

## “Protecting the Environment”

Washoe County's commitment to protect the environment is reflected in almost everything we do. Our strategic priorities reflect a commitment to responsible practices, products and policies that result in environmental, as well as financial, savings.

### Washoe County Strategic Priorities

- ☞ Improve Public Safety, Security and Health
- ☞ Preserve and Enhance Our Quality of Life
- ☞ Improve Regional Collaboration
- ☞ Support a Healthy Economy
- ☞ Promote Financial Accountability
- ☞ Provide Excellent Public Services
- ☞ Develop Our Workforce

Based on strategic priorities, the County has created a Quality of Life Task Force to report on our efforts to preserve and enhance our quality of life. However, our initiatives are not envisioned, recorded and shelved only to be revisited in another year! Building a sustainable community requires involvement by multiple stakeholders.

The Washoe County Green Team is a working group composed of staff from over six county departments and staff from the regional Washoe County District Health Department. The group also works with Green Teams from other local jurisdictions. The Washoe County Green Team's mission is to encourage, inspire, and support Washoe County's efforts to build a sustainable community for the benefit of current residents and future generations.

We have much to be proud of in Washoe County. Examples, highlights, and opportunities for the public to participate are presented here so that residents may better understand how local government responds to our community's needs and contributes to the overall quality of life.

For more information, please contact the Washoe County Community Relations Office at 328-2721.

## What is a Sustainable Community?

**A sustainable community is commonly described as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.**

(Brundtland Commission: United Nations commission formed in 1983 to address the economic and social development consequences of the deterioration of the human environment and natural resources.)



Printed on Recycled Paper (of course!)  
August 2008: 500 pieces

## A Sustainable Community includes You!

### Are you interested in helping with waste reduction and recycling programs in our community?

Building a sustainable community requires support from all stakeholders including citizens and local non-profits. To volunteer for a variety of projects from Christmas Tree Recycling, litter index data collection, to supporting the annual Great Truckee Meadows Clean-Up, please contact Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful at [www.ktmb.org](http://www.ktmb.org) or (775) 851-5185.



For information on other local volunteer opportunities, a reference guide for environmental agencies and non-profits, or to participate in local environmental events please contact Nevada-EcoNet online at [www.nevadaeconet.org](http://www.nevadaeconet.org) or call (775) 323-3433.

## Our Community is Losing Tons:

- ☞ 8.44 tons of phone books recycled as part of this year's AT&T sponsored phone book recycling program.
- ☞ 16 tons of pollution eliminated through one year of the Air Quality Management Division's Woodstove Changeout Incentives
- ☞ 116 tons of dumped trash removed from outdoor recreation areas by Great Truckee Meadows Community Cleanup volunteers in 2008.



County Employees provide information at our conservation fair.

## Residential Recycling Resource Guide

NEVADA RECYCLING HOTLINE: 1.800.597.5865

### ALUMINUM CANS

Solid Waste Reduction 331-2267  
Western Metals 358-8880  
[wmrecycling.com](http://wmrecycling.com)

### ANTIFREEZE

Reno Drain Oil Service 342-0351  
[rdoenvironmental.com](http://rdoenvironmental.com)  
Clean Harbors Env. 331-9400  
[cleanharbors.com](http://cleanharbors.com)

### APPLIANCES

Solid Waste Reduction 331-2267  
Western Metals 358-8880  
Waste Management 329-8822  
[wm.com](http://wm.com)

### BATTERIES-CAR

Howard's Chevron Inc. 786-2159  
Amer. Auto Wreckers 322-9999  
Clean Harbors Env. 331-9400

### BATTERIES—HOUSEHOLD

Batteries Plus 825-0566

### CELLPHONES

Cartridge Recovery 1-866-410-9600  
Area Best Buy Locations

### COMPUTERS

Disability Resources 329-1126  
Clean Harbors Env. 331-9400

### OIL

Reno Drain Oil 342-0351  
Clean Harbors Env. 331-9400

### OIL BASED PAINT

Clean Harbors Env. 331-9400

## Your Trash and Recycling Programs

### Did you know that each jurisdiction manages their waste and recycling contracts?

The Cities of Reno and Sparks, Washoe County, Incline Village General Improvement District, and Sun Valley General Improvement District manage franchise agreements for waste disposal. The Washoe County Health District and local non-profits promote recycling and waste reduction, and public outreach campaigns. District Health actively tracks and reports all recycling activities. For more information call (775) 328-6140.



# Washoe County's Environmental Action Update



A guide to Washoe County's projects and policies that support a sustainable Northern Nevada community.



[www.washoecounty.us](http://www.washoecounty.us)



## Responsible government includes...

### ...Conservation

Named three times as the 'Best Local Government in the U.S.' for waste reduction, Washoe County conserves our valuable financial, material and natural resources:

- ☞ \$5,000 was saved by recycling 5,500 Christmas Trees at County parks, saving 100 tons of landfill, and making free mulch.
- ☞ We recycle paper, plastics, glass and printer cartridges. Even carpet is not wasted at Washoe County! We recycle and replace carpet square by square.
- ☞ We save 2,000 acre feet of drinking water annually by using treated effluent for non-residential water landscape irrigation.
- ☞ We encourage conservation habits through water meters, tiered water rates, assigned watering days and public education.
- ☞ County employees use 19 Hybrid Gasoline/Electric Vehicles saving gas and protecting our air quality.

