

Nevada Regional Reference Packet

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Clark County

Climate Impacts

Extreme Heat

- Temperatures in Nevada have [risen](#) almost 2.4 degrees Fahrenheit since the beginning of the 20th century.
- Nevada currently [experiences](#) an average of 20 extreme heat days yearly.
- Present Tribal lands [experience](#) two additional days of extreme heat each year compared to their historical lands. For some tribes, particularly those in the Southwest, this difference is far more significant.
 - The Mojave Tribe, whose reservation lies partially within Nevada, [experiences](#) an average of 117 days above 100 degrees or 62 more than on its historical lands.
- Las Vegas is the [second-fastest warming](#) city in the nation.
 - East Las Vegas, a [predominantly](#) Latino community, [experiences](#) higher temperatures than other neighborhoods because of the urban heat island effect. East Las Vegas residents are predominately [affected](#) due to a significantly lower tree canopy and older buildings that cannot regulate heat well.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, emergency department visits related to the heat across Nevada this July [more than doubled](#) compared to the same period last year.
 - According to the Southern Nevada Health District, those 45 years or older and outdoor workers [made up](#) most emergency department visits due to heat-related illness in Southern Nevada this summer.
- Currently, [almost 70,000](#) Nevadans are aged 65 and older, or under five years old, living below the poverty line – making them especially vulnerable to extreme heat.
 - Older adults are [particularly vulnerable](#) to heat-related illnesses as the ability to regulate internal temperature declines with age. Currently, [16.9% of Nevada's population](#) is over 65.
- Heat-related illnesses in Nevada have [skyrocketed](#) during the summer months and continue to increase yearly.
 - In 2022, 152 people [died](#) from heat-related illnesses in southern Nevada.

- According to the Clark County Coroner's Office, so far in 2023, [at least 16 people have died](#) from heat-related illness.
- Unhoused people can be especially vulnerable to extreme heat. In 2020, 186 unhoused people in Clark County, Nevada, [died](#) from heat-related causes. In 2019, 147 unhoused people in Clark County, Nevada, [died](#) from heat-related causes.
- In the Summer of 2023, Clark County [broke](#) 17 heat records.
- The average temperature in Las Vegas was 97.3 degrees in July, a [record](#) for the month.
- On July 16, Las Vegas briefly [reached](#) 116 degrees, tying the record for that date set in 1998.
- In July, Las Vegas [experienced](#) 14 days with a daily average of 100.7 degrees, making it the hottest stretch in Las Vegas' weather history.
- July also saw record-breaking [seven nights](#) with a nighttime low of 90 degrees or more.
- On July 17, Delta Air Lines [canceled](#) a flight from Las Vegas to Atlanta after extreme heat led to illnesses among passengers. That day, temperatures in Las Vegas [reached](#) 114 degrees.
- In July, the Harry Reid International Airport [recorded](#) 110 degrees or higher for ten consecutive days, equal to a 1962 record.
- Extreme heat will [cause](#) tens of millions of outdoor workers in the U.S. to risk losing a collective \$55.4 billion in earnings each year by midcentury, with communities of color especially impacted.
 - Lost time due to excessive heat caused by climate change could mean that nearly one-third of Black/African Americans employed in outdoor work in Nevada would be [at risk](#) of losing significant income due to extreme heat.
- Climate change could [cost](#) Nevada \$786 million by 2030 and up to [\\$4 billion](#) by 2050 if the state fails to hit its carbon emission targets.
- Climate change is also [projected](#) to cause a 32% loss in crop yields in Nevada, including a 32% loss in grain production.

Drought

- The megadrought that has [gripped](#) the southwestern U.S. for the past 22 years is the worst in at least 1,200 years. Human-caused climate change is a major reason for the current drought's severity.

- Although Lake Mead [saw](#) a good wet year, resulting in the water level going up, it does not erase the 20 years of dry conditions.
- A November 2023 study by the Bureau of Reclamation [found](#) Lake Mead may hit the lowest water level in 2025.
- Lake Mead is the drinking water source for more than [95% of the population and businesses in Clark County](#).
- As of November 27, 2023, 20.7% of people in Clark County are [affected](#) by drought.

