide many more benefits than simply opportunities to recreate outside. Healthy, intact forested ecosystems and sagebrush habitat provide cities with water, support the pollinator populations crucial to a functioning food chain, and help protect clean air by removing carbon and releasing oxygen. Protecting healthy ecosystems and habitats from the threat of unnaturally extreme wildfires preserves Nevadans' health and way of life.

That's why the legislature passed **Senate Bill 19**, allowing the state to join the Great Plains Wildland Fire Protection Compact and the Northwest Wildland Fire Protection Agreement, fast-tracking the transfer of resources across state lines during fire-related emergencies.

But without proactive, smart wildfire policies to reduce the risk of huge burns, and action on climate pollution to address the source of the problem, these measures only address how emergencies are handled and who fronts the bill. Meanwhile, the fire risk continues to grow.

An aerial view of Nevada's Capitol in Carson City.

Nevada Could be a Clean Energy Leader

Despite broad, bipartisan interest in investing in the next generation of affordable and reliable energy sources, Nevada still needs more elected leaders who will fight to advance evidence-based solutions to this crisis.

Gov. Lombardo's administration took office in January 2023, and within the first 100 days, the Office of Energy **removed** former Gov. Sisolak's 255-page statewide climate strategy from 2020. The plan was taken down from the state's website in March 2023, accompanied by an **executive order** that uplifted the use of methane gas, another polluting energy resource, rather than focusing on renewable energy resources.

Then, in August 2024, the Office of Energy released a new **33-page climate plan,** nearly a year and a half after removing the previous one. This slimmed down plan contains fewer actionable objectives, goals, and timelines to realistically achieve clean energy and emissions reductions goals in the state.

The administration also withdrew the state from the bipartisan U.S. Climate Alliance, a coalition of governors committed to reducing emissions consistent with the goals of the international **Paris Agreement**. In 2024, **Lombardo joined 15 other Republican governors** in petitioning the federal government to reconsider a proposed update to emissions standards for

passenger cars. These rules would have cumulatively avoided **7.3 billion metric tons of CO_2** and provided climate benefits worth up to $330 billion.

As Nevadans suffer the effects of burning fossil fuels, there's an opportunity for more elected leaders to take the helm and proactively advance policies that tackle these challenges while driving economic investments and jobs in the state. After all, clean energy secures more than breathable air and affordable bills; it creates good-paying jobs and drives investment in **emerging industries** like electric vehicle battery recycling, an industry Nevada is uniquely prepared to lead. **According to E2, from 2023 to 2024, Nevada ranked in the top 10 states with the fastest-growing clean energy employment, with a 5.6% increase.**

Based on data from E2's 2024 Clean Jobs America report.

With strong state leadership, Nevada could be poised to see explosive growth in clean energy employment. But as things stand, these jobs are eminently under threat. According to **a report by Energy Innovation**, the passage of the Trump administration's budget and spending bill on July 4, 2025, is expected to cut 6,200 jobs from Nevada's workforce by 2030 and more than 8,300 jobs by 2035. The bill is predicted to increase household energy spending by an average of more than $270 a year in 2030 and $500 a year in 2035. **With these federal rollbacks, Nevada could see a loss of $1 billion in gross domestic product by 2030.**

Under these federal threats, Nevada should defend stable jobs and sources of economic prosperity by enhancing these critical industries at the state level. Even as policy shifts at the national level, the state can still advance clean energy, protect jobs, and secure a better future for its residents.

But despite the passage of legislation in the previous decade to incrementally adopt renewable energy, Nevada is falling behind on pollution reductions. The state still needs more climate champions ready to meet this moment.

These issues extend beyond the state's elected leaders, as NV Energy is significantly backsliding on its projected emissions reductions and the PUCN is hindered in its authority by an opaque, flawed regulatory process. This makes it unnecessarily challenging for the Commission to ensure that a utility's energy choices are the most affordable, reliable, and cleanest options for Nevadans.

A power plant in Nevada creates electricity.

A Flawed Utility Planning Process is Failing Nevada

Nevada is one of the few states with a single for-profit utility servicing the majority of the state's customers. As an investor-owned, for-profit company, NV Energy is a legal monopoly that is regulated by the PUCN. Utilities in the state are required to file a resource plan, called an integrated resource plan (IRP), at least every three years.

All energy decisions, clean or polluting, expensive or cheap, are approved through an IRP process and later paid for by customers. And the costs associated with extending transmission lines, adding new energy resources, or repairing infrastructure are passed on to utility customers via their energy bills. **So, a properly functioning IRP process is critical to protecting Nevadans' health and wallets.**

In an effective IRP, the Commission and utility would project load growth, or the predicted demand for energy, determine the amount of energy resources needed to meet that demand, and assess the cost to build and operate those resources, as well as additional factors. A utility could then tap the market through a formal bidding process to identify the most cost-competitive energy resources that maintain the reliability of the broader energy system.