#### Steal our Energy Savings Tips!

In 2001 Washoe County adopted an Energy Strategy that saved over \$500,000 in the first two years. The savings continue to this day. Below are examples of our retrofits and conservation habits. Steal them and enjoy the savings at your home!

We use an automatic digital system to monitor office occupancy, outside temperatures and peak energy use that automatically adjusts accordingly.

**Steal it:** Update your manual thermostat to a programmable version. With proper use, the new thermostat could save you \$180 a year!

Over 498,000 square feet of fluorescent lights have been replaced with higher efficiency bulbs, realizing a 27% decrease in power consumption.

**Steal it:** Did you know that installing one compact fluorescent lightbulb instead of an incandescent can save you up to \$30 in energy and replacement costs? Every year, join the challenge and pledge to switch out one bulb at your house {[www.energystar.gov/changealight](http://www.energystar.gov/changealight)}.

We replaced small office size refrigerators with centrally located energy star refrigerators.

**Steal it:** Junk your garage refrigerator and/or replace your older model with an energy efficient version. In most households, the refrigerator is the single most energy consuming appliance.

### ...Conscious Consumption

Did you know recycling aluminum saves 95% of the energy used to make the material from scratch? Like you, Washoe County considers the environmental effects of purchases:

- ☞ All paper purchased (over 8,000 cases a year) contain a minimum of 30% post consumer waste products.
- ☞ All 2,580 gallons of motor oil purchased is 100% post consumer product.
- ☞ An average of 15 tons of steel culvert pipe purchased by the County each year is 100 percent recycled.
- ☞ All 850 cases of plastic can liners purchased each year are a minimum 30% post consumer waste.
- ☞ All computers purchased by the County have a Silver Rating by the Green Electronic Council.
- ☞ 500 computers and printers deemed unusable for County use have been donated to local schools and non-profit agencies.
- ☞ All bathroom paper supplies are between 10%-30% post consumer product.
- ☞ Janitorial staff use reusable microfiber clean cloths. This reduces paper towel waste and the need for additional cleaning products.
- ☞ Environmentally friendly products are used for daily cleaning of kennels at the Regional Animal Services Center.



### ...Protecting Natural Resources & Open Spaces

Protecting our natural resources and open spaces is an essential component to a sustainable community and is consistently identified as a top priority by citizens. Washoe County arranges and participates in many community preservation and planning activities mostly through the Regional Parks and Open Space Department. Tell your friends that we:

- ☞ Restore wetlands. Various restoration projects are underway that increase water quality, help reduce flooding and erosion, and protect wildlife habitat.
- ☞ Deter trash dumping in open spaces. Free dump vouchers to residents help curb illegal dumping on public lands. The Great Truckee Meadows Community Clean-up uses volunteers to remove debris already dumped in open space areas.
- ☞ Plan for protection of future open spaces. The region's Open Space and Natural Resource Plan has been recently updated by County staff through a regional stakeholder participation process.
- ☞ Protect approximately 8,000 acres of existing parks, trails, and open space.

### ...Preserving Clean Air/Clean Water

Our Health District protects our blue skies through the Air Quality Management Division (AQMD). The division concentrates their activities on public education, monitoring, enforcement and reporting programs. The goal is to reduce our contribution of particulate matter-- the gray dust seen in the valley. Common sources of air pollution include construction, vehicles and wood burning activities. Community pollution prevention activities include:



- ☞ Idle Reduction Program reduces engine emissions.
- ☞ Supporting Alternative Fuels-- 69% of all County owned vehicles use alternative fuels. 90% of all non-emergency vehicles purchased since 2000 run on alternative fuels.
- ☞ Nevada Bike to Work Day draws attention to the health and air quality benefits of bicycle commuting.

How do we know the programs are working? Through ongoing efforts by the public and AQMD, local air quality has improved so much that our federal designation of non-attainment has been changed for carbon monoxide!

### ...Global Project SMARTs

Our engineering and planning staff are dedicated to creating healthy communities by considering the long term effects of proposed projects.

Our goal is to build and maintain projects that consider economics, energy efficiency, product life-cycles, and community



connectivity. To do this, staff members are in the process of becoming LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Accredited Professionals so that future projects will meet LEED standards and existing buildings retrofitted to LEED principles.

The future Sparks Justice Court and Galena Creek Visitors Center are examples of upcoming projects using LEED design standards. The new Spanish Springs, Northwest, South Valleys, and Incline Village Libraries incorporate energy efficient features such as environmentally friendly materials and natural light.

The County's Comprehensive Plan and guiding documents direct growth and development projects in our community. To ensure that our community's vision of a sustainable community develops, SMART growth guidelines are being reviewed and incorporated into our Comprehensive Plan and Development Codes. For example:

- ☞ The Land Use and Transportation Element (LUTE) of the County's Comprehensive Plan influences future development to abide by sustainable growth practices.
- ☞ Goals and policies that heavily promote the use of renewable energy systems and Low Impact Development (LID) standards into our area plans, one component of the Comprehensive Plan.
- ☞ A draft ordinance that will provide incentives for projects that meet sustainable development practices is being developed. The ordinance will include incentives for affordable housing development and dedication of land for public purposes as well.

We are also reviewing and updating local codes to promote and encourage the use of alternative energy.