Wildfires

- There are [346,490 properties](#) – 45% of properties – in Clark County that are at some risk of being affected by wildfire over the next 30 years.
 - In Clark County, [277,704 out of 611,177 homes](#) have a major risk of being affected by wildfires over the next 30 years.
 - In Clark County, [4,213 out of 19,602 commercial properties](#) have a major risk of being affected by wildfires over the next 30 years.
 - In Clark County, [665 out of 1,463 infrastructure facilities](#) have a moderate risk of being affected by wildfires over the next 30 years.

Monsoons

- Nevada's [monsoon season](#), which spans from mid-June through late September, brings thunderstorms that produce lightning, high winds, and heavy rains that can cause deadly flash flooding, as well as dust storms that reduce visibility and cause unhealthy air quality.
 - During Las Vegas's monsoon season, flash flooding commonly [occurs](#), roads are covered with foliage and debris, and streets are rendered slick from rain coupled with automotive discharge.
 - Las Vegas monsoon season [creates](#) conditions where car accidents are more common.
 - Low-income and minority communities are [more likely](#) to live in poor-quality housing and not have the means to evacuate, rebuild, or relocate due to flooding.
 - A 2014 [report](#) from the NAACP found Latinos are less likely to have homeowners insurance, making them “more vulnerable to their entire wealth being drained by a hurricane or other natural disaster.”

Pollution Impacts

Air Pollution

- Clark County [received](#) F grades for the number of high-ozone days and particle pollution in the American Lung Association's 2023 State of the Air Report.
 - Since 2017, Clark County has [seen](#) an increase in the average number of high particle pollution days.
 - From 2019-2021, Clark County had an [average](#) of 5.5 high particle pollution days.
 - From 2018-2020, Clark County had an [average](#) of 4.5 high particle pollution days.
 - From 2017-2019, Clark County had an [average](#) of 4.2 high particle pollution days.
- According to the American Lung Association's 2023 State of the Air Report, the Las Vegas-Henderson metropolitan area [ranked](#) 15th for high ozone days, 31st for 24-hour particle pollution, and 30th for annual particle pollution.
- Data from the Clark County school district 2006-2007 academic year shows that African American students had the [highest rates](#) of asthma by race (13.4%), followed by Hispanic/Latino students (6.6%).
 - Asthma is the single [leading cause](#) of missed school days in the nation and is a [significant factor](#) in absenteeism, resulting in students being held back a grade in Clark County Schools.

PFAS Contamination

- Testing in 2021 [found](#) high levels of PFAS contamination at Creech Air Force Base in Indian Springs due to the use of chemical-laden firefighting foam.
 - As of January 2022, testing, analysis, and remediation efforts were [underway](#) at Nellis and Creech, as well as at Hawthorne Army Depot and Fallon Naval Air Station.

Fossil Fuel Pollution

- The Reid Gardner coal plant near the Moapa River Reservation was fully closed in 2017, leaving decades of toxic air and water pollution to be cleaned up.
 - Demolition of the facility began in 2017 and was [completed](#) in July 2020.

- Potential environmental contaminants [identified](#) at the site include but are not limited to, total dissolved solids (TDS), sulfate, chloride, metals, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and petroleum hydrocarbons.
- A [dangerous mixture](#) of pollutants descends from the plant's towering smokestacks, including soot, sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and nitrogen oxides (NO_x), the precursors of smog.
- When coal is burned, carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and mercury compounds are released into the air, which can be [linked](#) to serious health problems, including premature death.
- Air pollution from the facility obscured the stunning vistas in national parks like Zion and the Grand Canyon with a blanket of haze and [threatened](#) the Moapa Paiute community with respiratory damage, heart attacks, and premature death.
- Reid Gardner [received](#) its non-potable process water supply from a combination of off-site groundwater wells and an off-site surface water withdrawal from the Muddy River, which was collected on-site in raw water storage ponds.
 - Some early ponds used clay material in the liners and berms, which [allowed](#) some water containing elevated concentrations of dissolved salts to migrate through the pond bottoms and into the area's groundwater. This has necessitated remediation (clean-up) activities in cooperation with the State of Nevada.
 - NV Energy has been [cleaning out and closing](#) the ponds.
 - In addition to the groundwater [impacts](#) associated with the on-site ponds and diesel fuel piping, various other potential areas of soil and groundwater contamination have been identified.
- The Moapa Paiute tribe has [300 members](#), roughly half of whom live on the reservation bordering the Reid Gardner Generating Station in rural southern Nevada.
 - For years, tribe members have [complained](#) of skin irritation, lung disease, thyroid problems, aggravated asthma, cardiovascular and heart disease, and frequent nose bleeds.

