



RENO RESILIENCE

2017 Sustainability Report

Certified 3-STAR Community - Measuring Our Progress
Toward a Healthy Environment, Strong Economy, and
Wellbeing for All Our Residents

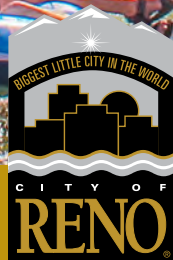
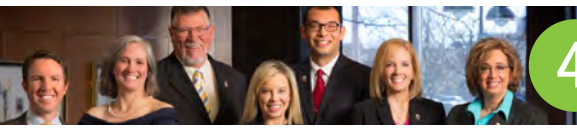
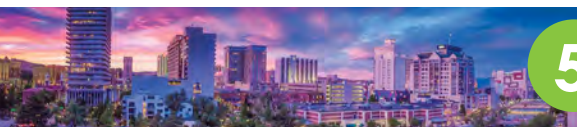


Table of Contents



4

LETTER FROM RENO CITY COUNCIL



5

LETTER FROM RENO CITY MANAGER



6

INTRODUCTION



8

BUILT ENVIRONMENT



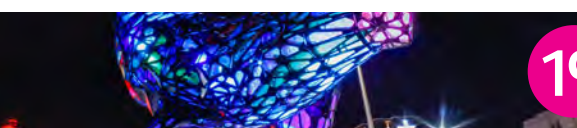
12

CLIMATE AND ENERGY



16

ECONOMY AND JOBS



19

EDUCATION, ARTS AND COMMUNITY



24

EQUITY AND EMPOWERMENT



27

HEALTH AND SAFETY



31

NATURAL SYSTEMS



35

INNOVATION AND PROCESS



38

CONTRIBUTORS







Letter from Reno City Council

From the Reno City Council, it is our pleasure to introduce you to our first Sustainability Report. In this comprehensive report you will read about our continued and enhanced commitment to creating a sustainable and vibrant university town known for our outdoor activities, special events, arts and culture, and innovative industries.

We are proud to say that, in 2017 we became a Certified 3-STAR Community. This is just a start, and we will continue to measure our progress toward a healthy environment, strong economy and improving the wellbeing of all our residents.

The STAR Community Rating System® supports three leadership certifications: 3-STAR Community, 4-STAR Community and 5-STAR Community. We aspire to be a 5-STAR Community, and we're confident we'll get there with continued dedication.

It is our hope that this report will act to reinforce the city's longstanding commitment to sustainable development initiatives, reduce local greenhouse gas emissions and enhance resilience to climate change. These sustainability principles reinforce the citywide goals and policies contained in the updated Master Plan as well as the more specific strategies being explored as part of the city's Sustainability and Climate Action Plan. They also fall in line with the city's

Strategic Plan, which covers such priorities as enhancing our Vibrant Neighborhoods and Public Places and fostering Well-Managed Growth.

This year the City of Reno will spend about \$4 million on homeless services, affordable housing and supporting our low-income residents. Housing has and will remain one of the City Council's top priorities. Because Reno's housing needs are so critical, we will be looking to support an initiative that would fast track affordable housing and infill developments through the zoning and permitting process.

The Reno Housing Authority (RHA) will soon be developing more affordable and creative wrap-around service housing options. Recently, RHA closed on a piece of property directly across the street from the Washoe County Senior Center, which will allow us to build much-needed affordable housing units for our senior population.

We are proud of the renovated Pat Baker Park in 2016, and through a public-private partnership we will enhance and reopen a rejuvenated Traner Pool in 2018. As we talk about strong neighborhoods and housing, the conversation must include another essential building block, which is public safety. Doing more with less is a challenge our first responders combat on a daily basis.

Our commitment is strong, but it must be a concerted regional effort. Our Regional Transportation Plan is a great example: The RTP defines long-range policies and proposed transportation investments in the region over a period of 20 years. The plan is guided by four principles: safe and healthy communities, economic diversification, sustainability, and increased travel choices.

This important work is paramount to our future success as a city and region. Scientists predict that climate change will result in future conditions that are different and less predictable. We have the potential to change the future of Reno for the better. And we're proud the City of Reno has stepped up with so many other communities across the United States to lead that charge. Conservation is a passion of ours.

Our community is a place of natural beauty, and we're preserving that beauty for the next generation.

Reno Mayor Hillary Schieve
and the Reno City Council



Letter from Reno City Manager

When I began my tenure as Reno City Manager in May 2017, I was delighted to discover that sustainability was already a top priority here at the City of Reno. I learned that diligent work on an official Sustainability and Climate Action Plan was underway, and we were fully committed to monitoring the city's progress toward established targets.

As an organization, the City of Reno has taken numerous steps to reduce its impact on the environment, lower its energy bills and improve quality of life for its residents. These efforts have dramatically increased the percentage of the city's energy that comes from renewable sources and have also yielded energy and financial savings.

The city's commitment to sustainability was underscored in August 2015, when our City Council voted unanimously to join the Compact of Mayors, a coalition of mayors and city officials committed to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions, enhance resilience to climate change and track their progress publicly.

Throughout the ReImagine Reno process, participants expressed support for the city's sustainability initiatives and a desire for the Master Plan to take a stronger stance on sustainability. As a result, Master Plan goals and policies address a range of issues key to promoting a more livable and sustainable community — infill and redevelopment, environmental protection, energy and water conservation, local food access, transit, renewable energy, access to social and human services, housing diversity, economic resilience and sustainable development practices.

The Master Plan defers to the city's Sustainability and Climate Action Plan (expected to be completed in 2018) to establish specific targets for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, quantify emissions by sector and outline specific actions that the city may take on its own or through partnerships with others to help achieve these targets.

In October 2017, the City of Reno launched an ambitious program, ReEnergize Reno, to improve the energy and water efficiency of commercial, industrial and multifamily buildings 20% by 2025. In addition to reducing Reno's carbon pollution, investments in cost-reducing building efficiency strategies will have a strong economic impact by bolstering the economy and creating local, highly skilled jobs.

In August 2017, the Reno City Council adopted a Resolution to join the U.S. Department of Energy's Better Buildings Challenge. This national program challenges building owners and facility managers to reduce energy and water use in existing buildings 20% over a 10-year period. Reno joins 45 other cities, states and counties that have committed to the Better Buildings Challenge.

The city will lead by example and track utility data for more than 1.7 million square feet in 38 municipal buildings using the ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager. ENERGY STAR is a government-sponsored program that rates the energy efficiency of products from appliances to buildings.

In addition, the city will take a more proactive role in monitoring its sphere of influence to ensure the city's land supply is reasonably aligned with projected demand over the planning horizon. The use of sustainable development practices, water conservation, renewable energy, and energy efficiency will be encouraged to reduce the impacts of future growth and climate change on the city's air quality and the environment as a whole.

Sincerely, Sabra Newby

Reno City Manager

Introduction



The City of Reno and its residents have a strong commitment to sustainability. Together, we have made great strides on environmental, economic and social priorities. In fact, Reno was ranked No. 31 greenest city in America in 2017 by WalletHub after a comparison of the top 100 cities. It's nice to be recognized for our efforts!

We always want to improve, and so the City of Reno decided to participate in the STAR Communities Rating System® (STAR) to track our progress toward sustainability. After extensive research, we are proud that the City of Reno has been recognized as a Certified 3-STAR Community.

We're very excited about certification as a 3-STAR Community. It demonstrates that in many areas the City of Reno, Washoe County, and our entire community already implements best practices. As you read through this report, you'll learn about the areas where we excel and the areas that need improvement.

Many of the areas that need improvement have already been identified as priorities by our city leaders and community partners. Among them are increased

access to affordable housing, improved community health, expanded use of public and alternative modes of transportation, and strengthened civil and human rights. Other areas will require new commitments to make progress, including greening government operations, expansion of green markets and creation of green jobs, improved conditions for aging in the community, addressing environmental justice, protecting biodiversity and managing invasive species, and preserving our remaining farm and ranch lands.

STAR is the nation's leading framework and certification program that evaluates local sustainability. STAR doesn't just measure environmental stewardship, it also measures economic prosperity and social equity. It provides a clear, data-driven approach to assessing a community's sustainability efforts. STAR helped the City of Reno to credibly track our progress toward a comprehensive set of sustainability goals, and it helps us understand how we're doing relative to other communities.

STAR is organized into seven thematic goal areas and 44 objectives, with an

opportunity to achieve extra credit in an eighth category for innovation and process.

STAR FRAMEWORK OF SUSTAINABILITY GOALS & OBJECTIVES

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Ambient Noise & Light	Housing Affordability
Community Water Systems	Infill & Redevelopment
Compact & Complete Communities	Public Parkland
	Transportation Choices

CLIMATE & ENERGY

Climate Adaptation	Water Efficiency
Greenhouse Gas Mitigation	Local Government GHG & Resource Footprint
Greening the Energy Supply	Waste Minimization
Energy Efficiency	

ECONOMY & JOBS

Business Retention & Development	Quality Jobs & Living Wages
Green Market Development	Targeted Industry Development
Local Economy	Workforce Readiness

EDUCATION, ARTS & COMMUNITY

Arts & Culture	Historic Preservation
Community Cohesion	Social & Cultural Diversity
Educational Opportunity & Attainment	Aging in the Community

EQUITY & EMPOWERMENT

Civic Engagement	Equitable Services & Access
Civil & Human Rights	Human Services
Environmental Justice	Poverty Prevention & Alleviation

HEALTH & SAFETY

Active Living	Food Access & Nutrition
Community Health	Health Systems
Emergency Management & Response	Hazard Mitigation
	Safe Communities

NATURAL SYSTEMS

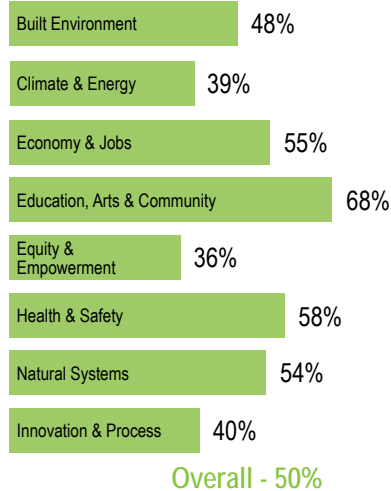
Green Infrastructure	Outdoor Air Quality
Biodiversity & Invasive Species	Water in the Environment
Natural Resource Protection	Working Lands

INNOVATION & PROCESS

Best Practices & Processes	Local Innovation
Exemplary Performance	Good Governance

The following table reports how we performed in each category, providing a snapshot of how we are doing today.

CERTIFIED 3-STAR COMMUNITY POINTS ACHIEVED



While the STAR metrics are wide-ranging, the city uses other tools to measure our progress toward sustainability.

We dug deep, for instance, into the WalletHub study to learn how we could improve beyond our No. 31 ranking. That study's methodology evaluated cities across 22 metrics in four areas, including the environment, transportation, energy sources, and lifestyle and policy. Metrics ranged from greenhouse gas emissions per capita to miles of bicycle lanes, and solar installations per capita to farmers markets and community garden plots per capita. Reno has one of the lowest greenhouse gas emissions per capita. And while we ranked well in the first three areas, we ranked poorly in green lifestyles. According to WalletHub, we need more farmers markets and community gardens, investments in sectors that create good, green jobs, and better clean-energy policies.

We're working on these types of changes and more through the City of Reno's Master Plan update, as well as Reno Resilience, the city's sustainability and climate initiative. The initiative was launched in 2015 after the Mayor and City Council's decision to join the Compact of Mayors, now the largest coalition of cities from across the globe committed to reducing climate pollution and strengthening local resilience to the effects of a changing climate. The Mayor and City Council reaffirmed that commitment this year by standing with 2,500 bipartisan leaders from America's city halls,

state houses, boardrooms, businesses, and college campuses to declare our commitment to honor the Paris Agreement.

To measure improvement, we need to understand where we are today. In 2016, we measured our community-wide greenhouse gas emissions. We partnered with the Washoe County Health District and Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority, and consulted with experts at the University of Nevada, Reno. When we measured climate pollution generated within the geographic boundaries of both Reno and Washoe County, we found the primary sources are commercial and industrial buildings, residential buildings, transportation (which reflects land-use decisions), and solid waste. Now we're working to reduce emissions at the source, working with each individual sector.

We can't achieve our goals alone, so the city launched an ambitious program — [ReEnergize Reno](#) — to work with property owners to improve the efficiency of commercial, industrial, and multifamily buildings 20% by 2025. The program will cut energy and water waste in large buildings, and reduce climate pollution from the sector that accounts for 38% of our total emissions. Investments in cost-effective building efficiency strategies will stimulate innovation, bolster our economy, promote a healthy environment, and create highly skilled, green jobs within the community.

The city is committed to continuous improvement. We'll set new goals and priorities and a timeframe for moving from a Certified 3-STAR Community to a 4-STAR Community or better. Our work supports the values and aspirations of our community and our city leaders' mission to create a community that we are all proud to call home.

We encourage you to read this report to delve deeper and learn more.

