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Sustainability booklet

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OurHenderson

Our home. My responsibility.



A Message from the Mayor

The City of Henderson today is a thriving desert community distinguished for its innovative approaches to development and quality of life. The City has taken a progressive approach to environmental issues as it looks to promote a more sustainable future. OurHenderson marks the beginning of a larger commitment to sustainability that will include the adoption of the City's first-ever Sustainability Action Plan, a broad-based policy document outlining goals and strategies for achieving greater sustainability. With the community's involvement, we will make OurHenderson an example for enhancing quality of life through sustainability for all residents.

Mayor Andy Hafen
The City of Henderson

OurHenderson

Our home. My responsibility.

Being “green.” What does it really mean?

In the desert, being “green” really isn’t about green at all. Take a short hike through our beautiful landscape and you will notice Mother Nature’s very careful placement of green—her response to the necessary conservation of our most precious resource—water.

Being “green,” or sustainable, is really about maintaining the quality of our lives within the means of nature. The OurHenderson sustainability program speaks to the inherent responsibility of the City of Henderson, along with our businesses and each of our residents to do our individual and collective best to ensure a sustainable Henderson for tomorrow.





Our water. My responsibility.

In the desert southwest, water is our most precious resource. Southern Nevada averages only four inches of rainfall each year. Managing our water wisely and conserving our usage will help assure adequate supplies throughout the year.

GREEN FACT

Southern Nevada gets nearly 90 percent of its water from the Colorado River. The other 10 percent of our water comes from groundwater that is pumped out through existing wells within Clark County.

HOW THE CITY WILL HELP

The City of Henderson Turf Conversion Program reduces water usage by converting “non-recreational” turf in city-owned parks, along streetscapes, and near municipal facilities to xeriscape. Conversions to date are saving an estimated 64 million gallons of water and \$220,000 annually.

NEXT STEPS

The City will be revising its plant lists for new developments to include a wide variety of drought-tolerant and shade-producing plants. Additional standards for groundcover, tree placement, and irrigation will help promote plant health and prevent evaporation.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Test the efficiency of the fixtures in your home by requesting a free Indoor Water Audit and Retrofit Kit from the Southern Nevada Water Authority.



Our energy. My responsibility.

As energy prices increase, the City recognizes the need to conserve energy and increase our use of renewable energy sources. As a first step, the City is improving energy efficiency of City buildings and City operations and hopes to increase the use of renewable energy sources in the future.

GREEN FACT

If every U.S. household would swap five of its most-used incandescent light bulbs for CFLs, annual energy costs would be cut by \$6.5 billion, saving each family about \$60 per year.

HOW THE CITY WILL HELP

A range of Energy Conservation Measures (ECM) implemented at City facilities save the City an average of \$250,000 annually. These measures include remote power management to reduce computer energy demands in off-peak hours in city facilities, retrofitting the Justice Facility with installation of new boilers, lighting controls, water conservation measures, and an energy management control system for HVAC and traffic signal conversions from incandescent lamps to energy saving LEDs.

NEXT STEPS

The Department of Utility Services has contracted with a consultant to identify opportunities for developing hydroelectric power and solar power at select water treatment facilities.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Hang-dry your clothes – they'll last longer and you will save energy and money. Get a home energy audit to help make the most of your home heating and cooling bills.



Our transportation. My responsibility.

In the past, the City focused on reducing traffic congestion by expanding roadway capacity. While this strategy reduces congestion and improves air quality in the short-term, more road lanes results in more cars on the road, which is not sustainable in the long-term. Looking forward, the City will focus more attention on decreasing the amount of single-occupancy vehicles and encouraging uses such as taking the bus, using clean technology vehicles, biking and walking to keep people moving.

GREEN FACT

Current public transportation usage reduces U.S. gasoline consumption by 1.4 billion gallons each year. This translates into 34 fewer super-tankers leaving the Middle East.

HOW THE CITY WILL HELP

The City has been expanding the percentage of hybrids and alternative fuel vehicles in the non-emergency fleet. Over 90% of the vehicles purchased since 2001 use alternative fuels, which leaves only about 13% of the current non-emergency fleet as standard fuel vehicles.

NEXT STEPS

To promote critical private investment in development along the Boulder Highway corridor, the City's Boulder Highway Investment Strategy is intended to encourage higher-density, mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly development that coincides with public transit priorities.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Do your part to help to improve air quality and traffic congestion by signing up for Club Ride Commuter Services and choosing an alternative method for commuting to work.



Our recycling. **My** responsibility.

Recycling and waste reduction represents a major opportunity for Henderson. At this point in time, our community recycles less than 2% of our residential waste, well below the EPA established goal of 35%. The more we reduce, reuse and recycle, the more resources we conserve and prevent from entering our landfills.



GREEN FACT

Data released by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency indicates that between 500 billion and a trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide each year.