Nevada's process, however, enables NV Energy to preselect bids from different energy developers behind closed doors and package them in its IRP filings to the Commission. These developers bring different projects to the table to meet predicted energy demand, like a methane gas turbine or new solar array, but under Nevada's IRP process the PUCN is unable to timely assess if the utility's choices are the right ones. This flaw limits Commission oversight and results in energy selections that may not best serve Nevadans.

This imperfect process was on full display over the past five years as NV Energy sought to replace the energy-generating capacity from the North Valmy Generating Station, the lone coal plant in Nevada that was slated for closure. Initially meant to be replaced with solar and battery storage, Valmy became the center of controversy from 2022 to 2023 as the utility rapidly filed amendments to its 2021 IRP, citing "urgent reliability concerns." This left little time for stakeholders and the Commission to fully review and evaluate the utility's proposals. With an effective IRP process these concerns would have already been identified.

While commissioners expressed their concerns over the rapid and piecemeal changes, the requests were ultimately approved, and under the fifth amendment, Valmy was converted into a methane gas-fired plant — another polluting energy source — rather than solar. In the utility's 2024 IRP, the PUCN approved additional methane gas turbines at Valmy, further entrenching the state in reliance on fossil fuels.

Burning methane gas isn't just bad for the state's challenges with air pollution; the fuel is subject to huge swings in price as global markets shift, leaving ratepayers to front the bill. Nevadans saw significant increases in their utility bills during **2022-2023** when gas prices spiked, and this price volatility hits low-income families the hardest. The surest way to insulate Nevadans from methane gas price spikes is to ramp up investment in price-stable renewable energy sources.

Back in 2021, NV Energy was already projected to miss the 2030 goal of reducing emissions 80% from 2005 levels, a mark scientists agree needs to be met to **prevent the greatest impacts of climate change**. The utility was set to achieve this science-based target eight years late. Now, the projections have only gotten worse. After replacing the North Valmy Generating Station with methane gas rather than solar, and adding more gas units in 2024, the utility is projected to hit this mark in 2047, pushing critical decarbonization targets another decade down the road. Each year that passes without significant emissions reductions increases the threats to human health, life, and economic prosperity.