Lynne Barker
Sustainability Manager

Built Environment

Achieve livability, choice, and access for all where people live, work, and play.



RE

OVERVIEW

Your ZIP Code may be a better determinant of your life expectancy than your genetic code. That is largely due to how neighborhoods are designed, and the types of services and amenities available to residents. Does your neighborhood have a grocery store, reliable public transportation, high-quality schools, parks, and more? Or is your neighborhood overrun with liquor stores? Does it lack a sense of safety? Is it poorly served by public transit? Are there few recreational opportunities?

The STAR objectives for the Built Environment help a community evaluate development patterns, livability, and design characteristics. It measures access to affordable housing, public transportation, and the services and amenities that provide

a better quality of life. STAR promotes pedestrian-scaled, mixed-use development in high-density areas that can support public transit and a host of amenities.

STAR also provides measures for access to parks and greenways. Parks and trails can reduce stress, improve wellbeing, and foster community interaction, says the National Park Service. They can also reduce air and water pollution, preserve habitat, and reduce the increased temperatures experienced in urban areas.

Location matters. When residents live in compact and complete neighborhoods close to jobs and services, with good access to transportation alternatives, people spend less time and money on transportation and more on housing, leisure and other

activities. This “green dividend” increases spending in our local economy and widens economic prosperity.

STAR encourages development on infill sites to take advantage of existing infrastructure, increase property values and tax revenues, and reduce blight and related challenges. It also addresses infrastructure — from clean drinking water, wastewater and stormwater to roads and bikeways — to help a community assess the condition of its public infrastructure, prioritize maintenance and repair needs, and plan for expansion.



STAR OBJECTIVES

Ambient Noise & Light: Minimize and manage ambient noise and light levels to protect public health and the integrity of ecological systems.

Community Water Systems: Provide a clean and secure water supply for all local users through the management of potable water, wastewater, stormwater, and other piped infrastructure.

Compact & Complete Communities: Concentrate development in compact, human-scaled, walkable centers and neighborhoods that connect to public transit, offer diverse uses and services, and provide housing options for families of all income levels.

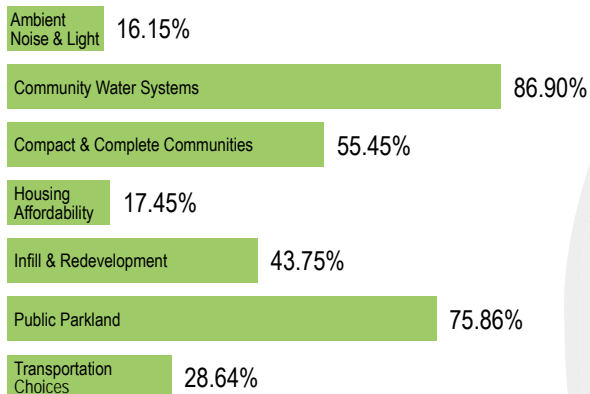
Housing Affordability: Construct, preserve, and maintain an adequate and diverse supply of location-efficient and affordable housing options for all residents.

Infill & Redevelopment: Focus growth and redevelopment in infill areas to reduce sprawl and ensure existing infrastructure that supports the community is in satisfactory working condition.

Public Parkland: Create a system of well-used and enjoyable public parkland that feature equitable, convenient access for residents throughout the community.

Transportation Choices: Promote diverse transportation modes, including walking, biking, and public transit, that are safe, low-cost, and reduce vehicle miles traveled.

HOW DID WE DO?



Our community performed well in two of the seven areas, Community Water Systems and Public Parkland. The Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) met the performance measures for safe drinking water quality. TMWA also implements best practices for planning and management of our water supply, treatment and delivery systems, water conservation through infrastructure improvements, and education and outreach to its customers.

The City of Reno Public Works Department operates the Reno-Stead Water Reclamation Facility and collaborates with the City of Sparks on operating the Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (TMWRF). Both facilities meet the highest standards of the Clean Water Act.

TMWRF was constructed in 1964 and designed to treat 20 million gallons of wastewater per day. Three major expansions in 1978, 1980, and 2002 more than doubled the facility's capacity to serve our growing community. In 2012, a facilities analysis identified 50 capital improvement projects with an estimated cost of \$120 million. More than half of the projects have been completed or are underway.

These projects ensure the facility meets the highest standards for treatment. They also extend the life of this 50-year old treatment plant and provide energy and operational savings. For instance, a new cogeneration system captures methane gas, a byproduct of the wastewater treatment process,



In 2017, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) gave America a D+ on the condition, performance and investment needs of our infrastructure—aviation, parks, rail and roads, schools, solid waste, transit, and water and wastewater systems. The [State of Nevada's Infrastructure Report Card](#) didn't score much better with a grade of C- in 2014. The Great Recession resulted in deferred maintenance, and infrastructure investments haven't matched growth and needs of our communities.

ASCE reports that the failure to act to improve our infrastructure impacts economic prosperity. "The cost of deteriorating infrastructure takes a toll on families' disposable household income and impacts the quality and quantity of jobs in the U.S. economy.... From 2016 to 2025, each household will lose \$3,400 each year in disposable income due to infrastructure deficiencies."



TMWA CONSISTENTLY DELIVERS HIGH QUALITY DRINKING WATER

The Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) is one of only 18 water utilities to receive the President's Award from the Partnership for Safe Water. By consistently providing high-quality drinking water, TMWA is one of many organizations contributing to our quality of life.

TMWA delivers the best quality water possible to over 411,000 customers in Reno, Sparks and the surrounding areas. Its professionals apply rigorous water-treatment techniques and water-quality monitoring protocols to ensure the water is safe, clean and reliable every time you turn on the tap.

TMWA's primary source of water is the Truckee River, which flows for 120 miles from Lake Tahoe in the Sierra Nevada Mountains to Pyramid Lake in the Nevada desert. The river's water quality is excellent, but numerous additional steps are necessary to meet the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's standards for safe drinking water. TMWA's dedicated staff of water quality experts tests the water delivered to the tap more than 1,000 times every month to ensure it meets their standards for excellence.

TMWA owns and operates the Chalk Bluff Water Treatment Plant, which can produce 84 million gallons of treated water per day, and the Glendale Water Treatment Plant, which can produce 37 million gallons per day. Attesting to TMWA's commitment to the protection of public health, the Chalk Bluff Water Treatment Plant received the President's Award from the Partnership for Safe Water in 2015.

This award shows TMWA's water quality ranks among the highest in the country as highly trained, state-certified water treatment professionals work around the clock every day to ensure treatment facilities continue to meet and exceed all state and federal drinking water standards.

TMWA also operates nearly 2,000 miles of water mains, 94 wells, 93 storage tanks, and 113 pump stations. TMWA operates reservoirs, hydroelectric plants and flumes, canals, diversion structures and all the equipment needed to keep them running. All told, TMWA's infrastructure is worth an estimated \$1.3 billion.

TMWA's education of residents and businesses on responsible water use has paid off, especially in dry years when the community has consistently stepped up to conserve water. In 2015, the driest year on record, TMWA customers cut their use by 20% when only 10% was asked of them. They were also widely supportive of the conversion from flat-rate to metered-rate services — one of the most-effective and conservative measures any water utility can employ. Classes, tours and home visits by a staff of conservation consultants are reinforced through ads, mailings, commercials and social-media outreach. The result is an informed, actively engaged community that takes ownership of its role in managing our precious water resources.

For more information visit TMWA.com

and converts it to electricity. The electricity generated provides 35% of TMWRF's energy needs — saving more than \$315,500 each year.



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VIOLATIONS OF EPA'S WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

To measure our community's progress toward Compact & Complete Communities, we analyzed four neighborhoods against the STAR measures.

The neighborhoods we selected — Downtown; Midtown; Wells Avenue and East 4th Street; and Lakeside Drive and Moana Lane — have been prioritized by ReImagine Reno, the city's updated Master Plan, for increased density and transit-oriented development. While all four neighborhoods achieved high scores from the [EPA's Smart Location Calculator](#) (all scored between 84 to 92 points out of 100), the city wasn't able to demonstrate that each neighborhood met requirements that at least 10% of housing units are affordable.

The city received credit for policies that encourage development of compact, mixed-use neighborhoods and infill development. However, over the past three years only 5% of new development occurred in designated infill and redevelopment areas.

Investments in blight mitigation contributed to Reno's 3-STAR Community ranking. The City of Reno approved approximately \$1 million for reduction of blight. The Playa Art Park at 5th and Virginia streets, for instance, now hosts sculptures from Burning Man after a derelict property was demolished.

Affordable housing is a priority for our community's leaders. Over the past three years, there was a net increase of 89 affordable housing units. Only 37% of residents spend less than 45% of their household income on housing and transportation costs combined, the percentage considered "affordable." And only 17% of residents earning 80% of the area median income spend less than 45% on housing and transportation costs.

A key strategy in ReImagine Reno is to develop an affordable workforce housing strategy, and our community is actively involved in creation of a regional, comprehensive plan for affordable housing.

The Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County is investing in transportation infrastructure to provide residents with more transportation choices. However, only 7.4% of residents biked, walked, or used transit to commute to work in 2015. There was an increase in vehicle miles traveled from 2010 to 2015, as well as an increase in pedestrian, bicyclist, and vehicular fatalities.



100%
HOUSEHOLDS LOCATED WITHIN 3
MILES OF OFF-ROAD TRAIL ACCESS

PUBLIC PARKLAND

The City of Reno Parks, Recreation & Community Services (PRCS) manages 88 parks and more than 3,380 acres of public parkland. While our community only met one of four performance measures — 100% of households are within three miles of an off-road trail — the department offers noteworthy service to our community through its parks and recreation programs. The variety of recreational programs hosted by PRCS ensures that all residents have access to a host of healthy activities.

Improvement, however, will require greater investment in our parks. The Trust for Public Lands ranks Reno No. 72 among the 100 largest U.S. cities on park-related criteria such as the percentage of residents who live within walking distance to a park, park-and-recreation spending per resident; and the availability of playgrounds, recreation and senior centers, and dog parks per resident.

The City of Reno recognizes that parks are essential to our quality of life, and Rethink Reno sets goals for preservation and enhancement of an interconnected network of open spaces and greenways during the next 20 years. The plan will conserve ecological systems, provide recreational opportunities, and support non-motorized transportation within the city.

REIMAGINE RENO MASTER PLAN GOALS

Many goals outlined in STAR Communities align directly with the vision of Rethink Reno. As our master plan is implemented, we should see significant improvements in the area of the Built Environment. Among the goals that make a commitment:

- 2.2: Encourage infill and redevelopment.
- 2.4: Collaborate with regional entities and service providers on growth and infrastructure issues.
- 3.1: Cultivate a vibrant and livable downtown environment that balances the need of residents and visitors.
- 3.3: Promote the continued revitalization of the downtown economy and built environment.
- 3.4: Strengthen multi-modal connections to and within downtown Reno.
- 4.1: Encourage a diverse mix of housing options to meet the needs of existing and future residents of all ages, abilities, and income levels.
- 4.2: Promote the development of new neighborhoods that offer a range of lifestyle options and amenities that meet the short- and long-term needs of the community.
- 4.3: Support continued investment in and ongoing maintenance of infrastructure and amenities in established neighborhoods.
- 4.4: Encourage the creation of walkable community/neighborhood centers that provide a variety of services and amenities.
- 4.5: Encourage pedestrian and bicycle connections as part of new development and integrate into established neighborhoods.
- 5.1: Continue to develop a safe, balanced, and well-connected transportation system that enhances mobility for all modes.
- 5.2: Actively manage transportation systems and infrastructure to improve reliability, efficiency, and safety.
- 5.4: Encourage the use of transit car or van pools, bicycling, walking, and other forms of alternative transportation.
- 7.2: Establish an interconnected network of open space, greenways, and trails.
- 7.3: Maintain access to public lands at the urban/rural interface.
- 7.6: Improve the quality of the public realm (e.g. parks, public spaces, streets) through context-sensitive design, targeted investment, and regular maintenance.



Climate and Energy

Reduce climate impacts through adaptation and mitigation efforts
and increase resource efficiency



Photo Credit: University of Nevada Reno (UNR)
Peavine Hall - LEED Gold 2016

RE

OVERVIEW

As the fastest warming city in the U.S., Reno already experiences the impacts of a changing climate. Over the past 50 years Reno's average annual temperature has climbed 1.39 degrees Fahrenheit per decade. The impacts of climate change — less snowpack, multi-year droughts, a dramatic increase in flooding, and more frequent wildfires — have shaken our perspective and challenged our assumptions about our future. Climate change will directly affect the natural environment we so highly value, the health and safety of our families, and the economic growth that is creating greater prosperity for Reno businesses and families.

