Senator Reid has an established track record of fighting to make Nevada the nation’s clean energy leader through investments in renewables, transmission lines for renewables, and energy efficiency.

Senator Reid Created Clean Energy Jobs in Nevada. Through the Senator’s efforts in passing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) and the Energy Improvement and Extension Act of 2008, nearly 340 permanent clean energy jobs were created throughout Nevada. In addition, there have been almost 400 construction jobs created to support the many renewable energy projects throughout the state. Dozens of renewable energy projects throughout Nevada are currently underway or will likely begin this year leading to over 3,000 new jobs. For example, the City of Reno has estimated that Recovery Act projects will create a total of 205 new jobs by 2012 and the City of Las Vegas will create 50 new jobs when it begins similarly funded projects. [H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-005; Division B of P.L. 110-343]

Senator Reid is a Leader in Developing a Transmission Superhighway for Renewables and Making Our Grid Smarter and More Efficient. Senator Reid introduced the Clean Renewable Energy and Economic Development Act (CREEDA) of 2009 to help the nation develop a transmission super highway for renewables. This bill will facilitate siting and planning for green transmission, allow broader allocation of transmission project costs, and provide additional financing opportunities for building transmission to areas with abundant renewable resources. Many aspects of his bill are included in the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, which passed the House in July, and the American Clean Energy Leadership Act of 2009, which was reported by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in July. [S. 539, Introduced 03/05/09; H.R. 2454, House Vote 477, 06/26/09; S. 1462, Introduced 07/16/09]

Senator Reid Facilitated a Deal to Finance and Build a Critical Transmission Line Connecting Northern and Southern Nevada’s Abundant Renewable Resources to the Grid. Senator Reid worked with competitors NV Energy and LS Power on an agreement to build a transmission line for renewables that will connect northern and southern Nevada’s electricity grids. This project will create 400 construction jobs, bringing about $21 million in taxes to the state and surrounding counties. Financing for the project will come from $3.25 billion that Reid included in the Recovery Act for the Western Area Power Administration to invest in transmission lines for renewables. [Reid Press Release, 01/11/10; NV Energy Press Release, 01/11/10; H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-005]
Senator Reid Has Long Supported Funding for Renewable Energy and Efficiency Across Nevada.

Senator Reid Provided Incentives and Financing Opportunities for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency. Senator Reid has pursued consistent federal incentives to develop clean renewable energy resources. The Recovery Act that Senator Reid championed improved and extended the 30% investment tax credits for commercial and residential solar energy, including eliminating the $2,000 credit cap for homeowners, and extended the geothermal energy production tax credit through 2013. The Recovery Act also funded $4 billion in Clean Renewable Energy Bonds and Energy Conservation Bonds, boosted the tax credit for energy efficient home appliances and improvements, and created a tax credit for purchasing new plug-in vehicles. [H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-005]

Senator Reid is Helping Pioneer Renewable Energy Development on Public Lands in Nevada. In June 2009, Senator Reid joined Interior Secretary Salazar to announce the designation of 24 tracts of public lands in 6 western states as solar energy study areas. These study areas will allow for expedited review, coordinated environmental studies, and send a clear signal of the government’s commitment to developing renewable energy. [Department of Interior News Release, 06/29/09]

Senator Reid Championed Legislation to Establish a Job-Creating Energy Efficient Home Retrofit Program and Reduce Our Dependence on Oil. Senator Reid has introduced the Clean Energy Jobs and Oil Company Accountability Act, which would create roughly 168,000 jobs nationwide through energy and water efficient home retrofits, help transition our heavy vehicle fleet to natural gas and electrify the nation’s transportation sector, and ensure that BP pays for the damages it has caused and future oil spills are prevented.

Senator Reid also led the Senate in passing the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA), which will save Nevadans over $170 million each year. EISA set new fuel economy standards for the first time in 30 years, and established an aggressive renewable fuel standard that is already helping reduce our nation’s dependence on foreign oil and keeping gas prices lower than they would otherwise be. [S. 3663, Introduced 07/28/10 ; H.R. 6, Senate Vote 430, 12/13/07, P.L. 110-140]