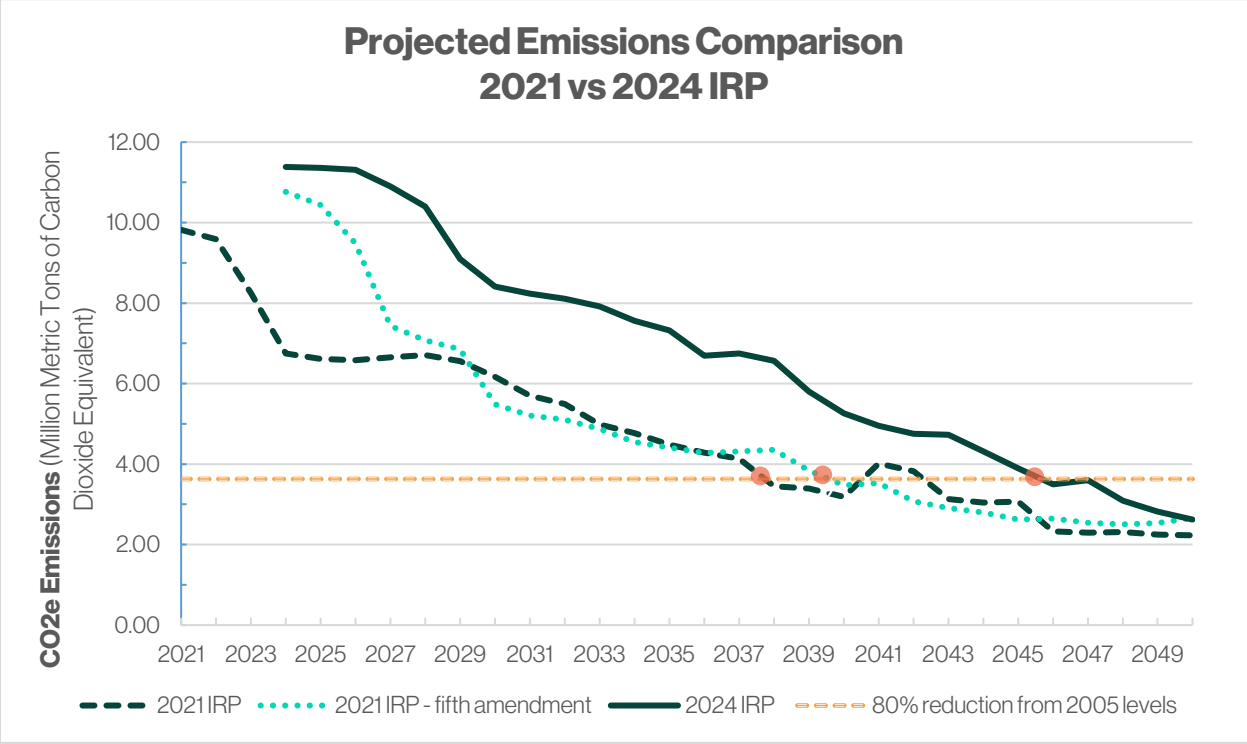


Figure 6: WRA's analysis of carbon emissions projections, including some additional pollutants, between NV Energy's 2021 IRP, 2021 IRP with the fifth amendment, and 2024 IRP. Highlighted points indicate what year NV Energy would first reach 80% emissions reductions under each plan.

Resource selections made under pressure and reliant on a flawed system, like the conversion of Valmy from coal to methane gas, lock the state into more polluting pathways, delaying life-saving emissions reductions benchmarks year after year.

The state has taken steps to empower the PUCN with greater oversight, and in 2023, lawmakers passed **Assembly Bill 524**, creating thresholds that require the utility to file full, updated IRPs rather than last-minute amendments to avoid rushed evaluation timelines and approvals. The long-term goal is to create a proactive regulatory process instead of a reactive one, with more transparency and Commission oversight to protect utility customers and the state. This rulemaking is now underway, but more is needed, and quickly, to get Nevada back on track.

Data centers — the buildings that serve as the engines of artificial intelligence and cloud computing — pose unparalleled demands on Nevada's energy and water and are a monumental threat to the state's already slipping emissions reductions goals. NV Energy is predicting unprecedented energy demand, and a reformed IRP process will be critical to meet the moment with zero-emission fuel sources.

Load Growth

In recent filings with the PUCN, NV Energy forecasts "considerable" load growth in the state through 2034 due primarily to the development of large projects, such as energy-intensive data centers.

As of October 2024, Nevada has 40 data centers, with demand for these complexes so rapid that the Reno Planning Commission voted to pause on filing and issuing permits in February 2025 so it could better understand possible effects.

According to WRA's report, ***Data Center Impacts in the West: Policy Solutions for Water and Energy Use***, relative to 2022 load growth projections, the utility now expects that annual energy demands will be 18% higher in 2030 and 34% higher in 2035. **To meet projected load**

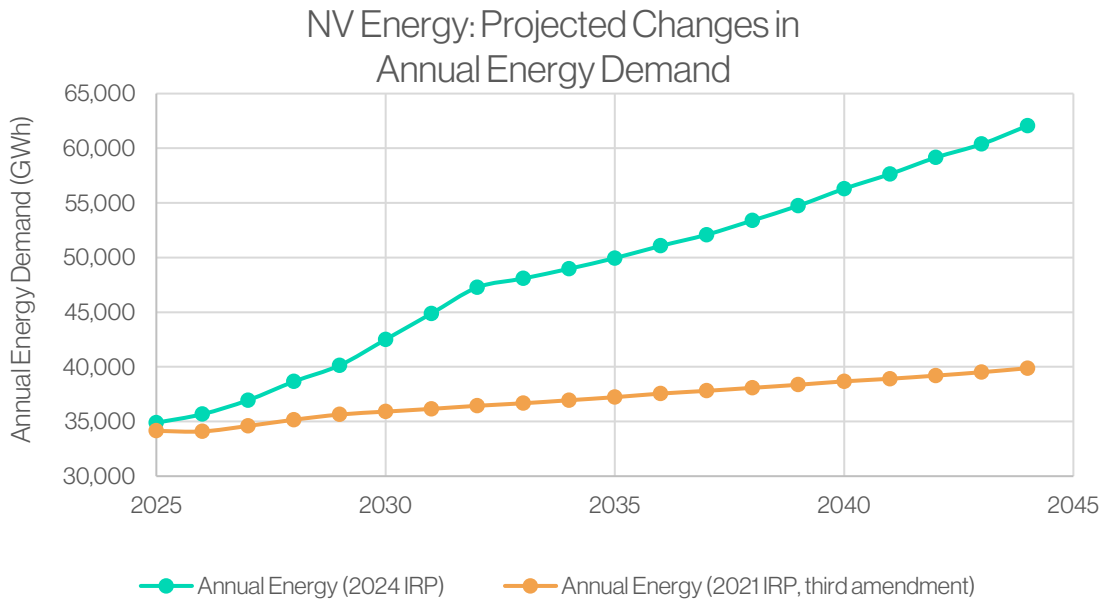
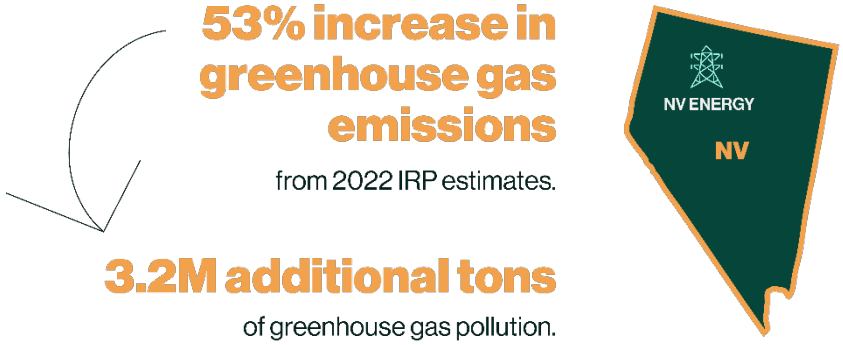