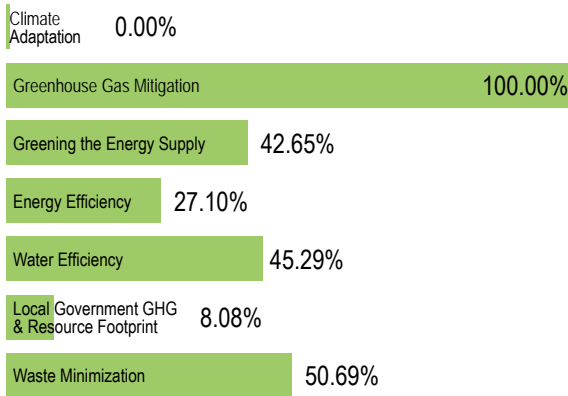
The STAR objectives for Climate & Energy help communities to plan for and strengthen our capacity to adapt and thrive no matter what challenges we face. It analyzes our progress toward reducing climate pollution generated by our community. And, STAR helps to assess our ongoing efforts to transition to clean, renewable energy, expand energy efficiency and water conservation, improve government operations, and strive toward zero waste.

The Paris Agreement — an international treaty that brings together nations to fight climate change — sets targets and requires nations to take ambitious actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the effects of a changing climate. Investments in building a clean energy economy are spurring innovation, creating jobs and bolstering economic growth. Already a leader in solar and geothermal energy, Nevada has been positioned by Governor Sandoval to benefit from new investments by targeting the clean energy sector in the state's economic development strategy.

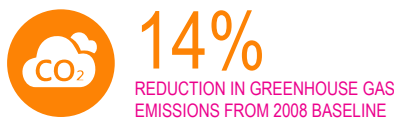
STAR OBJECTIVES

- Climate Adaptation:** Strengthen the resilience of communities to climate change impacts on built, natural, economic, health, and social systems.
- Greenhouse Gas Mitigation:** Achieve greenhouse gas emissions reductions throughout the community.
- Greening the Energy Supply:** Transition the local energy supply for both transportation and non-mobile sources toward the use of renewable, less carbon-intensive, and less toxic alternatives.
- Energy Efficiency:** Minimize energy use and demand in the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors as a means to increase energy efficiency in the community.
- Water Efficiency:** Minimize water use and demand as a means to conserve water in the community.
- Local Government GHG & Resource Efficiency:** Lead by example by reducing local government greenhouse gas emissions and minimizing energy and water use in local government facilities and specified local infrastructure.
- Waste Minimization:** Reduce and reuse material waste produced in the community.

HOW DID WE DO?



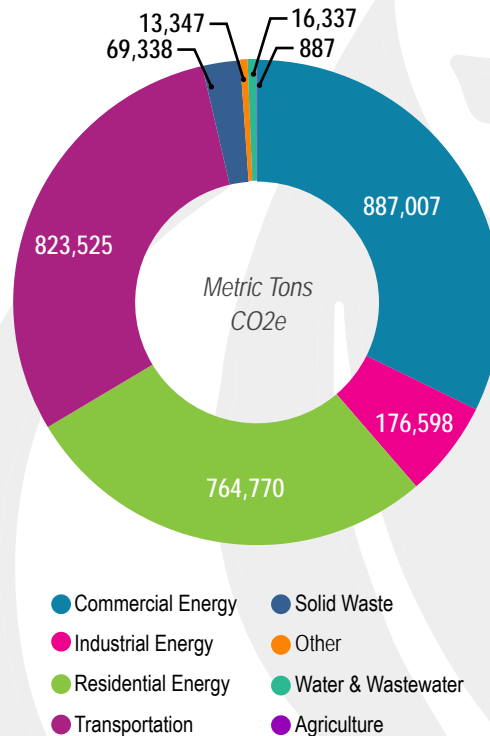
The most significant achievement that our community has made in Climate & Energy is a 14% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions between 2008 and 2014. This reduction was achieved primarily through an increase in the state's renewable energy portfolio, investments in energy efficiency, increased vehicle fuel standards, and the slowdown of our economy during the Great Recession. The emission-reduction trend places us on track to meet STAR reduction targets of 28% by 2025 and 80% by 2050.



The total GHG emissions for Reno were 2.75 million metric tons of CO₂e ("carbon dioxide equivalent" measures greenhouse gases with a common unit). The building sector generates 66% of total GHG emissions with the commercial sector the highest generator at 32%, residential at 28% and industrial at 6%. Transportation contributes 30% of GHG emissions, and because our community is an auto-dependent community, 83% of those emissions are

from passenger vehicle use. Solid waste, water and wastewater, agriculture, and other sources collectively comprise the remaining 4% of GHG emissions. And, emissions generated from activities within the boundaries of the city accounts for 62% of the total emissions for Washoe County.

COMMUNITY-WIDE GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY



In the briefing [What Climate Change Means for Nevada](#), the National Climate Assessment and EPA paint a grim picture of our future. Higher temperatures will lead to decreased snowpack, shorter skiing and winter sports seasons, and reduced economic activity related to tourism. Because snowpack is our main source of water, less water will be available for people and industry. Higher temperatures and less water result in longer and more severe droughts, less water for ranching and farming — one of Nevada's most important industries — and more frequent and intense wildfires that put people and property at risk. Our unique ecosystems and landscapes will be at risk, as will our own health, and especially the health of our more vulnerable residents — children, seniors, the sick, and the poor.



33

ELECTRIC VEHICLE STATIONS IN RENO

RENO ON TRACK FOR REDUCING CLIMATE POLLUTION

Beginning in 2015, the Mayor and City Council passed a series of resolutions making climate action a priority for our community. The City of Reno joined the [Global Covenant of Mayors on Climate & Energy](#), the largest international coalition of cities committed to taking voluntary action to combat climate change and move to a low-emission, resilient society.

More recently, the Mayor joined over 2,500 leaders from America's city halls, state houses, boardrooms, businesses, and college campuses by signing the "[We Are Still In](#)" Declaration stating our commitment to meet the Paris Agreement in the absence of federal leadership. We Are Still In is a bipartisan initiative spanning all 50 states and representing over 130 million Americans and \$6.2 trillion of the U.S. economy.

Reno has long seen itself as a pioneer city. In the beginning, Reno was a town built on mining and gaming. Today, Reno is building our clean energy economy. In the past decade alone, the city invested in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects that reduced municipal building energy use by 37%, providing cumulative savings of \$3.4 million. These resources now can support other city priorities.

In August 2018, the Mayor and City Council initiated our newest effort to reduce carbon pollution by joining the [U.S. Department of Energy's Better Buildings Challenge](#), committing to reduce municipal building energy use an additional 20% by 2025 across 38 facilities and 1.7 million square feet. The city can't achieve our climate goals alone, so the City of Reno launched an ambitious program — ReEnergize Reno — to improve the efficiency of commercial, industrial, and multifamily buildings 20% by 2025.

The program will help cut energy and water waste in large buildings and reduce climate pollution. Investments in cost-effective building efficiency strategies will stimulate innovation, bolster our economy, promote a healthy

environment, and create highly skilled jobs within the community. Companies that invest in energy efficiency and green buildings are also aligning their business with our clean energy future.

In 2014, the City of Reno partnered with Washoe County Health District, the Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority, and the University of Nevada, Reno, to measure our community-wide GHG emissions. We found that the total CO₂e emissions dropped significantly, down from just over 3.2 million metric tons in 2008 to 2.75 million metric tons. This translates to a 13.62% drop in total emissions in just six years, or 2.27% per year!

This fantastic progress is a sign of two things happening. First, it shows that the city and our community are taking action to reduce carbon pollution. The rise of popularity in fuel-efficient cars, rooftop solar panels, smart thermostats, and recycling have all contributed to the rapid drop in carbon emissions.

Second, technology has become better at reducing the amount of energy needed to keep things running. The average passenger vehicle on the road in 2008 posted mileage of approximately 28 miles per gallon (mpg). In 2014, that average increased to 36 mpg. Today, the average has increased even more. Rising numbers of vehicles with improved fuel efficiency point us towards a cleaner future.

LED bulbs provide another simple example of what residents and businesses are doing. As more LED bulbs have entered the market, homes and business are switching to cleaner, more-efficient LED bulbs. LED bulbs last longer and use a fraction of the energy required for traditional incandescent and fluorescent bulbs.

Right now we are being presented with a new opportunity to make Reno more resilient. Reno's leaders have signaled our commitment to taking actions to lower our carbon emissions and ensure our future prosperity, as well as clean air and a healthy environment for our families.

The city achieved credits for Green Vehicle Infrastructure, with 41 alternative fuel stations including 33 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. The EV market is growing rapidly. By 2025, there will be an estimated 7.2 to 8.7 million EVs on U.S. roads. And with companies like Tesla located here, Governor Sandoval is ensuring Nevada's leadership by investing in the nation's first complete EV highway system.

While Nevada is one of the leading states for renewable energy through our Renewable Portfolio Standard, we didn't achieve credits for greening the electric energy supply. NV Energy would need to generate 50% of overall electricity from renewable energy sources. In 2016, NV Energy's renewable energy portfolio was 22.2%.

Our community also achieved credits for energy and water efficiency by having in place best practices for encouraging building efficiency, including rigorous building codes and collaborating with industry through the city's Commercial Green Building Task Force. The Task Force advises and makes recommendations on policies and programs to expand green building, energy efficiency and water conservation in the commercial, industrial and multifamily building sectors. The education and incentive programs offered by the utilities and the Governor's Office of Energy also contributed to this goal.

Looking toward the future, the city will begin working on a climate adaptation plan, working closely with the Desert Research Institute and University of Nevada, Reno. The plan will build on the 2014 Washoe County Regional Resilience Study that assessed changing weather patterns and the effects on government services and the health and well-being of our community.

From 2009 to 2012, the city government invested nearly \$20 million in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. The cumulative energy savings through fiscal year 2017 were more than \$3.4 million. While the city is making progress in improving efficiency,



there has not been a formal annual reporting process put in place to track GHG emissions, energy and water use, and waste minimization to demonstrate progress towards reduction goals. It is our goal to begin reporting in 2018.

According to the STAR analysis, Reno is not on track to achieve a zero-waste recycling goal by 2050. The current recycling rate is 29.6%. However, the city and county have implemented practices to expand recycling in our community. We've implemented single-stream recycling for businesses and residents. Washoe County Health District manages our community's Solid Waste Management Plan, which identifies opportunities for improvement. Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful provides a [Recycling Guide](#) and spearheads recycling events, such as the Christmas Tree Recycling Program.

REIMAGINE RENO MASTER PLAN GOALS

Among the goals that make a commitment:

- 2.5: Promote the use of sustainable development practices.
- 6.2: Promote a safe and more resilient community.
- 8.5: Continually seek opportunities to increase the efficiency of city facilities and the effectiveness of government programs and city services.



In November 2012, the Reno City Council approved a franchise agreement to facilitate implementation of a single-stream recycling program. Single-stream recycling simplifies the process of collecting and sorting recyclable materials. In the first two years after implementation, 75% of residential customers voluntarily signed up for recycling services, leading to a 39.5% increase in the amount of recycled materials collected at the curbside.

Through the franchise agreement, we also have a new Recycling Center that opened in the summer of 2017. The facility processes recyclables with sorters and other equipment. In August and September of 2017, 6,022 tons of waste were processed at the facility. Waste Management also hosts household hazardous waste recycling events and free dump days at the transfer station as well as neighborhood clean-ups.



Photo Credit: Waste Management



Economy and Jobs

Create equitably shared prosperity and access to quality jobs



Photo Credit: University of Nevada Reno (UNR)

RE

OVERVIEW

Just over a decade ago, we faced one of the largest financial crises seen in the U.S. The Great Recession reminded us about the important role our economy plays in the health and wellbeing of our community. Reno was among the hardest-hit cities in America during the recession, and recovery has been slow. In 2017, WalletHub ranked the level of economic recovery in Reno near the bottom of the mid-sized cities it studied — No.155 out of 158. One of the key factors that determine a city's ability to rebound from a recession is its investment in human capital, its residents. Cities that have a highly educated workforce and a knowledge- and talent-based economy recover much more quickly than cities with a less-educated workforce.

The STAR objectives for Economy & Jobs work together to help a community support existing businesses, retain workers and drive expansion to create a self-reliant local economy. The objectives measure growth in employment and assess employment disparities across races and ethnicities.

STAR also promotes growth in the local economy, including its backbone of small, locally-owned businesses. The Small Business Administration reports that 99.7% of U.S. businesses are small businesses, firms with fewer than 500 employees, and small businesses employ 48% of U.S. workers. Small businesses are incubators for innovation and drivers of employment growth, and represent over 46% of gross domestic product — the value of goods and services produced in the U.S.

Residents and businesses support our local businesses by buying local. Buying local keeps money circulating within our local economy and expands our local markets. Money we spend with locally-owned businesses tends to stay in local circulation on average three times longer than money spent at a big-box store.

STAR provides measures that help communities to focus their economic development efforts on targeted industry sectors or clusters. It promotes emerging green industries that protect

the environment while strengthening and diversifying the local economy. This goal area also evaluates workers' quality of life through increased household income and living wages. It measures income equality, the widening gap between higher earners and low earners. And STAR recognizes the importance of a skilled workforce, encouraging communities to prepare their workforce to fulfill the needs of local businesses and take advantage of existing and future job opportunities.