HOW THE CITY WILL HELP

The City recycles in all of its facilities and initiated a pilot program at two City-owned parks (Mission Hills and Arroyo Grande) with recycle bins placed to collect plastic, aluminum, and paper materials. Additional parks will be added as funds become available.

NEXT STEPS

The City will partner with Republic Services to evaluate recycling in the city and improve the convenience and availability of recycling service provided to residents.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Take advantage of curbside recycling in your neighborhood and collection bins at recycling-friendly businesses. The more paper, plastic and metals we separate from the trash, the less we have to throw away each week.



Our urban nature. **My** responsibility.

Promoting urban nature includes providing for its “green infrastructure” of parks, trails, greenways, natural washes, and open spaces. Our urban nature contributes greatly to our quality of life in southern Nevada and enhances our sense of place in the Mojave Desert. Here in Henderson, we are proud of our urban nature and are consistently recognized for the quality of our parks and trails.

GREEN FACT

Studies have proven that trees have a positive effect on many aspects of people's lives including their health, homes, businesses, drinking water and air quality. According to one study in Davis, CA, shade trees reduced asphalt temperatures by as much as 36 degrees F.

HOW THE CITY WILL HELP

The City currently has established a standard for providing park space within one mile of every resident. This has resulted in more than 45 parks for residents to enjoy. The City also boasts many other forms of accessible recreational open space, including improved trails and natural areas.

NEXT STEPS

The City has initiated a Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan that will support sustainable programs, services, and facilities in our parks. The City also supports the completion of a Regional Open Space and Trails network to connect Las Vegas valley communities with our public lands.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Visit the City of Henderson Acacia Demonstration Garden to learn about the use of native drought-tolerant plant materials, drip irrigation, and other sustainable landscape practices.



Our urban design. My responsibility.

Urban design contributes to the look, feel and function of our community. Some of the visible results of our urban design efforts are the parks and trails near our homes, and our desirable, safe neighborhoods. As our City looks to the future, we strive to create communities with amenities that will provide lasting quality of life for our residents.



GREEN FACT

A zero energy building (ZEB) has a net energy consumption of zero over a typical year by producing more energy than it needs through solar power or other means. Buildings use 40% of the total energy in the U.S.

HOW THE CITY WILL HELP

The City adopted a Bicycle and Pedestrian Trails Master Plan in 2003 and its Open Space and Trails Plan in 2005. Both plans promote alternative modes of transportation and pedestrian-friendly development integrated with natural open space.

NEXT STEPS

The City is currently updating its Development Code, and proposed revisions include measures to encourage energy efficiency, water conservation, quality design, pedestrian access and connectivity in all new development.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Remodeling your home?

Look for materials that contain recycled content and are less toxic.

Use water-based, low-volatile organic compound (VOC) paints instead of oil-based paint.



Our environmental health. **My responsibility.**

Environmental health is concerned with increasing the health and well-being of humans by reducing man-made toxics in our environment, including air pollution. The City has implemented best practices in the maintenance of public parks and other facilities to reduce products and chemicals that are harmful to human health.

GREEN FACT

The average American home contains nearly 200 different chemical cleaning products. Most cleaning tasks can be accomplished with vinegar, baking soda, and essential oils without creating toxic fumes or draining poisons into the water supply.

HOW THE CITY WILL HELP

City facilities are now cleaned with “green cleaning supplies” to improve the safety of maintenance workers and indoor air quality for users. “Green cleaning supplies” must follow criteria for factors such as toxic compounds, carcinogens, skin and eye irritants, and combustibility.

NEXT STEPS

The City will work with Clark County to promote a lawnmower exchange program in order to reduce the amount of ground-level ozone and particulate matter in our valley.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Reduce toxic cleaning products by using lemon juice to lighten or brighten whites and remove stains in the laundry or the kitchen.

City of Henderson Guiding Principles of Sustainability

Enhancing our Environment through a Commitment to Responsible Stewardship

The City is committed to implementing policies and programs that protect the quality of our air and water, promote the use of renewable energy, reduce our overall consumption of resources, and encourage recycling and waste reduction.

Leadership by Example

The City is committed to implementing sustainable policies and practices in municipal operations without compromising the high level of service our citizens have come to expect.

Awareness and Participation throughout the Community

The City will foster an ethic of conservation and stewardship throughout the community by working in partnership with individuals, schools, businesses, community-based groups, and others to actively create, sponsor, and promote sustainability awareness and education programs.

Environmental Quality and the Health of our Economy are Interdependent

The City is committed to expanding and diversifying our economy by attracting, retaining, and supporting environmentally-friendly businesses to the City.

Local Actions have Regional, National and Global Implications

The City is committed to exploring and implementing model environmental programs that will make a significant contribution to local, regional, national and international sustainability efforts.



Acknowledgements

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