



News Release

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For Immediate Release

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County Proposes ‘Eco-County Initiative’ Proposal Seeks to Reduce Greenhouse Emissions, Conserve Resources Countywide

An expansive sustainability initiative designed to step up conservation of existing natural resources at the county level and seek participation from surrounding cities will go before the County Commission on Dec. 4.

The “Eco-County Initiative,” made at the request of Commissioner Chris Giunchigliani and Commission Chairman Rory Reid, is the broadest conservation effort proposed by the county to date.

Some of the goals of the initiative are to continue reducing energy purchases at the county by 20 percent by 2015, promote solar demonstration projects and study the impact of county facilities on the environment.

“This initiative is a methodical approach to ensuring that no stone is left unturned at the county when it comes to looking at conservation efforts,” Giunchigliani said. “We also know we can’t do this alone and that’s why we hope that our sister cities and other local governments join us at the table to create policies that matter.”

The proposed initiative calls for the creation of a working group made up of local government representatives to study and recommend a series of measures to improve conservation. The group will be asked to look at the county’s greenhouse gas emissions, the use of recycled paper for janitorial products, using rubberized asphalt for sealing cracks in the road and reducing paper consumption. The group would also review policies that promote infill over sprawl, evaluate the county’s building codes to see if any barriers exist to green building and renewable energy and expand the use of reclaimed water for irrigation of parks, schools and other areas.

“Conservation is one of the most pressing issues of our time,” Reid said. “We need to make whatever strides we can for the sake of future generations.”

The initiative adds to existing conservation efforts undertaken by the county since August 2003, which has resulted in more than \$1.8 million in savings through the reduction of energy and water consumed by the county.

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Clark County Board of Commissioners

Rory Reid, Chairman ■ Chip Maxfield, Vice-Chair ■ Susan Brager ■ Tom Collins ■ Chris Giunchigliani ■ Lawrence Weekly ■ Bruce L. Woodbury / Virginia Valentine, County Manager

The proposed sustainability resolution would:

- Reaffirm the county's commitment to the Clark County Energy Management Policy adopted in August 2003.
- Convene a working group made up of local government representatives to study and recommend to the board steps to achieve the 2050 climate stabilization goal of reducing global warming emissions to 80 percent below current levels.
- Establish a regional task force, led by the county manager, to discuss the issue of conservation and determine the most appropriate policies, goals, guidelines and actions to promote conservation in Southern Nevada.
- Authorize county staff to send a letter to the Nevada congressional delegation and the Bush Administration supporting efforts to adopt federal legislation relating to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening fuel economy standards for cars and light trucks, enacting an energy and environmental block grant program and efforts to pursue federal funding for sustainability studies and projects located in Southern Nevada.
- Authorize the chairman of the County Commission to send a letter in support of the U.S. Cool County Stabilization Declaration.

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