A key aspect of a strong local economy is a capable workforce that is well-trained for specific industries. It's no secret that Reno has become home to some of the country's most innovative and established companies, like Apple, Microsoft, Tesla, Switch, as well as several promising startups. A prepared workforce is needed to continue this economic expansion and diversification, and preparation of this workforce will require investments in higher education and skills training to meet the needs of the industry sectors that we have targeted.

STAR OBJECTIVES

Business Retention & Development: Foster equitable economic prosperity and stability by retaining and expanding businesses in all neighborhoods with support from the business community.

Green Market Development: Increase overall market demand for products and services that protect the environment.

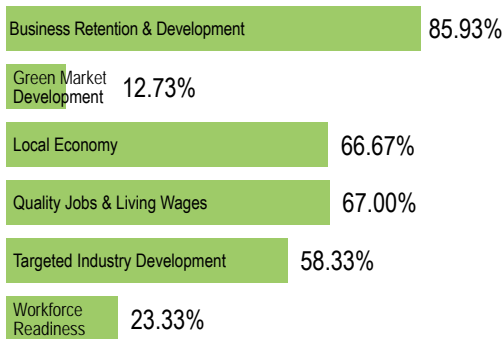
Local Economy: Create an increasingly self-reliant community through a robust local economy that strongly supports small independent businesses.

Quality Jobs & Living Wages: Expand job opportunities that support upward economic mobility, offer supportive workplace policies, and pay living wages so that all working people and their families can afford basic necessities without governmental assistance.

Targeted Industry Development: Increase local competitiveness by strengthening clusters of businesses, suppliers, and associated institutions.

Workforce Readiness: Prepare the workforce for successful employment through increasing attainment of post-secondary education and improving outcomes of workforce development programs.

HOW DID WE DO?



Our community didn't receive credit for an increase in real median income, a metric that adjusts for inflation, as it has decreased 16% from 2000 to 2015, from \$56,114 to \$47,012. The region did receive credit for an increase in the living wage and a decrease in income inequality. In 2015, the living wage for Washoe County was \$24,613 per household, and 85.9% of households met or exceeded the living wage standard.

From the six primary goal areas, we performed exceptionally well in the Business Retention & Development category. The total number of business establishments increased by 1.8% within the last three years, helping to drive down our unemployment rate. In 2015 the unemployment rate was 8.4%. In October 2017, the unemployment rate dropped to 4.3%. Our community's rate of employment is also consistent across races and ethnicities.

Local Economy was another strong area for us, measured by the total funds deposited in locally-owned and operated financial institutions. Those deposits increased by 64% from 2014 through 2016 — from \$94.3 million to \$137.8 million. The region's ratio of small businesses exceeded the performance threshold of 20 businesses per 1,000 residents at 21.09. In 2014, there were 9,363 small businesses in the region.



64%

INCREASE IN FUNDS DEPOSITED IN LOCAL BANKS



86%

HOUSEHOLDS MAKE ABOVE LIVING WAGE

To measure growth in targeted industry sectors, we gathered data on three of the sectors included in [Moving Nevada Forward: A Plan for Excellence in Economic Development 2012-2014](#) and [Greater Reno-Sparks Economic Development Three-Year Strategic Plan](#). The sectors were manufacturing, health care and social assistance, and professional and technical services. We saw an increase in the total number of businesses for each sector, and an increase in employment in manufacturing and health care and social assistance.

We are currently on track to reach a goal that calls for 45% of our workforce to hold postsecondary degrees — including associate, bachelor, and graduate degrees — by 2025. From 2010 to 2015, the percentage of individuals gaining a degree grew from 35.6% to 37.5%, an increase of

GREEN JOBS CONTRIBUTE TO OUR LOCAL ECONOMY

The State of Nevada and the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada are investing in the growth of green industries — organizations that lessen our reliance on fossil fuels, reduce climate pollution, and are better stewards of our natural environment. The city partnered with the University of Nevada, Reno, to assess the strength of our green market sector. This research was funded through UNR's new [Community-Based Research Award](#), a program of the Office of Undergraduate Research.

Green jobs are those that: generate energy from renewable sources; create products and services that increase energy efficiency, and reduce waste, pollution, greenhouse gases, or aid recycling; conserve natural resources; or promote education, training, awareness, or compliance with environmental regulations.

The research team calculated the economic impacts for each green market sector using a sophisticated model that looked at the direct effects of employment in green industries as well as the ways that economic activity in green industries ripples through the local economy. Green firms buy from local suppliers. Their employees spend their paychecks at retail outlets. One dollar of direct spending leads to more than one dollar of total economic activity as that dollar is divided up and re-spent throughout the regional economy.

In Washoe County and Nevada, each green job sustains or creates 0.84 additional jobs through these ripple effects. And each \$100 of labor income results in about \$53 in additional benefits for the local economy. Our top 10 green market sectors are: Construction; Trade; Professional and Technical Services; Administration and Waste Services; Education and Health Services; Leisure; Manufacturing; Transportation and Warehousing; Financial Activities; and, Other Services. In the 2015 Green Building Economic Impact Study prepared by Booz Allen Hamilton, the green construction impacts for Nevada from 2015 through 2018 were projected to be:

- \$16.9 billion contribution to GDP
- 199,000 jobs
- \$11.33 billion labor earnings

EDAWN CONDUCTS SYMPHONY OF ORGANIZATIONS CREATING A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

Creation of a sustainable local economy is complex and multi-faceted. Quality jobs need to be created across diverse industries. Skilled workers need to be trained to take those jobs. Community infrastructure must be in place to support economic growth. Private developers will construct everything from industrial buildings and office buildings to single-family homes.

Much as a symphony conductor directs the efforts of dozens of artists to create a harmonic musical composition, the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada (EDAWN) coordinates the work of dozens of organizations that together create the sustainable economy that benefits individuals and families in Northern Nevada.

EDAWN is a public/private partnership that works for the region to help create quality jobs. The City of Reno provides support to EDAWN to reinforce its efforts to market the region, attract new employers, support the retention and expansion of existing primary employers and expand the role of the local entrepreneurial economy.

EDAWN is best known for its successful efforts to attract dozens of major new employers to the region. Executives of EDAWN are in contact daily with companies from around the world that have the potential to create new quality jobs in the area. The private sector plays a critical role in the creation of these new jobs. Developers invest in projects to meet the needs of a growing community, commercial real estate professionals locate spaces for new companies, and utility providers and others create the infrastructure that supports economic growth.

Another group of EDAWN executives works with entrepreneurs who create exciting new companies, many on the cutting edge of technological innovation. And a third group of EDAWN executives work closely with primary companies that are already in business in the region. These include companies that are new to the area within the past few years, and those that have been cornerstones of the area's economy for decades.

EDAWN helps them overcome challenges, facilitate local connections with customers and suppliers and build relationships with education and other important resources.

Throughout the EDAWN office, the goals for 2018 are clear: Encourage development of jobs that pay an average of over \$53,000 a year, or \$25.00 an hour, attract corporate headquarters, technology companies, entrepreneurs, and continue to diversify and grow the business base in the community.

EDAWN also works closely with the Washoe County School District and others, to strengthen high school graduation rates, provide high school equivalency programs, create and support intern and apprentice programs and ensure that training programs meet employers' needs. There are also initiatives to ensure the region's residents are able to acquire the skills they need to get on the pathway to good careers and they involve the Nevada System of Higher Education — which includes University of Nevada, Reno and Truckee Meadows Community College.

Other players include the workforce development community which, through the Workforce Consortium, co-led by EDAWN and the Chamber of Commerce, coordinates efforts to provide guidance, training, and connection to employers for job seekers, and also helps employers navigate the workforce resources in the area.

The network of organizations that play a role in EDAWN's work to create a sustainable economy extends further into the community than most residents can imagine. From EDAWN investors who provide financial support and who also invest their time and expertise, to a host of professional service providers, staffing specialists, supply chain partners, and public sector entities, it is a community-wide team effort.

It's no simple process to create sustainability in something as complex as a local economy. The 3-STAR Rating demonstrates that the partnerships implemented by the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) and coordinated by EDAWN have created a model that works.



5.3%. We achieved partial credit for Equitable Workforce Mobility by demonstrating that six of eight racial, ethnic and gender subgroups have increased their levels of degree attainment.

Despite the overall trend toward greater economic stability and prosperity, we have room for improvement. While more residents are earning a living wage, real median income has decreased over time. We need to replace imports from parts of the nation and world with locally produced goods and services, including agriculture and produce, machinery and manufacturing, clothing, and specialized businesses like health and personal care products and services.

And while workforce development is a priority for our community, we've seen drops in the numbers of participants in training programs and in the percentage of employment placements for participants who complete a training program. There has also been an 18% decrease in the number of people pursuing recognized credentials from 2014 through 2016.

REIMAGINE RENO MASTER PLAN GOALS

Among the goals that make a commitment:

- 1.1: Build strong partnerships and encourage local and regional collaboration on economic development initiatives.
- 1.2: Promote a diverse and stable economic base.
- 1.3: Support continued growth of Reno's technology- and knowledge-based sectors.
- 1.4: Support the growth, creation, and retention of local businesses and start-ups.
- 1.5: Support the development of a diverse, educated, healthy, and adaptable workforce.
- 2.5: Promote the use of sustainable development practices.

Education, Arts and Community

Empower vibrant, educated, connected, and diverse communities



RE

OVERVIEW

Nevada ranks in last place in the national [Quality Counts 2017](#) report card on the state of public education. In fact, Nevada has ranked last in the report three of the past five years. The quality of public education that our children receive will largely determine their future career and earnings potential. The connection is clear in Reno, where 18.4% of the population lived in poverty in 2016 compared with the national average of 14%.

The STAR Education Opportunity & Attainment measures align with the national goal of a 90% high school graduation rate

across all races, ethnicities, income levels and groups needing specialized education. STAR promotes best practices and interventions to support learning.

STAR also measures creative industries and participation in arts, access to community venues that strengthen neighborhood bonds and perceptions of neighborhood cohesion, and volunteerism by residents who serve their neighborhoods and community.

Historic preservation helps communities understand their heritage and preserve the important places that connect us with the

past. STAR offers a framework for saving these places, as well as celebrating cultural and social diversity. Cultural diversity is associated with innovation and new ideas that drive economic growth.

STAR encourages communities to plan for an aging population by being proactive, creating supportive neighborhoods and networks, and ensuring services are accessible and inclusive to assist older adults who want to stay in their current home and community.



OBJECTIVES

Arts & Culture: Provide a broad range of arts and cultural resources and activities that encourage community member participation, creative self-expression, and community revitalization.

Community Cohesion: Promote socially cohesive neighborhoods where residents are connected, have a sense of place, and feel committed to their community.

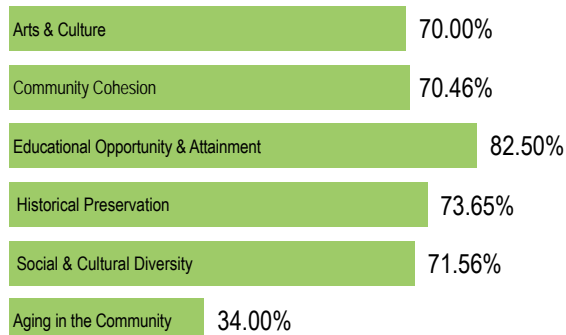
Educational Opportunity & Attainment: Achieve equitable attainment of a quality education for individuals from birth to adulthood.

Historic Preservation: Preserve and reuse historic structures and sites to retain local, regional, and national history and heritage, and reinforce community character.

Social & Cultural Diversity: Celebrate, respect, and represent the diverse social and cultural backgrounds of the community and its members.

Aging in the Community: Encourage active aging by optimizing opportunities for health, participation, and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age.

HOW DID WE DO?



Our community performed well in the Education, Arts & Culture category with the exception of Aging in the Community. Reno is a leader in arts and culture with a rich variety of special events, historic buildings, performing arts, and galleries. A 2015 study by Americans for the Arts found Reno spent \$89 million in arts and culture, which is above the national median. Non-profit arts and cultural organizations in Washoe County account for more than 2,600 jobs.

The city received credit for having in place all of the best practices essential for vibrant arts and culture. The Cultural Master Plan helps to grow artistic development in Reno, the Arts & Culture Commission secures, enhances, and publicly

funds excellence in the arts, the city's capital improvement budget sets aside 2% for public art installations, and the Public Art Program supports the professional development of local and regional artists. The Truckee River Arts and Reno Riverwalk districts attract artists and creative industries. The city hosts or supports programs such as Artown, which brought nearly 500 events, more than 100 workshops and over 30 ongoing programs at venues across the city in 2017.



85%

RESIDENTS LIVING WITHIN 1 MILE OF A COMMUNITY VENUE

Reno has made strides to improve community cohesion. The city and its partners offer free programs, services and classes at community centers, parks and recreation centers, senior centers, public schools and libraries, and the university. In fact, 85% of residents live within a mile of a venue that offers everything from free medical screening to dancing and fitness classes, and festivals and fairs to speaker series and lifelong learning classes. Programs such as the Neighborhood Advisory Boards, 360 Blueprint — a school-based mentoring program that builds relationships with at-risk



HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The City of Reno, the Historic Resources Commission and the Historic Reno Preservation Society work together to identify and protect historic buildings and places, provide education on the value of these assets, and host events that celebrate local historic resources.

The Preservation Society offers guided historic walking tours and participates in events in which residents can explore and learn about our community's treasures. It also recognizes property owners and preservationists through an annual awards program.

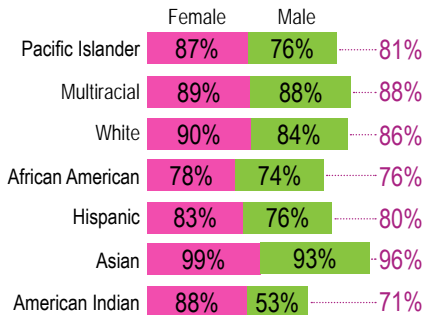


Photo Credit: Washoe County School District

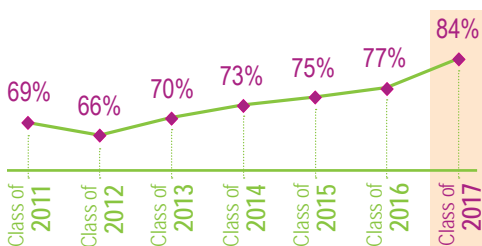
youth — and the city’s volunteer program also promote a positive sense of community.

The Washoe County School District (WCSD) has improved the quality of education students receive. The high school graduation rate progressively increased from 73% in 2014 to a record-high 84% in 2017. Results of WCSD’s commitment to “[Every Child, By Name and Face, to Graduation](#)” and the integrated strategy that supports this goal are shared through an annual report.

2017 COHORT GRADUATION RATE - 84%



GRADUATION RATE BY YEAR



The school district builds strong partnerships between families and schools, and Parent University helps families build skills, knowledge and support systems to advocate for student success.

The Community Services Agency’s Head Start and Pre-K programs and WCSD’s full-day kindergarten support early childhood learning. WCSD and its partners, including PRCS provide engaging afterschool programs, and summer school programs help children improve reading, writing and math skills. WCSD offers a variety of pathways to graduation, as well as career and technical education, and college readiness programs.



Reno values its heritage and promotes historic preservation. The number of local historical landmarks has increased by 2.3% since 2000, and the Register of Historic Places features 15 designated landmarks in Reno. ReImagine Reno establishes a goal to “protect and preserve Reno’s heritage and historic assets.” Land-use and zoning codes provide a process to nominate and designate historic assets, provide incentives for historic preservation, and set requirements to protect historic neighborhoods.

Reno, a melting pot of social and cultural diversity, hosts many events that celebrate this diversity, Among them: The Reno Celtic Celebration, Aloha Festival, annual Menorah Lighting, Reno Greek Festival, and Northern Nevada Pride Parade and Festival. The City of Reno provides native-language information to non-English speakers, especially Spanish speakers. Hispanic and Latino residents account for more than 25% of the city’s population. And, in January 2018 the City of Reno Diversity Plan will be presented to the City Council for adoption.

By 2034, Reno forecasts 18% of our population will be 65 years or older. In fact, Washoe County is one of the fastest aging communities in the United States. Our community has made efforts to support seniors. The city’s Senior Citizen Advisory Committee advises on matters relating to senior citizens, promotes senior-oriented special events, and advocates on behalf of older adults.

PRCS offers programs and services for seniors, from the Senior Games to affordable lunches where seniors can meet new friends. The number of seniors who live below the poverty level, rely on food stamps/ SNAP benefits, or have a disability is below the national average.

Still, Reno received a poor ranking in both the Milken Institute’s [Best Cities for Successful Aging](#) index and the [AARP Livability Index](#), which measures housing, neighborhood, transportation, environment, health, engagement, and opportunity characteristics. Nor is Reno a member of the WHO Global Network of [Age-Friendly Cities and Communities](#).

We also have room for improvement in other areas. Despite having over 900 establishments in the arts and culture sector that represent 4.21% of businesses, this didn’t meet the 5% threshold for creative industries. Through understanding the economic benefits of historic preservation, we could gain broader support for our efforts.

Reno-Sparks is ranked No. 57 for mid-sized cities for volunteerism by the Corporation for National and Community Service. Only 23% of residents volunteered in 2015, well below the recommended rate of 35%.



Photo Credit: Washoe County School District



While on track, the WCSD neither achieved an 85% reading proficiency rate for third graders across all student groups nor a 90% high school graduation rates for all schools across student groups.

WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTED TO A STRONG EDUCATION SYSTEM

With unprecedented community support, new legislation, and funding for education by the State of Nevada, the WCSD continues its work toward ensuring all 64,000 students receive a high-quality education. By building on past successes and constantly reviewing areas for improvement, it helps to ensure that all students are prepared for college, military service, or highly skilled careers.

Envision WCSD 2020 – Investing in Our Future guides efforts toward achieving WCSD’s goal of Every Child, By Name And Face, To Graduation. WCSD uses culturally competent practices and effective strategies to close opportunity gaps and meet the needs of students and the community. WCSD set a goal of 90% graduation for all comprehensive high schools by 2020.

Its most recent graduating class, the Class of 2017, set a new record with the highest graduation rate in the District’s history... 84%. Five high schools reached or exceeded the 90% goal including Galena, Damonte

Ranch, McQueen, Reno, and Incline. Three non-traditional high schools also exceeded 90% graduation rates: The Academy of Arts, Careers & Technology (100%), North Star Online (98%), and TMCC High (98%).

WCSD builds strong relationships with families. Many teachers and school leaders participate in the Parent Teacher Home Visit program, a highly successful initiative that helps educators understand the goals of families while supporting the at-home learning needs of students.

The community heard WCSD’s message about the critical need for funding for building and repairs of schools. With the passage of WC-1, WCSD plans to build new schools and repair existing schools... work that is critical to the future of our community.

WCSD is committed to a strong education system that ensures the well-being of our entire community!

REIMAGINE RENO MASTER PLAN GOALS

Among the goals that make a commitment:

- 6.4: Encourage health and wellness through access, education, and prevention.
- 6.6: Foster a culture of inclusivity - embracing and respecting the diversity of Reno’s residents.
- 6.7: Advocate for a strong and successful education system, and lifelong learning opportunities.
- 7.4: Increase Reno’s profile as a center of arts and culture.
- 7.5: Protect and preserve Reno’s heritage and historic assets.
- 8.3: Develop and support leadership that reflects the diversity of the community.
- 8.4: Encourage broad and meaningful citizen engagement.





RENO IS A VIBRANT ARTS AND CULTURE COMMUNITY

The City of Reno, a leader in Arts and Culture, supports a rich variety of special events, historic buildings, performing arts, and galleries. A strong public art program helps sustain economic development. Cultural diversity and history are interwoven into the fabric of the city.

The Reno Arts and Culture Commission enhances and funds excellence in the arts in Reno and advises the city on cultural issues. The Commission, a citizen board appointed by City Council, works with Arts and Culture staff to implement public art programs, program city galleries, and manage a grants program.

The Commission currently grants around \$200,000 to non-profits that provide quality arts and culture programming — some with free public admission — throughout the city. Grantees range from the Nevada Museum of Art to the Sierra Nevada Ballet and the Reno Jazz Orchestra.

Reno's annual Artown event, launched by the Reno Arts and Culture Commission in 1996 to revitalize downtown Reno, now is

an independent organization that oversees one of the largest arts-themed festivals in the world. Artown, which extends through the month of July, brought nearly 500 events to the city with an attendance of over 300,000 in 2017.

In 2005, the city adopted an ordinance that sets aside 2% from all eligible construction projects to be used to acquire works of art. Since the adoption of this ordinance, the city has collected over 200 permanent and temporary works of art placed throughout the city. These works of art are kept in good condition by the Arts and Culture staff. Further, the program is launching workshops to teach local and regional artists how they can participate in public art opportunities.

The city's Cultural Master Plan adopted in 2012 provides strategies to strengthen artistic development in the city.

The recently updated City of Reno Master Plan, meanwhile, specifies that arts and culture are a priority for the citizens of Reno and outlines policies and strategies to promote arts and culture in the city.

Arts in Education, a partnership of Sierra Arts Foundation and WCSD, has provided excellent arts instruction in local elementary schools since 1977. Professional teaching artists in visual arts, theater, drama, creative writing and poetry, and dance and movement are placed in one school for the entire school year. They integrate instruction in fine arts with other core curriculum.

The recent fifth Arts & Economic Prosperity study done by Americans for the Arts found 92 arts and culture non-profit organizations work in Washoe County. The study found, too, that 76% of the out-of-towners at arts events in Reno reported that a specific arts event was the reason for their trip to the city.

Reno continues to support development and implementation of arts and culture programs, strengthen community partnerships, develop increased funding, and cultivate more art everywhere. Reno is truly an arts city.



Equity and Empowerment

Ensure equity, inclusion and access to opportunity for all residents



OVERVIEW

Our nation was built on principles of equality and human rights as well as the promise of “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” We still are fighting for these principles and rights after 241 years. Women and people of color, indigenous peoples and immigrants, the poor and the old, persons with disabilities, religious groups, and people with different sexual orientations are among those in our community who may not experience their full civil and human rights.

The STAR objectives for Equity & Empowerment measure police- and non-police-related civil and human rights complaints and promote the respect, protection and fulfillment of civil and human rights due all people.

They address neighborhoods and populations overburdened by environmental pollution and track progress toward reducing risks and exposure to environmental justice conditions. And STAR evaluates equity in access to community facilities, services and infrastructure.

The objectives measure essential human services, including emergency shelter and stable housing for the homeless population, mental health and substance abuse programs and services, and prevention of child and elder abuse and neglect.

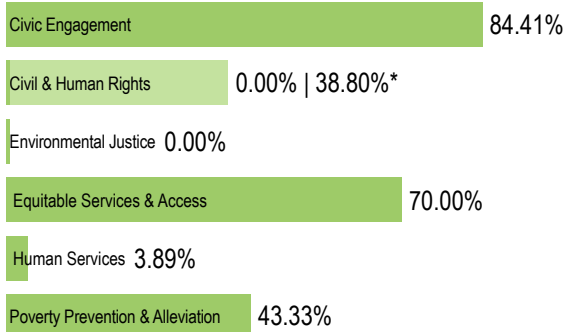
STAR also promotes civic engagement through voting, diverse representation on local boards and commissions reflective of local demographics, and empowerment of residents to participate in decision-making.

STAR also provides targets for reducing poverty. In 2016, the national poverty rate was 12.7% and more than 40 million people lived below the poverty line. For children under 18 the national poverty rate was 18%, which means 13.3 million American children lived in poverty.

STAR OBJECTIVES

- Civic Engagement:** Facilitate inclusive civic engagement through the empowerment of all community members to participate in local decision-making.
- Civil & Human Rights:** Respect, protect, and fulfill the civil and human rights of all members of the community.
- Environmental Justice:** Ensure no neighborhoods or populations are overburdened by environmental pollution.
- Equitable Services & Access:** Establish equitable spatial access to foundational community assets within and between neighborhoods and populations.
- Human Services:** Ensure that essential human services are readily available for the most vulnerable community members to ensure all residents receive supportive services when needed.
- Poverty Prevention & Alleviation:** Alleviate the impacts of poverty, prevent people from falling into poverty, and proactively enable those who are living in poverty to obtain greater, lasting economic stability and security.

HOW DID WE DO?



**Due to staff error, the data for Civil & Human Rights was not submitted in time for verification. STAR Communities reviewed the data, and if submitted in time would have assigned 3.88 points total in this category.*

Civic Engagement and Equitable Services & Access are areas of strength for our community. A high percentage of registered voters turn out to vote, and the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada, a local non-partisan non-profit, mobilizes and empowers traditionally disenfranchised voters. A city survey found 71% of respondents felt empowered to contact city employees and believe they are able to have a positive impact on our community. We can improve, meanwhile, by taking steps to ensure local advisory boards reflect the gender, racial and ethnic diversity within our community to offer diverse perspectives in decision-making.



To measure Equitable Services & Access, we identified neighborhoods with the highest percentage of low-income and minority residents. We then measured the percentage of residents of those neighborhoods who live within walking distance of

community assets such as libraries, schools, parks and public spaces, and tree canopy. We found that a higher proportion of residents in these priority neighborhoods are within walking distance of these assets than the community as a whole. For example, 76% of residents in the neighborhoods we studied are within walking distance of public schools and 86% can walk to parks and public spaces, whereas community-wide proximity was 61% for schools and 75% for parks and public spaces.



The Reno Police Department (RPD), which investigates and resolves police-related civil and human-rights complaints, has seen a dramatic decrease in complaints during the past five years. Complaints fell from 104 in 2012 to 21 in 2016. From 2014 to 2016, RPD investigated 112 complaints, and all investigations were completed well below the 120-day benchmark. In fact, RPD met an average of 28 days to complete the investigations in 2016, down from 59 days in 2012.

To further address human rights, the City Council created the City Human Rights Commission in June 2017.

Environmental Justice, Human Services and Poverty Prevention & Alleviation are topics that will require future investments and strong partnerships to achieve results.

STAR helps to identify issues of environmental justice, the neighborhoods that are impacted, and



RENO WORKS HELPS HOMELESS SECURE PERMANENT HOUSING

Reno Works, a favored program of the Reno City Council, was created by the city and Volunteers of America working together. The 10-week program, which transitions people from homelessness to secure employment and permanent housing, provides residents of homeless shelters with life skills, education, safety and work training, long-term employment support, wrap-around case management, and mentoring. Upon completion of the program, participants receive a certificate and letter of recommendation. The results are uplifting: 82% of participants graduate and move into a job with steady income.

CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

In 2017, the City Council approved establishment of the City of Reno Human Rights Commission. The Human Rights Commission will serve in an advisory capacity to the Council, provide input and recommendations, and actively foster improving social justice; diversity and inclusion; equal opportunity; and human dignity among all residents of the city. The Commission can utilize the best practices promoted by STAR, which recommends these actions to protect civil and human rights:

- Utilize a data-driven approach
- Incorporate protections in the city charter

- Establish an office with the authority and capacity to investigate non-police-related complaints
- Educate residents on their civil and human rights
- Train police officers and all city staff on implicit bias, cultural responsiveness and non-discrimination
- Operationalize civil and human rights policies in programs, services and operations
- Provide language translation or interpretation services

BUILDING AN ENGAGED CITIZENRY

The City of Reno provides many opportunities that engage residents in decision-making. Residents can participate in City Council meetings, Neighborhood Advisory Boards, and board and commission meetings.

The five Neighborhood Advisory Boards improve communication between citizens, city staff, and City Council members, provide citizens the opportunity for early engagement on important community issues, and create a venue for citizens to review and provide feedback on certain development projects.

Eleven [boards or commissions](#) address access for people with disabilities, affordable housing, building permit fees, civil service, downtown maintenance, finance, historical resources, human rights, redevelopment, seniors, and urban forestry.

The Reno Citizens Institute helps residents understand how city government works. Its goal is

creation of a pool of engaged citizens interested in helping to make city government work better. It explains the roles of citizens and city departments, and participants meet elected officials, department heads, and city staff to learn how city government functions.

Civic engagement is not limited to adults. The Reno Youth City Council allows youth to take an active role in the community. It promotes, organizes, and sustains drug-free activities for Reno's youth. The Youth City Council strives to establish better relationships between schools and the adult and youth communities. Members promote ethnic and cultural understanding within the Reno youth community. They also evaluate changes in government operation, suggest youth-related policy changes to the City Council, and attend City Council meetings to speak on issues related to youth.



achievements in reducing risk and exposure to residents. Neither the city nor the Washoe County Health District has begun to assess environmental justice conditions in the community.

Our social safety nets don't adequately provide for our most vulnerable populations. A point-in-time study in 2016 found 132 individuals (including 59 youths) living on the streets, 452 spending the night in the homeless shelter, 392 living in transitional housing, and 3,680 residing in weekly motels. In November 2016, 25 homeless camps were found along the Truckee River in Reno and Sparks. The community can pay as much as \$650,000 a year for each homeless person through social services, emergency room visits, incarceration and other public services.

The percentage of Reno residents living below the poverty level, including seniors and women, increased from 2012 to 2015. One positive trend: The percentage of children in poverty decreased during this period. Programs such as [Kids to Senior Korner](#) provide education and outreach to low-income families, kids and seniors. It provides immediate care and connects people in need with long-term resources that will nurture their overall health and journey toward independence.

REIMAGINE RENO MASTER PLAN GOALS

Among the goals that make a commitment:

- 2.3: Ensure effective, efficient, and equitable delivery of city services and infrastructure.
- 6.4: Encourage health and wellness through access, education, and prevention.
- 8.3: Develop and support leadership that reflects the diversity of the community.
- 8.4: Encourage broad and meaningful citizen engagement.
- 8.5: Continually seek opportunities to increase the efficiency of city facilities and the effectiveness of government programs and city services.

Health and Safety

Strengthen communities to be healthy, resilient and safe places for all residents and businesses



RE

OVERVIEW

Are you getting at least 2.5 hours of moderate, aerobic activity each week? Are your children active at least 1 hour every day? The Surgeon General recommends that Americans engage in this level of physical activity to improve health and wellness and prevent chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, or diabetes that are suffered by half of adults. If you're like most Americans, you're not clocking the time.

Before 1995, the highest obesity rate for any state in America was 19%. Today, no state has an obesity rate below 20%. Nevada has an obesity rate of 26.7% — meaning more than a quarter of the state's population is obese. Physical activity helps prevent obesity and promote health. Cities can create healthier communities through

land-use and development policies that support active lifestyles. People are more active if they live in neighborhoods that have sidewalks, parks, bicycle lanes and safe streets. Children are healthier when their schools offer recess, physical education and after-school programs.

The STAR objectives for Health & Safety support a city's proactive approach to prevent disease, injury, and premature death by addressing the factors that support or undermine healthy outcomes. It encourages physical activity for adults and kids and evaluates whether residents practice healthy behaviors. It measures the accessibility of fresh, healthful food and encourages healthy eating. It also assesses public health and integration of

health considerations into local decision-making, and addresses the structural and professional components of healthcare in the community.

The Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan ranked earthquakes and wildfires as posing a very high risk to the city, followed by terrorism or other acts of violence. STAR helps direct planning efforts to prevent and alleviate the impacts of hazardous events and emergencies. It also evaluates the capabilities and preparedness of emergency responders — fire and police departments.

This goal area encourages the reduction of violence and crime. While some Reno residents may have concerns about crime, especially related to drugs and gangs, the majority believes Reno is a safe city.



STAR OBJECTIVES

Active Living: Enable adults and kids to maintain healthy, active lifestyles by integrating physical activity into their daily routine.

Community Health: Achieve positive health outcomes and minimize health risk factors associated with behaviors and poor indoor air quality in schools and homes.

Emergency Management & Response: Reduce harm to humans and property by utilizing collaborative approaches to increase capability and capacity to respond to emergency incidents.

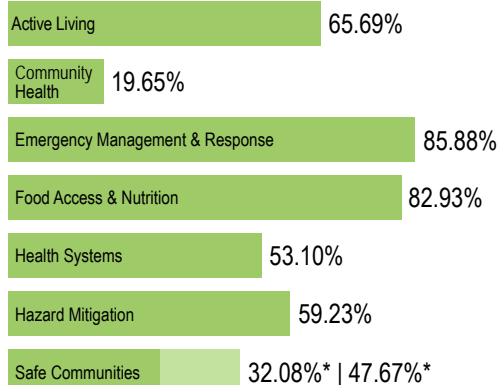
Food Access & Nutrition: Ensure that adults and children of all income levels have physical and economic access to fresh and healthful food and have opportunities to learn about nutritious eating and food safety.

Health Systems: Provide high quality local health systems that are accessible and responsive to community needs.

Hazard Mitigation: Reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to life and property from existing hazard events through an on-going process that occurs before, during, and after disasters.

Safe Communities: Prevent and reduce crime and increase perceptions of safety through interagency collaboration and with residents as empowered partners.

HOW DID WE DO?



**Due to staff error, the data for Safe Communities was not submitted in time for verification. STAR Communities reviewed the data, and if submitted in time would have assigned 7 points total in this category.*

The community performed well in Emergency Management & Response and Food Access & Nutrition. Emergency management is a regional effort, and the Reno Fire Department (RFD) with our regional partners has made great efforts to prepare the community for an emergency or disaster. The Insurance Services Office, which evaluates the capabilities of fire

departments, assigned RFD an ISO rating of 2, with 1 representing the best public protection and 10 the worst. And, RFD's average time for the arrival of the first truck at the scene is below the 9-minute threshold.

Washoe County also received accreditation by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program. Washoe County, the City of Reno, and the City of Sparks prepared a Comprehensive Emergency Preparedness Guide that helps citizens plan for emergencies. This includes detailed instructions on creation of an emergency kit, evacuation plan, and preparation for specific emergency situations. The Reno City Council voted unanimously to adopt the Washoe County Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan and hosted a "disaster preparedness expo" to educate and prepare residents for any hazards that are likely to occur.

An area for improvement will be distribution of emergency kits and supplies to low-

income, disabled and vulnerable populations and specific plans for emergency evacuation of these populations.

The Washoe County Food Policy Council, local farmers markets, and federal food assistance are among the programs that contribute to a growing local food system. While the city demonstrated that access to healthy food has increased, only 17% of residents live within a walkable quarter mile of a healthful retail food outlet. Our community also received credit for an increase in county residents that are food secure with the financial means or assistance to purchase healthful food. In 2015, 87% of county residents were food secure, however only 78% of county children were food secure. Food service sales of fresh fruits and vegetables in WCSD have decreased.



87%

COUNTY RESIDENTS ARE FOOD SECURE



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & RESPONSE: RENO FIRE DEPARTMENT

Two sets of statistics tell a remarkable story about the Reno Fire Department:

First, consider this: RFD in 1999 handled 26,000 calls with a staff of 255. That translates into about 102 calls per staff member. Flash forward nearly two decades. In 2017, RFD handled 41,000 calls with a staff of 254. That translates into 161 calls per staff member, an increase of nearly 58%.

Next, consider this: Despite that big growth in calls, and despite a slight decline in total staffing, RFD has maintained an average response time of only six minutes from the time a call is received at a fire station until the first units arrive.

Those outstanding response times, and the ways that RFD uses collaborative partnerships with other emergency-management agencies across the region to deliver excellent protection, are cornerstones in the STAR recognition earned by the city. The fire professionals who respond so quickly are highly skilled. In January 2016, for the first time in its history RFD began delivering paramedic-level emergency services. The company of four firefighters that's the first to arrive at any emergency is well equipped to take quick and professional action to save lives and protect property. RFD also makes good on its pledge to bring substantial resources to fight fires quickly. Within 10 minutes after a fire is reported, the initial response team is joined by three fire engines and 15 more firefighters.

The responsibilities of RFD are particularly challenging because the department is responsible for far more than the people and property of a rapidly growing city. Hundreds of thousands of people attend special events such as Hot August Nights and the Great Reno Balloon Races every year, and the department's responsibilities extend to them, too.

Specialized RFD professionals are trained for water rescues from rivers and lakes — including icy rescues during winter. Other fire professionals

are specially trained to respond to hazardous-materials spills. A third specialized team is trained for search-and-rescue operations in urban settings such as collapsed buildings.

While RFD recently has made modest additions to its staff — it's adding a highly diverse group of firefighters to its first new recruits in eight years — much of its continued outstanding performance reflects hard work by its professional staff as well as savvy management by its leadership.

New fire stations are carefully situated to meet the city's growth. Stations that were closed during the dark days of the Great Recession are open once again. The creation of new, two-person medical response units provides a highly skilled response from stations that once were closed.

The department's management, working closely with other agencies in the region, develops plans to deal with emergencies and conducts exercises to ensure those plans work.

RFD's commitment to its community extends beyond calls to medical emergencies and fires. Its trained emergency medical providers stand at the ready during community events. At the same time, RFD takes advantage of the crowds at community events to provide fire-protection education to adults and children alike.

And RFD maintains a strong focus on community outreach. It supports charitable organizations such as the Muscular Dystrophy Association and Moms on the Run. At holidays, RFD sponsors its Sam Aibini Food Basket Program as well as a Children's Christmas Party.

Whether its professionals are battling a life-threatening fire or bringing a smile to a child at Christmas, RFD delivers highly rated, highly effective protection for the lives of everyone who lives and visits in Reno.

We're an active community. Only 16% of adults report they aren't physically active. Reno-Sparks was designated as a Bronze Level Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists. Despite these accomplishments, the percentage of public schools that require daily physical education has declined. The RTC, Washoe County and City of Reno have goals to improve the pedestrian and bicycle network and encourage transit-oriented development — mixed-use neighborhoods connected to public transportation infrastructure.

When evaluated against 14 community health indicators, our community was in the 90th percentile for positive results compared to all U.S. counties in only three areas: adult obesity, physical inactivity, and access to exercise opportunities. Levels of preventable hospital stays and diabetic monitoring are improving, and the number of premature deaths is decreasing. The region has a high-quality health system with 4 hospitals recognized as top performers by the Joint Commission, a nonprofit that certifies health care organizations for their quality of services. However, our community doesn't have enough dentists, mental health providers, or primary care physicians to serve a community of its size.



4

HOSPITALS RECOGNIZED AS
TOP U.S. PERFORMERS

While the city doesn't meet the low crime rate thresholds for homicides, violent crimes, school violence, and property crimes, the Reno Police Department (RPD) is dedicated to making our community safe. RPD conducts surveys to understand how safe residents feel in their neighborhood and the city, offers public education and outreach resources, and utilizes a "community policing" approach that relies on trust and strong partnerships with nonprofit organizations, schools and residents. RPD also has strong partnerships with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies throughout the region, and collaborates with its partners to take a proactive approach to violence prevention.

SAFE COMMUNITIES: RENO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Community policing, the philosophy at the core of public safety in sustainable communities, is nothing new in Reno.

For four decades, RPD has successfully implemented the community-oriented model that many cities today view as cutting-edge.

It's important. The STAR program, in fact, recognizes trusting relationships between police and the community as one of the cornerstones of a sustainable community.

From their first day as recruits, sworn personnel of RPD learn the skills they'll use to build relationships with community groups, neighborhood leaders and citizens.

They learn that they're empowered to take steps every day to stay close to the community they serve and learn about its concerns — whether it's neighborhood residents who worry about speeding traffic along a nearby street or a group of business owners concerned about late-night activity near their stores.

A specialized team learns to reconnect homeless people with the family and friends who care about them. Another team trains apartment managers how to reduce crime and gang activity in their complexes.

And the police department works collaboratively with health-care and mental-health experts to teach officers the skills they need to defuse crisis situations involving people with mental-health issues.

It's not just officers on the street who bring the community oriented philosophy to life. Crime victims who come to the front desk of the police headquarters are treated with kindness and respect by personnel specially trained to assist victims.

A streamlined digital platform, RenoPD.com, and a new app, MYRPD, allow residents and police to interact in new ways. User growth has been astounding as residents

turn to the new tools for near real-time dialogue and transparency.

The community-oriented philosophy also extends into the top ranks of the department. RPD leaders meet regularly with business and civic leaders as well as representatives of advocacy groups, and the conversations aren't always just polite chats over coffee and cookies. Straightforward talk builds better relationships, and better community relationships allow RPD to improve public safety.

Successful community relationships aren't created overnight. As RPD officials explain the program to city officials from across the nation who are intrigued by Reno's success, they emphasize that community-oriented policing requires a long-term commitment — the sort of commitment that Reno has made since the 1980s. It takes time and focused attention to build trust.

The work pays off. Annual surveys consistently find that more than three quarters of Reno residents give good marks to the performance of RPD.

Another set of relationships — the connections between RPD and other local, state and federal law enforcement agencies in the region — also plays a significant role in the protection of public safety.

Regular meetings of law enforcement officials allow exchange of information about crime trends — criminals, after all, don't stop their work at the city limits — and joint training exercises allow agencies to work together smoothly to get regional resources into place during crisis situations.

Creation of a safe city can't be a job that's left only to law enforcement officers. Reno shows that a collaborative approach, one that fully engages the community, brings sustainable results.



REIMAGINE RENO MASTER PLAN GOALS

Among the goals that make a commitment:

- 3.2: Enhance public safety and create inviting streets and public open spaces for people.
- 6.1: Provide high-quality community safety and emergency response services.
- 6.2: Promote a safe and more resilient community.
- 6.3: Support active lifestyles among residents of all ages.
- 6.4: Encourage health and wellness through access, education, and prevention.
- 6.5: Increase the availability of and access to fresh, healthy, and local food.



Natural Systems

Protect and restore the natural resources upon which life depends



RE

OVERVIEW

The natural environment is more than physical beauty. Nature provides “ecosystem services” that make the earth livable. Ecosystem services fall under four broad categories — provisioning, regulating, habitat, and culture — and sustain us with food, water and shelter, protect our air quality and buffer us against natural disasters. Ecosystems provide important economic benefits as well. In 2011, ecosystem services globally were valued at \$125 trillion per year, 70% greater than the entire world economy. It’s in our best interest to preserve and restore nature to maintain ecosystem services in perpetuity.

The STAR objectives for Natural Systems help a community protect and restore places that provide ecosystem services and to take an ecosystems approach to infrastructure projects by mimicking natural processes such as bioretention and infiltration of stormwater. Green infrastructure strategies provide multiple benefits such as lower energy expenses, lessened flood damage and reduced pollution in rivers.

STAR provides measures to protect threatened species and eradicate invasive species. STAR recommends how much land area a community should dedicate to natural resource areas, suggests restoration goals,

and recommends protections to achieve no net loss of wetlands and streams. Protected and shared natural spaces can also create stronger social ties among neighbors and improved mental health of residents.

STAR encourages communities to meet national outdoor air quality standards, reducing health risks such as cancer. It also encourages communities to adopt the national Watershed Health Index and Watershed Vulnerability Index to conduct watershed assessments. STAR measures growth in working lands — farmlands, forest lands and fisheries — and growth in production from those lands.



ONE TRUCKEE RIVER

The Truckee River is a defining and dynamic natural feature from its headwaters at Lake Tahoe to Pyramid Lake. In Truckee Meadows, the river crosses jurisdictional boundaries in Reno, Sparks and Washoe County. A coordinated approach is needed to ensure the management and stewardship of the Truckee River across all these boundaries.

The Nevada Land Trust and Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful co-founded the One Truckee River, a collaboration of public and private partners working together to allow the Truckee River to flow clear and clean, quench our thirst, sustain the river's natural ecology, cultural resources and wildlife, and connect residents and visitors to opportunities for recreation and regeneration. The collaboration manages and protects the Truckee River across all jurisdictional boundaries, and the City of Reno is a key stakeholder implementing the One Truckee River Management Plan.

To learn more visit <http://onetruckeeriver.org/>

STAR OBJECTIVES

Green Infrastructure: Design and maintain a network of green infrastructure features that integrate with the built environment to conserve ecosystem functions and provide associated benefits to human populations.

Biodiversity & Invasive Species: Maintain the urban ecosystem habitat at levels that promote biodiversity and manage or prevent invasive species.

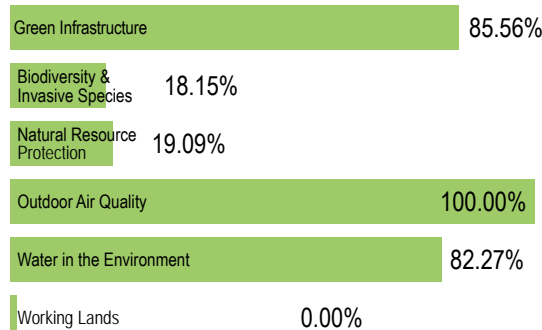
Natural Resource Protection: Protect, enhance, and restore natural ecosystems and cultural landscapes to confer resilience and support clean water and air, food supply, and public safety.

Outdoor Air Quality: Ensure that outdoor air quality is healthy for all segments of the human population and protects the welfare of the community.

Water in the Environment: Protect and restore the biological, chemical, and hydrological integrity of water in the natural environment.

Working Lands: Conserve and sustainably manage lands that provide ecosystem services and raw materials.

HOW DID WE DO?

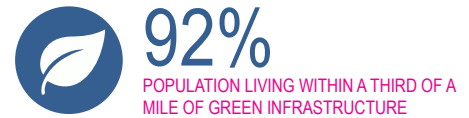


Reno was named to Outside magazine's list of [25 Best Towns of 2017](#), and the editors highlighted the city's numerous outdoors opportunities. We're blessed to be surrounded by open space and outdoor amenities such as the river, trails, mountains, forests, and lakes. Our proximity to these spaces provides residents and visitors with a gateway to adventure, recreation, and regeneration.

Our community performed exceptionally well in STAR measurements for Green Infrastructure, Outdoor Air Quality, and Water in the Environment.

Green infrastructure can be natural — an interconnected network of waterways, wetlands, woodlands, wildlife habitats, and other natural areas. Or, it can be man-made systems that mimic natural systems for retention and infiltration of stormwater. Rain gardens, bioswales, porous pavement, and green roofs are examples of engineered systems. Only 29% of Reno's land is covered by impervious surfaces, and 92% of the population lives within a third of a mile of a green infrastructure feature. In 2012, the city won an award for green infrastructure after it retrofitted the historic McKinley Arts and Cultural Center with features

to treat storm water on-site, including rain gutters, bioswales, rain garden, and pervious concrete parking lot.



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets National Ambient Air Quality Standards for carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, ozone, and particulate matter based on safe levels to protect human health. Washoe County Health District (WCHD) monitors our air quality and implements programs to ensure good air quality.

Our community meets federal standards for healthy air quality and is below the threshold that warns of increased risk for cancer. WCHD's many programs increase awareness and promote positive behavioral changes, such as reducing vehicle idling and limiting exposure to smoke or other pollutants.

Local watersheds have the capacity to adapt to climate-change risks. However, the region falls short of the EPA's Watershed Health Index. The city and a host of regional partners working to protect watersheds and reduce flood hazards have in place all of the best practices recommended by STAR, with the exception of financial incentives to residents and developers to protect and restore critical watershed areas. An example of regional cooperation is the investment of more than \$28 million by the Truckee River Flood Management Authority, The Nature Conservancy and numerous local, state,



OUTDOOR AIR QUALITY

Reno is home to remarkable blue skies and clean air. It wasn't always this way. As Reno's population grew in the 1970s, hazy skies became very common in the wintertime. The haze resulted from temperature inversions that trapped woodstove smoke and car exhaust in the valley. Our air didn't meet the health-based air quality standards set by the EPA.

To address the problem, the Air Quality Management Division of the Washoe County Health District developed local initiatives such as the Woodstove and Smog Check Programs. The Woodstove Program, one of the first in the country, became a model for other areas with wood-smoke problems. The Smog Check program reduces emissions from our largest source of local air pollution — cars and trucks.

The local initiatives were supported by national strategies that reduced air pollution from vehicles and power plants. Technology has greatly reduced tailpipe emissions from new cars and trucks compared with vehicles 20 years ago. Our greatest air quality challenge? We're driving much more than we did in the past.

To protect our air quality as Reno grows, the Master Plan directly and indirectly supports clean air.

An important theme in the Master Plan is improving the city's development and redevelopment patterns so that they provide transportation options such as transit, walking, and biking as an alternative to driving. Every proposed project from restriping a street to developing a major new residential community is an opportunity to include sustainable features that reduce our dependency on cars.

The benefits are felt widely. Closing gaps in the sidewalk, bike, and trail networks, for instance, can make walking and biking to school a more viable option. As more students walk and bike to school, rates of obesity and diabetes decline.

Increasing the tree canopy along these active transportation routes will make them more attractive and comfortable to use. Tree canopies also reduce urban heat islands and improve stormwater management.

Employers can help take more cars off the road by offering an Employee Trip Reduction program. Offered in Reno by [RTC Smart Trips](#), these programs offer commuters resources and incentives to leave their cars at home and use alternative transportation.

Our clean air did not come by accident. Continued strong commitment and long-term vision from the community and local governments will be necessary to keep Reno a healthy community.

and federal agencies and non-profit organizations to restore portions of the Truckee River ecosystem. More than 450 acres of habitat have been created and more than 8 miles of the river have been restored.

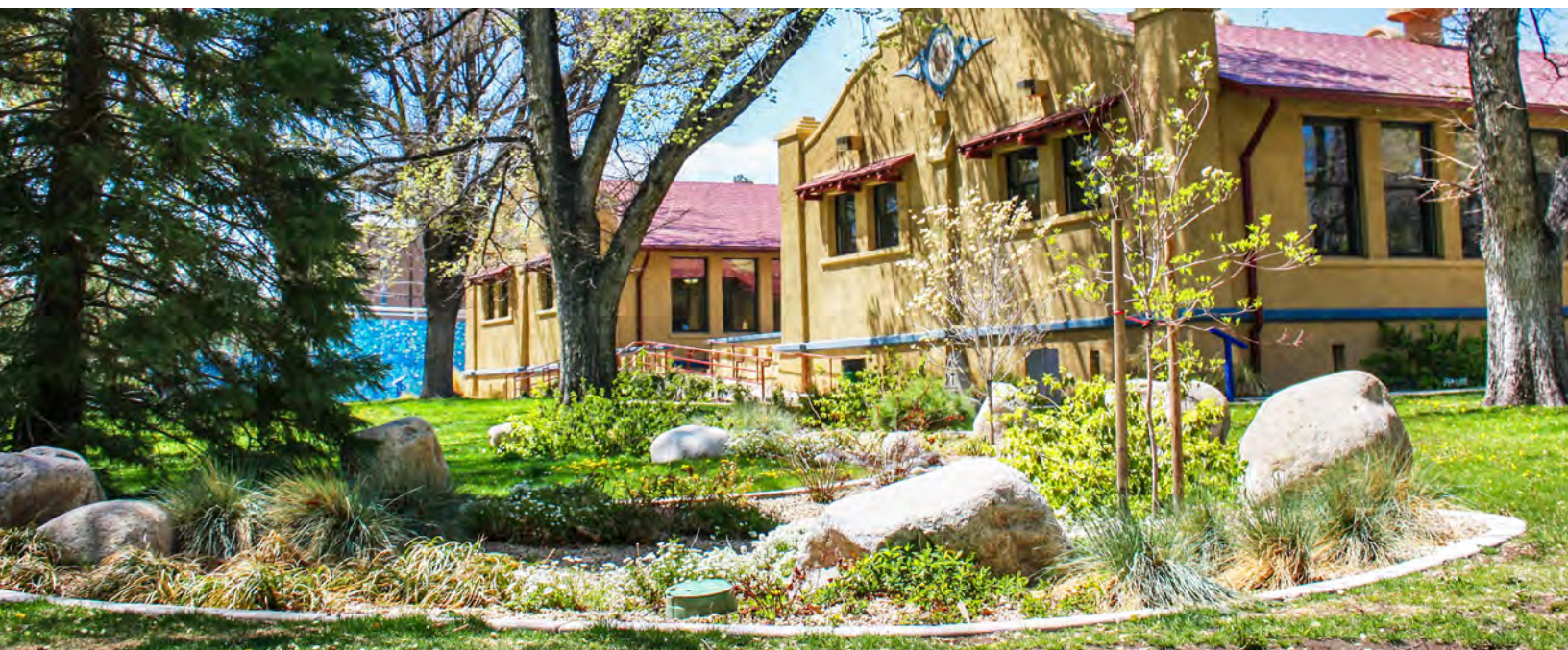
While we are doing well in some areas, investments in Biodiversity & Natural Systems, Natural Resource Protection, and Working Lands are needed. We identified three threatened species — Lahontan Cutthroat, Cui-ui (a large sucker fish found in Pyramid Lake), and Steamboat Buckwheat — but were unable to demonstrate that these species' populations have recovered, or that we have protected against loss of their critical habitat areas. Invasive species have the potential to wreak havoc on our ecosystems. We also were unable to demonstrate eradication of three invasive species of concern — Eurasian Watermilfoil, Curlyleaf Pondweed, and Cheatgrass.

While PRCS manages nearly 3,400 acres of parkland, Reno doesn't meet the STAR metric of 20 acres per 1,000 residents. And, we haven't established goals for restoring lands critical to natural systems and ecosystem services. We're also losing wetlands, streams, and shoreline buffers, as well as the amount of land that connects natural systems. Nor can we demonstrate an increase in the amount of working lands, goods produced from these lands, or the percentage of working lands that are certified through programs such as USDA's Organic Certification or Nevada's Basin and Range Organics.

REIMAGINE RENO MASTER PLAN GOALS

Among the goals that make a commitment:

- 6.5: Increase the availability of and access to fresh, healthy, and local food.
- 7.1: Conserve and protect Reno's natural resources and environment.
- 7.2: Establish an interconnected network of open space, greenways, and trails.
- 7.7: Increase tree canopy and green infrastructure within the city.



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Creation of green infrastructure in Reno reflects a multitude of decisions, many of them modest, by thousands of property owners.

But taken together, decisions as simple as redirecting a residential downspout so that it doesn't pour storm runoff into a curb that connects directly with the Truckee River make a substantial difference.

The city's efforts to educate residents and businesses and encourage them as they do the right thing are essential elements of STAR. Individual actions are the key to making those efforts a reality.

[ReLEAF Reno](#), a city-sponsored initiative to preserve and expand the city's urban forest, encourages residents to plant more trees, maintain the health of existing trees and financially support the planting and maintenance of more trees. The goal: 130,000 additional trees in Reno in the next 20 years.

Reno's Urban Forestry Program is the oldest in the state — it takes a while to grow big trees — and city leaders have long maintained their commitment to the [Urban Forestry Master Plan](#). They understand that a healthy canopy of trees improves the environment, increases residential property values, and creates community pride.

But more than trees is required to protect green infrastructure. Careful management of storm runoff, for instance, keeps pollutants out of the Truckee River. (All the storm drains in Reno flow directly to the river; runoff is not treated.)

A demonstration garden at the city-owned McKinley Arts Center shows residents how to use gutters and pervious concrete to capture rainwater. The captured rainwater can support landscaping and infiltrate stormwater on-site while preventing polluted runoff from flowing to the river. It's hard to clean the river water once it's polluted. It's far easier to keep pollutants out of runoff in the first place.

In downtown Reno, meanwhile, trees planted along Virginia Street outside the Eldorado Hotel Casino grow in specially designed boxes that capture and filter stormwater that flows down nearby curbs.

Developers and construction crews take time to learn about best practices at city-sponsored events, and then implement what they have learned.

City maintenance crews set a positive example through smart vegetation-control strategies. They reduce or eliminate the use of chemicals by planting vegetation that out-competes unwanted weeds. Collaboration is important.

Members of organizations such as Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful join with students from regional schools to act as stewards of the Truckee River, spearheading annual cleanup days and spread a consistent message: "Only rain in the drain."

Collaborative partners help residents understand the important environmental benefits of careful use of fertilizer, mindful lawn watering, and diligent cleanup of pet wastes that might wash into storm drains.

The City of Reno joins with its neighbors in Sparks and Washoe County, meanwhile, to develop strategies to monitor and reduce stormwater runoff into the river.

Throughout all the planning, all the meetings, all the late nights at community events, city officials deliver a consistent message about green infrastructure: Individual actions matter.

Everyone is responsible for taking care of the river. Everyone is responsible to protect our trees and plant new ones to benefit generations to come. Everyone is responsible for the creation and protection of the natural systems that surround us.

Green infrastructure, after all, is what a sustainable city is all about.

Innovation and Processes

Recognize important local government practices and processes that guide the implementation of sustainability and accelerate community-scale achievement across STAR Goal Areas



OVERVIEW

Cities are hotbeds of innovation. Recent research proves that cities not only drive innovation, but cities are where unconventional and disruptive innovation occurs. Cities are game changers. Researchers find that density, diversity, and urban design are elemental to spurring innovation. Density and good urban design, with walkable and mixed-use neighborhoods, provide opportunities for chance encounters. When people from diverse backgrounds — diverse in knowledge, types of employment, cultures, and perspectives — make connections, the clash and melding of ideas foster innovation.

In fact, Forbes recently reported that cities are the scene of the most inspiring and

innovative experiments to fight climate change, and it noted that more than 380 U.S. cities, including the City of Reno, pledged to honor the 2015 Paris Agreement on tackling climate change after the federal administration pulled out of this monumental international treaty.

The STAR objectives for Innovation & Process highlight the sharing of emerging and cutting-edge practices that advance community-wide sustainability. Sharing these practices helps to accelerate adoption by other communities, and spurs further innovations. STAR evaluates communities for best practices in comprehensive planning, public engagement, innovation in codes and ordinances, and educating

the public and businesses on sustainability issues, programs and services, and events.

This category rewards exemplary performance in goal areas that exceed STAR metrics, as well as for local innovations. And, communities can achieve extra credit for good governance. Good governance is evaluated on the quality of a community's municipal bond rating, transparency and open data, and whether the municipality has a designated sustainability director or office of sustainability.



TRUCKEE MEADOWS HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Truckee Meadows Healthy Communities is a collaborative of agencies and organizations throughout our region that work together to impact the health of our community. The World Health Organization defines a healthy community as “one that is safe with affordable housing and accessible transportation systems, work for all who want to work, a healthy and safe environment with a sustainable ecosystem, and offers access to health care services which focus on prevention and staying healthy.” The collaborative is working to build a model where all community members strive toward a culture of health.

Truckee Meadows Healthy Communities and its partners offer free medical clinics and host the Family Health Festival. It relies on a data-driven approach using the Nevada County Health Rankings, hosted a community forum, and developed a Community Health Improvement Plan. And, the collaborative is currently working on a regional affordable housing roadmap.

Through the collective actions of the diversity of partners, we can create a healthier community with better outcomes for all residents, including underserved and vulnerable populations. As a community partner, the City of Reno plays a critical role in realizing this goal.

STAR OBJECTIVES

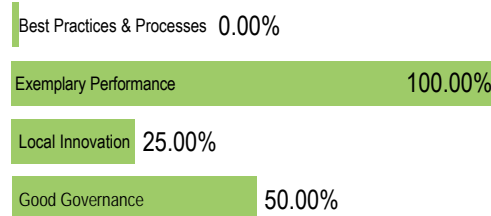
Best Practices & Processes: Recognize important local government practices and processes that underpin the implementation of sustainability measures and accelerate community-scale achievement across STAR Goal Areas.

Exemplary Performance: Reward performance in Community Level Outcome measures or Local Action measures that significantly exceeds the evaluation criteria established by the existing STAR Community Rating System.

Local Innovation: Encourage and reward creative, effective approaches to enhancing a community’s environmental, social, and/or economic sustainability not reflected in existing STAR Objectives or evaluation measures.

Good Governance: Recognize the achievement of demonstrated outcomes and good practices in governance that elevate achievement and success rates across multiple goals and objectives.

HOW DID WE DO?



Reno performed well in the area of Exemplary Performance. The areas of exemplary performance include reductions in GHG emissions, green infrastructure, the capacity of local watersheds to adapt to risks related to climate change, and turn-out of registered voters on election day.

Since 2008, community-wide GHG emissions have decreased by nearly 14%.

Both green infrastructure and the capacity of local watersheds to adapt to risks related to climate change strengthen our resilience to climate change. The city has a low percentage of impervious surfaces, only 29% as compared to the threshold of no more than 65%. And when analyzing our watersheds with the Watershed Vulnerability Index, all performed well below the designated threshold. We analyzed watersheds within 50 miles of Reno, including: Thomas Creek, Steamboat Valley-Steamboat Creek, Bull Ranch Creek-Truckee River, Peavine Creek-Truckee River, Dry Creek, Lemmon Valley, and Cold Springs Valley.

We applied for innovation credits for two regional collaborations in which the city participates. The first is One Truckee River and the One Truckee River Management

Plan. This effort, led by the Nevada Land Trust and Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful, will manage the collective efforts of local governments, and nonprofits to reach these goals:

- Ensure and protect water quality and ecosystem health;
- Create and sustain a safe, beautiful and accessible river connecting people and places;
- Build an aware and engaged community that protects and cares for the river; and
- Ensure the measurable, sustainable, and collaborative management of the river for today and into the future.

We also submitted the Truckee Meadows Healthy Communities Initiative. This initiative is already taking significant steps toward its mission to engage diverse stakeholders to collectively shape a healthier community. At a community health needs forum, participants from a range of sectors and organizations identified our most critical immediate needs and long-term goals. Research on health disparities across the community was funded, an annual Family Health Festival was launched, and a medical clinic offered free dental, vision and medical services. The initiative uses a data-driven approach through the County Health Rankings to track progress.

Truckee Meadows Healthy Communities Initiative also hosted a community forum to address our affordable housing challenges. It established a partnership with the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency to



outline a regional, affordable housing roadmap and is seeking funds to complete the roadmap through a collaborative process with all of the key stakeholders, including the City of Reno.

The city was also awarded points for having a sustainability manager on staff. The Sustainability & Climate Program is housed within the City Manager's Office. Its goals are to measure, monitor and report Reno's outcomes in improving community-wide sustainability, reduce climate pollution, and coordinate internal efforts to improve city operations. In 2016, a community-wide greenhouse gas inventory was completed. In 2017, we completed the STAR Communities requirements. In 2018, the city will develop and implement a Sustainability & Climate Action Plan.

While the city recently adopted the ReImagine Reno Master Plan, City Council adoption occurred after submittal of the STAR Communities application and we were unable to apply for those credits.

The city's public engagement techniques do not meet the requirements for STAR, which incorporate both high-tech and high-touch, and ongoing engagement techniques and techniques that reach traditionally underrepresented groups.

In the future, the city can also adopt innovative codes and ordinances that advance sustainable development practices, such as SmartCodes — a form-based land development ordinance designed to create walkability in neighborhoods of varying types and densities — the most current version of

the International Energy Efficiency Code or the New Buildings Institute 20% Stretch Energy Standard, energy benchmarking requirements, the International Green Construction Code, affordable housing requirements or incentives, and green building requirements or incentives.

The city has room to improve education and outreach on sustainability and climate-related programs and initiatives to residents and businesses. City leaders can continue to pay down debt and invest in economic recovery to improve our Municipal Bond Rating. And, the city can improve openness and transparency by adopting the nationally recognized Open Data Policy Guidelines, or the What Works Cities Standard.



Contributors



The City of Reno is grateful to the many individuals and organizations that contributed to this effort. It was truly a regional collaboration. Some of the data collected is specific to the city, but many data points are collected at the county level. So, while the City of Reno received recognition as a Certified 3-STAR Community, our broader community can take pride in the efforts by Washoe County, WCHD, EDAWN, and so many other regional organizations that create a healthier environment, stronger economy, and improved wellbeing for all residents throughout the region.

Gathering and assessing data was primarily performed by student interns from the University of Nevada, Reno, who work in the City of Reno Sustainability & Climate Office and the City's GIS analyst. They worked with more than 120 individuals and 30 organizations who provided the data required to meet performance metrics,

or documentation of the actions we're taking, including: education and outreach programs; plans; polices and codes; partnerships and collaborations; practice improvements; inventories, assessments, or surveys; enforcements or incentives; programs and services; and, facility and infrastructure improvements.

We also worked with students through the new Community-Based Research Award program of the University of Nevada, Reno. Through this program, UNR funded undergraduate students to conduct research in support of the City's efforts. The City would not have been able to do the much-needed research without the support of this program.

Lastly, we want to thank John Seelmeyer who served as copy-editor extraordinaire, making this report much more accessible to readers.

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