Clean Energy

Clean Energy Saves Money

- In Las Vegas, 20.95% of all households and 42.5% of low-income households are extremely [energy-burdened](#), meaning their energy burden is more than twice the city median.
- In Las Vegas, 25.71% of Latino households are extremely [energy-burdened](#), meaning their energy burden is more than twice the city median.
- In Las Vegas, 30.99% of Black households are extremely [energy-burdened](#), meaning their energy burden is more than twice the city median.
- 26% of Black households (29,276) and 18% of Hispanic households (33,588) in the Las Vegas metropolitan area [experience](#) a high energy burden.
- Families with higher energy burdens are at [greater risk](#) of developing respiratory diseases and stress-related ailments.
- Under a transition to 100% clean energy in the electric, transportation, building, and industrial sectors by 2035, each American household stands to [save](#) on average between \$1,050 and \$2,585 annually on their energy bills.
- Investment in clean energy and decreased spending on gasoline are [projected](#) to reduce average annual household energy spending by \$72 per year in 2030 and a cumulative \$1.9 billion through 2050 across all households in Nevada.
- With the widespread implementation of zero-emission transportation and electricity resources, Nevada could [experience \\$7.5 billion](#) in cumulative public health benefits by 2050.
 - By 2050, Nevada could also [avoid 78,900 lost work days](#).
- Despite regional variances in gas and electricity costs, an analysis from the Union of Concerned Scientists found that charging a vehicle was more [cost-effective](#) than filling up at the pump across 50 major U.S. cities.
 - In Las Vegas, the median EV driver could save between [\\$1,006 per year](#) compared with the cost of driving the average new gasoline vehicle.

Clark County's Growing Clean Energy Economy

- Since the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, over \$2.5 billion in investments have been [announced](#) in clean energy projects that will create 4,388 jobs in Clark County.

- In May 2023, the Interior Department [advanced the permitting process](#) for the Greenlink West transmission line, which would provide additional capacity for renewable energy capacity in Nevada. The project invests \$2.5 billion and is projected to create more than [4,000 good-paying construction jobs](#) in counties including Clark County.
- Solar manufacturing is also growing in Clark County. In August 2023, Unimacts announced it hired [80 new employees](#) at its Las Vegas manufacturing facility, which produces components to enable solar panel rotation. [Unimacts' CEO said](#) the company would not have expanded without the Inflation Reduction Act's incentives.
- According to E2's Clean Jobs America 2023 [report](#), Clark County is home to 15,771 clean energy jobs, including 5,524 in renewable generation, 575 in energy storage, 8,512 in energy efficiency, and 1,088 in clean vehicles.
- According to E2's Clean Jobs America 2023 [report](#), the Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise metropolitan area is home to 15,771 clean energy jobs, including 5,524 in renewable generation, 575 in energy storage, 8,512 in energy efficiency, and 1,088 in clean vehicles.

Washoe County

Climate Impacts

Extreme Heat

- Reno is the [fastest-warming](#) city in the nation, with the annual average temperature having risen 7.8 degrees Fahrenheit since 1970.
- Heat-related illnesses in Nevada have [skyrocketed](#) during the summer months and continue to increase yearly.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, emergency department visits related to the heat across Nevada in July 2023 [more than doubled](#) compared to the same period last year.
- In Northern Nevada, the Washoe County coroner's office [reported](#) three people died of hyperthermia in 2022.
- Residents in Nevada's cities suffer from the [urban heat island effect](#), meaning urbanized areas experience higher temperatures compared to outlying areas.
- As Nevada's temperature is [projected](#) to increase by 4 to 6 degrees by midcentury due to climate change, those living in urban heat islands will be most impacted.

- A 2019 study [found](#) a moderate correlation between lower-income communities and hotter temperatures in Reno and Henderson - further demonstrating the heat island effect.
- A 2020 study [found](#) that on average heat days, temperatures in Reno's poorest 10% of neighborhoods were 2.4 degrees hotter than in wealthy neighborhoods. On extreme heat days, the difference was 2.3 degrees.
- On average heat days, temperatures in blocks with the top 10 percentile of Latino residents in Reno were 2.8 degrees [hotter](#) than those with the bottom 10 percentile. On extreme heat days, the difference was 2.6 degrees.
- Due to a changing climate, Reno will [experience](#) 18 days above 93 degrees Fahrenheit in 30 years.
- In the summer of 2023, Washoe County broke a dozen heat records.
 - Washoe County [broke](#) its daily high record 12 times during July.
 - Reno [broke](#) its daily high record four times during July: July 15 at 106, July 16 at 108, July 22 at 105, and July 23 at 104.

Wildfires

- There are [161,012 properties](#) – representing 88% of properties – in Washoe County that are at risk of being affected by wildfires over the next 30 years.
 - In Washoe County, [138,067 out of 153,317 homes](#) have a severe risk of being affected by wildfires over the next 30 years.
 - In Washoe County, [3,302 out of 7,545 commercial properties](#) have a severe risk of being affected by wildfires over the next 30 years.
 - In Washoe County, [366 out of 491 infrastructure facilities](#) have a major risk of being affected by wildfires over the next 30 years.
- There are [69,093 properties](#) – representing 80% of properties – in Reno that are at risk of being affected by wildfires over the next 30 years.
 - In Reno, [61,889 out of 73,825 homes](#) have an extreme risk of being affected by wildfires over the next 30 years.
 - In Reno, [1,986 out of 5,106 commercial properties](#) have a severe risk of being affected by wildfires over the next 30 years.
 - In Reno, [110 out of 206 infrastructure facilities](#) have a major risk of being affected by wildfires over the next 30 years.

Monsoons

- In September 2023, over 70,000 Burning Man festival-goers were [stranded](#) in Nevada's Black Rock Desert following heavy rain.
 - The moderate to heavy rain that lasted for several hours [caused](#) conditions that made it impossible for motorized vehicles to traverse.
 - The desert [saw](#) two to three months' worth of rain in a 24-hour period on Friday into Saturday.

Pollution Impacts

Air Pollution

- Washoe County [received](#) F grades for the number of high ozone days and particle pollution in the American Lung Association's 2023 State of the Air Report.
- The Reno-Carson City-Fernley metropolitan area [ranked](#) 19th for high ozone days, 5th for 24-hour particle pollution, and 35th for annual particle pollution.
- Washoe County [faces](#) the highest vulnerability from criteria air pollutants out of all Nevada counties.

Water Pollution

- High levels of mercury were [detected](#) in fish in Washoe Lake, the lower Carson River, and other bodies of water in northern Nevada as a result of mining activity from the 19th century.
- As of October 2023, there was a [health advisory](#) to not eat fish from Big and Little Washoe Lakes, Lahontan Reservoir, and the Carson River from Dayton downstream to the reservoir and all waters in the Lahontan Valley due to the Carson River Mercury Superfund Site.

Clean Energy

Clean Energy Saves Money

- In Nevada, an average low-income family [spends](#) 6-8% of their income on home energy costs, forcing tough choices between paying energy bills and buying food, medicine, or other essentials.
- In Nevada, the places where a large fraction of household income is spent on energy [are also](#) the places where low-income communities and communities of color live.

- Energy burdens in rural communities in the Mountain Region, including Nevada, are [higher](#) than those for the median American household.
- Families with higher energy burdens are at [greater risk](#) of developing respiratory diseases and stress-related ailments.
- Under a transition to 100% clean energy in the electric, transportation, building, and industrial sectors by 2035, each American household stands to [save](#) on average between \$1,050 and \$2,585 annually on their energy bills.
- Investment in clean energy and decreased spending on gasoline are [projected](#) to reduce average annual household energy spending by \$72 per year in 2030 and a cumulative \$1.9 billion through 2050 across all households in Nevada.
- In November 2022, the Biden administration [announced](#) Nevada will receive over \$96 million for consumer home energy rebate programs under the Inflation Reduction Act. These investments will enable communities to make homes more energy efficient, upgrade to electric appliances, and cut energy costs.
- With the widespread implementation of zero-emission transportation and electricity resources, Nevada could [experience \\$7.5 billion](#) in cumulative public health benefits by 2050.
 - By 2050, Nevada could also [avoid 78,900 lost work days](#).

Washoe County's Clean Energy Economy

- Since the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, \$7.1 billion in investments have been [announced](#) in clean energy projects that will create 8,000 jobs in Washoe County.
 - On February 9, 2023, the [Department of Energy announced](#) a \$2 billion loan commitment to Redwood Materials to build and expand a [\\$3.5 billion](#) battery materials campus in McCarran, Washoe County. The project will create 3,400 good-paying union construction jobs and employ approximately 1,600 full-time employees, including labor, technical staff, and on-site management. In addition, Redwood Materials [will rely on](#) a construction workforce comprised of union, minority, and/or woman-owned business enterprises.
 - After the passage of the IRA, [Tesla announced](#) it was resuming an expansion of its Nevada Gigafactory in Sparks, Washoe County, which it had delayed for five years. The [\\$3.6 billion expansion](#), which will enable the production of 105 GWh of battery cell production and over 150 GWh of battery packs annually, is expected to create 3,000 new jobs in the state.

- According to E2's Clean Jobs America 2023 [report](#), the Reno metropolitan area is home to 14,360 clean energy jobs, including 2,670 in renewable generation, 8,659 in energy storage, 2,644 in energy efficiency, and 352 in clean vehicles.
- According to the [Department of Energy's 2023 U.S. Energy & Employment Report](#) (USEER), Nevada ranked first as the state with the highest percentage growth in energy efficiency at 6.7%.
- The Inflation Reduction Act [invests](#) an estimated \$2.7 billion in large-scale clean power generation and storage in Nevada between now and 2030. These investments will create good jobs for Nevadans building a clean energy future.
- Nevada's goal is to [reduce](#) greenhouse gas emissions by 28% by 2025, 45% by 2030, and reach net-zero emissions by 2050.
 - Washoe County and Reno have [aligned](#) with the State of Nevada to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 28% from 2005 levels by 2025.

Rural Nevada

Climate Impacts

Extreme Heat

- Temperatures in Nevada have [risen](#) almost 2.4 degrees Fahrenheit since the beginning of the 20th century.
- Nevada currently [experiences](#) an average of 20 extreme heat days yearly.
- The Fort Mojave Indian Reservation, which lies in Nevada, California, and Arizona, [reaches](#) temperatures upwards of 120 degrees Fahrenheit.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, emergency department visits related to the heat across Nevada this July [more than doubled](#) compared to the same period last year.
- Currently, [almost 70,000](#) Nevadans are aged 65 and older, or under five years old, living below the poverty line – making them especially vulnerable to extreme heat.
 - Older adults are [particularly vulnerable](#) to heat-related illnesses as the ability to regulate internal temperature declines with age. Currently, [16.9% of Nevada's population](#) is over 65.
- Heat-related illnesses in Nevada have [skyrocketed](#) during the summer months and continue to increase yearly.

- Extreme heat will [cause](#) tens of millions of outdoor workers in the U.S. to risk losing a collective \$55.4 billion in earnings each year by midcentury, with communities of color especially impacted.
 - Lost time due to excessive heat caused by climate change could mean that nearly one-third of Black/African Americans employed in outdoor work in Nevada would be [at risk](#) of losing significant income due to extreme heat.
- Climate change could [cost](#) Nevada \$786 million by 2030 and up to [\\$4 billion](#) by 2050 if the state fails to hit its carbon emission targets.
- During economic downturns, residents in rural parts of Nevada [rely](#) on agriculture, but a rise in the severity and frequency of extreme weather events caused by climate change has resulted in added millions of dollars in losses to the state's agricultural sector.
 - Over the last two decades, higher temperatures [attributed](#) to climate change resulted in crop insurance payments for heat-related damage in Nevada totaling nearly \$7 million.
 - The Nevada county with the largest heat-related crop insurance payouts was Humboldt County, which [received](#) nearly \$4 million between 2001 and 2021.
 - Insurance payments in Pershing County were the [second highest](#) in the state at nearly \$3 million between 2001 and 2021.
 - Most of the crops in Pershing County are soybean crops, one of the [most vulnerable to decline](#) from excessive heat and dryness during summer.
- Climate change is also [projected](#) to cause a 32% loss in crop yields in Nevada, including a 32% loss in grain production.

Drought

- The megadrought that has [gripped](#) the southwestern U.S. for the past 22 years is the worst in at least 1,200 years. Human-caused climate change is a major reason for the current drought's severity.
- Although Lake Mead [saw](#) a good wet year in 2023, resulting in the water level going up, it does not erase the 20 years of dry conditions.
- A November 2023 study by the Bureau of Reclamation [found](#) Lake Mead may hit its lowest water level in 2025.

- Power from the Hoover Dam — and other Colorado River dams — is [delivered](#) to about five million people across the Southwest. Many of the customers buying the power are small rural electric nonprofit utilities, tribal nations, and local government agencies.
- For years, Lincoln County farms [received](#) all of their energy from power generated at Hoover Dam, which holds Lake Mead. However, less water in the reservoir has meant a reduction in low-cost hydropower for rural towns, forcing them to purchase power from more expensive energy markets.
- Ashley Hemmers, the tribal administrator for the Fort Mojave Indian Reservation, which lies in Nevada, California, and Arizona, [said](#) extreme heat and drought have impacted the geography, the ways they teach their children about Indigenous ecological knowledge of the desert, and the animals and the plants that rely on the Colorado River.

Wildfires

- Rural communities often [see](#) severe impacts from wildfire smoke, and communities in Northern Nevada also receive delayed information when wildfires strike.
 - The Desert Research Institute (DRI) and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) [created](#) customized, low-cost air sensors for rural areas of Nevada to monitor wildfire smoke.
- [2,248 properties](#), 78% of all properties in Esmeralda County, are at some risk of being affected by wildfire over the next 30 years. Esmeralda County is 100% rural.
 - In Esmeralda County, [650 out of 843 homes](#) have a moderate risk of being affected by wildfires over the next 30 years.
- [4,415 properties](#), 97% of all properties in Eureka County, are at some risk of being affected by wildfire over the next 30 years. Eureka County is 100% rural.
 - In Eureka County, [939 out of 949 homes](#) have a major risk of being affected by wildfires over the next 30 years.
 - In Eureka County, [151 out of 165 commercial properties](#) have a major risk of being affected by wildfires over the next 30 years.
 - In Eureka County, [110 out of 116 infrastructure facilities](#) have a severe risk of being affected by wildfires over the next 30 years.
- [7,546 properties](#), 98% of all properties in Lander County, are at some risk of being affected by wildfire over the next 30 years. Lander County is 100% rural.

- In Lander County, [2,394 out of 2,405 homes](#) have a major risk of being affected by wildfires over the next 30 years.
- In Lander County, [262 out of 263 commercial properties](#) have a major risk of being affected by wildfires over the next 30 years.
- In Lander County, [105 out of 112 infrastructure facilities](#) have a severe risk of being affected by wildfires over the next 30 years.
- [4,261 properties](#), 83% of properties in Lincoln County, are at some risk of being affected by wildfire over the next 30 years. Lincoln County is 100% rural.
 - In Lincoln County, [1,993 out of 2,278 homes](#) have a severe risk of being affected by wildfires over the next 30 years.
 - In Lincoln County, [209 out of 237 commercial properties](#) have a major risk of being affected by wildfires over the next 30 years.
 - In Lincoln County, [56 out of 61 infrastructure facilities](#) have a severe risk of being affected by wildfires over the next 30 years.
- [3,741 properties](#), 94% of properties in Mineral County, are at some risk of being affected by wildfire over the next 30 years. Mineral County is 100% rural.
 - In Mineral County, [2,157 out of 2,195 homes](#) have a minor risk of being affected by wildfires over the next 30 years.
 - In Mineral County, [281 out of 303 commercial properties](#) have a major risk of being affected by wildfires over the next 30 years.
 - In Mineral County, [79 out of 86 infrastructure facilities](#) have a major risk of being affected by wildfires over the next 30 years.
- [11,372 properties](#), 91% of properties in Pershing County, are at some risk of being affected by wildfire over the next 30 years. Pershing County is 100% rural.
 - In Pershing County, [1,570 out of 2,010 homes](#) have an extreme risk of being affected by wildfires over the next 30 years.
 - In Pershing County, [311 out of 362 commercial properties](#) have an extreme risk of being affected by wildfires over the next 30 years.
 - In Pershing County, [59 out of 82 infrastructure facilities](#) have a severe risk of being affected by wildfires over the next 30 years.
- [4,837 properties](#), 99% of properties in Storey County, are at some risk of being affected by wildfire over the next 30 years. Storey County is 89% rural.

- In Storey County, [2,049 out of 2,049 homes](#) have a major risk of being affected by wildfires over the next 30 years.
- In Storey County, [309 out of 332 commercial properties](#) have a major risk of being affected by wildfires over the next 30 years.
- In Storey County, [43 out of 49 infrastructure facilities](#) have a major risk of being affected by wildfires over the next 30 years.

Pollution Impacts

Water Pollution

- Outside of Nevada's cities, private wells are the [primary source](#) of drinking water, serving 182,000 people. Some of the tested private wells in Nevada are contaminated with levels of heavy metals that exceed federal, state, or health-based guidelines.
- The 2022 Healthy Nevada Project [found](#) that nearly one-quarter (22%) of the private wells sampled in Nevada had arsenic that exceeded safe levels determined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) — with levels 80 times higher than the limit in some cases. Elevated levels of uranium, lead, cadmium, and iron were also found.
 - The study [showed](#) that more frequent testing is needed to ensure Nevada's rural communities have safe drinking water.

Clean Energy

Clean Energy Saves Money

- Nevada residents in census tracts with a low average household income tend to [spend](#) a greater portion of their income on their energy bills, and energy burdens are higher in rural areas.
- Energy burdens in rural communities in the Mountain Region, which includes Nevada, are [higher](#) than they are for the median American household.
- Families with higher energy burdens are at [greater risk](#) of developing respiratory diseases and stress-related ailments.
- Under a transition to 100% clean energy in the electric, transportation, building, and industrial sectors by 2035, each American household stands to [save](#), on average, between \$1,050 and \$2,585 annually on their energy bills.

- Investment in clean energy and decreased spending on gasoline are [projected](#) to reduce average annual household energy spending by \$72 per year in 2030 and a cumulative \$1.9 billion through 2050 across all households in Nevada.
- With the widespread implementation of zero-emission transportation and electricity resources, Nevada could [experience \\$7.5 billion](#) in cumulative public health benefits by 2050.
 - By 2050, Nevada could also [avoid 78,900 lost work days](#).

Rural Nevada's Clean Energy Economy

- Since the passage of the Inflation Reduction, \$1.12 billion in investments have been [announced](#) in clean energy projects that will create 1,650 jobs in rural communities in Nevada.
 - Redwood Materials is investing billions in rural Nevada. Redwood Materials invested \$1.1 billion to expand its campus in Storey County, which is 89% rural, where it produces anodes and cathodes, which will create [700 new jobs](#).
 - In December 2022, the Rhyolite Ridge Lithium-Boron project advanced into the final stages of the permitting process and, thanks to the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#), secured a \$700 million loan from the Department of Energy in January 2023. The project will create 600 construction jobs and 250 to 300 permanent operations jobs in Esmeralda County, which is 100% rural.
 - In January 2024, Aqua Metals announced a [\\$17 million expansion](#) at its Storey County battery recycling facility, creating 50 jobs. Storey County is 89% rural.