Figure 7: Projected annual energy demands under the 2024 IRP are significantly higher than under the 2021 IRP's third amendment (approved in 2022), according to analysis by WRA.

growth by 2033, NV Energy would need to build the equivalent of 78.5% of its entire system *again* in the next 10 years. That's the same amount of energy already serving the entire residential population of the Las Vegas Valley and surrounding communities.

Building this much infrastructure and generation is risky. If these data centers don't use as much energy as the utility expects, current customers and everyday Nevadans will be on the hook to pay for those investments via increases to utility bills.



Based on these projections, the utility's forecasted emissions in 2024 jumped 53% from its 2022 estimates. This amounts to 3.2 million tons of additional climate pollution, a change that will undermine NV Energy's previous emissions reductions trajectory, resulting in a 10-year delay in reaching a previous level of emissions reductions. AI and data centers also pose threats to Nevada's scarce water resources, though comprehensive information about their water use is still emerging. It is estimated that in 2020 data centers used over 500,000 acre-feet of water nationwide, a number that's certainly grown as data centers have expanded. **One acre-foot is equal to approximately 326,000 gallons of water; Nevada's allocation of water from the Colorado River is less than that — just 300,000 acre-feet per year — enough water for the entire Las Vegas metropolitan area.**

Meeting this unprecedented load growth with clean energy resources and limiting data centers' threat to critical water supplies poses one of Nevada's biggest challenges — and opportunities. To navigate this complex problem, the state's IRP process must be able to meet these challenges.

WRA is on the frontlines fighting for legislation, regulatory reform, and local policies that will ensure affordable, reliable, and clean energy while preserving Nevadans' way of life. But this is a team effort that will require leadership at the state level as well as engagement from residents — every voice matters.

A person hikes in the Nevada desert.

How to Get Back on Track

As things stand, Nevada is unprepared to meet future challenges, and the impacts of extreme heat, drought, wildfire, poor air quality, and rising energy prices are impacting families and communities right now. The state needs bold climate leaders and a reformed IRP process, or it risks compounding these threats for decades to come.

The path forward may seem daunting, but it is *not too late* for Nevada to get back on track. The sources of Nevada's problems are clear — emissions from transportation, electricity generation, and industry, and a continued reliance on fossil fuels — but effective, affordable solutions exist right now.

WRA works around the clock to advance policy and regulatory solutions to Nevada's complex challenges to protect our communities, local economies, and the natural environment. Our Nevada staff live, work, and recreate here, and we leverage our expertise to lead pragmatic solutions at the state level — where most of the important progress and decisions are made — to reduce emissions and protect rivers and lands.

That's why WRA is advocating to **reform Nevada's IRP process** to prioritize the public's best interests. This includes providing regulators with enough time to review the underlying assumptions, load forecasts, and alternative energy sources, and splitting the process into two transparent phases. Meaningful IRP reform is the first step Nevada leadership can take toward

addressing the state's climate crisis, preventing further backsliding on emissions targets, ensuring transparency and protecting jobs.

WRA **submitted comments to the PUCN** in January 2025 outlining the ideal two-phased IRP process, as seen in other states in our region, along with robust legal support. Unless the Commission acts to fully revise the process, legislation will be needed to establish a better foundational energy planning system. WRA is collaborating with local and regional partners to improve the IRP process, so that energy planning in Nevada is transparent, fair, and serves the needs of all state residents.

It's time to stop watching emissions reductions targets pass by unmet. This ongoing work is critical, and we can't do it alone. We need concerned constituents, like you, to voice support for climate action. And we need even more elected leaders to step forward as climate champions because our state, our health, and our economy depend on it.

Raise your hand to ask that your elected leaders take strong action to curb pollution and protect Nevadans' way of life. Nevada still has the chance to right its course and chart a path toward a future that is not only sustainable, but abundant. And it will take tireless work from regulators, elected leaders, conservation groups, and people like you to get there.

Stay up to date on WRA's work to drive state-based action, and get informed of moments when you can take meaningful action, by following us on social media and signing up for emails: