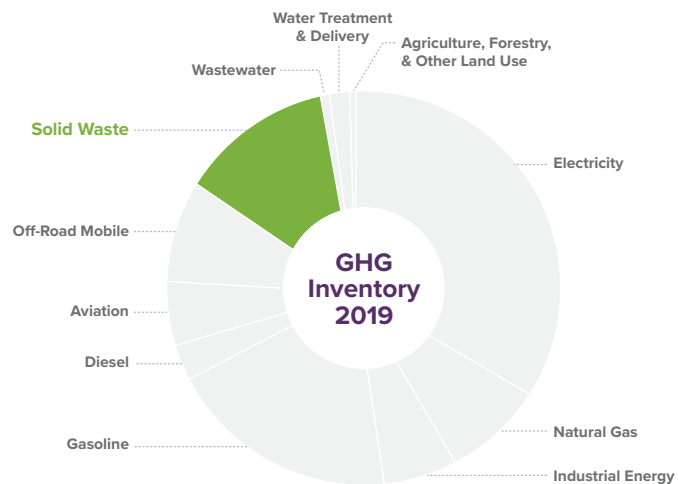


Diverse & Circular Economy

In our current, linear economy, we use energy to take resources from the Earth, make products from them, and then they eventually become waste. Designing products to be single-use and over consuming these resources is creating a waste issue that recycling alone cannot solve. Increasing resource efficiency and promoting circular business models offer an opportunity to reverse those trends while diversifying our economy.



Illustration 107451878 © Peter Varga | Dreamstime.com



Downstream emissions from solid waste disposal account for

12.5%

of all County-wide GHGs.²⁵

Connections to Climate Change

Although we may not see our trash again after we throw it away, the impacts of our waste are long-lasting. When waste, particularly **organic waste**, decomposes in a landfill, it produces methane, a greenhouse gas that is more potent and stays in the atmosphere longer than carbon dioxide. Thinking differently about our resources—expanding composting for food waste and incentivizing green jobs, for example—can lower emissions and benefit our economy in multiple ways.

BY THE NUMBERS



19.7%

Recycling and compost diversion rate in 2019, up from 8% in 2009²⁸



2,677,304 tons

of waste generated in Clark County sent to landfill in 2019, enough to fill Allegiant Stadium more than 33x²⁹



15,826

Clean energy jobs in Clark County as of 2019³⁰

Includes solar, wind, clean vehicles, battery storage, advanced biofuels, low-impact hydro, and other clean energy job areas.

THE ALL-IN VISION

Creating a robust and diversified economy that reimagines waste and resource use while investing in our human capital.

Leading by Example

Clark County's Technical Assistance Program

Clark County's Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED) is developing an economic assistance program (a financial award paired with technical assistance) to support long-term business recovery, resiliency, and capacity-building. This program will provide up to 12 months of business assistance services with capital funding to disadvantaged small businesses and nonprofit organizations in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Republic Services Recycling Operations

The Vegas Recycling Center, operated by Republic Services, can process more than 2 million pounds of material every day; it is the largest recycling facility in North America.²⁶ Republic Services is also opening a Polymer Center in 2023, which will be the first single-source facility for plastics recycling in the nation. The more we recycle, and recycle correctly, the less energy and raw materials are needed to produce the goods we use. In 2019, Clark County residents kept over 355,000 tons of solid waste out of the landfill, avoiding an estimated 878,000 MTCO₂e.²⁷





Diverse & Circular Economy

The *All-In Community Plan* establishes goals, strategies, and actions for each focus area. These are highlighted in the summary matrix, along with indications of alignment with other regional and state plans.

Goal 1: Southern Nevada maximizes utilization of waste resources.		Alignment
1.1 Minimize waste generation throughout Clark County.		
1.1.A	Identify opportunities and create local legislation to replace single use plastics and polystyrene.	
1.1.B	Support the growth of zero-waste and refill shops and incentivize businesses to offer consumer goods without individual packaging.	
1.1.C	Develop Zero-Waste Toolkits for Residents and Small Businesses.	
1.2 Divert all possible reusable, recyclable, and organic materials from the landfill.		
1.2.A	Identify resources and implement tactics that remove organic waste from the landfill.	
1.2.B	Expand food diversion programs in coordination with the resort corridor, convention center, and other food industry sources.	
1.2.C	Create a Sustainable Materials Management task force to assess opportunities to reduce waste from construction, major renovations, and demolition projects.	
Goal 2: The region's economy is diverse and in alignment with innovation and sustainability.		
2.1 Foster innovation and sustainability in existing businesses.		
2.1.A	Build partnerships with existing Green Business Programs that provide education, training, financial and technical assistance.	
2.2 Promote the region as a hub of innovation and sustainability to encourage economic growth.		
2.2.A	Establish incentives to build a sustainable technology industry, such as solar manufacturing, solar process heat, and battery recycling.	
2.2.B	Create a Sustainable Innovation Incubator focused on recruiting and growing businesses that drive innovative climate solutions.	
2.2.C	Design and promote a travel offset program for tourists and conventions to fund local sustainability programs.	
Goal 3: Workforce development opportunities are abundant and accessible to all.		
3.1 Develop and ensure access to training and education on skills needed for the innovation economy, particularly among the region's underserved communities.		
3.1.A	Partner with trade unions to provide worker incentives and host trainings on skills needed for an innovation economy.	



Aligns with [Nevada State Climate Strategy](#).

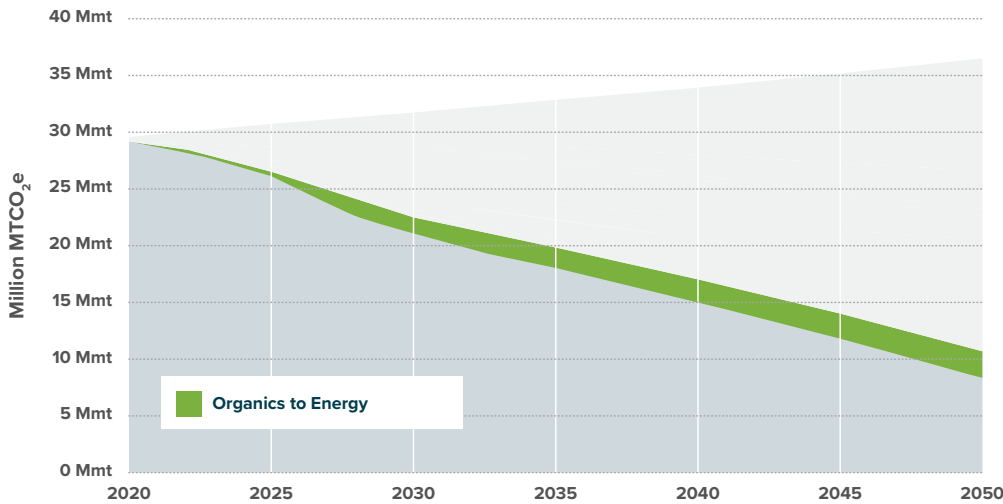
"I use reusable shopping bags and reusable water containers whenever possible. When my family and I go hiking, we do our part to protect the environment by cleaning up after ourselves and not leaving trash and other debris behind."

CLARK COUNTY RESIDENT YOLANDA FLORES
DESCRIBING HOW SHE'S GOING "ALL-IN"



Pathway to Action

The decay of organic matter, like food scraps or yard waste, in a landfill generates methane gas, some of which leaks from even the most sophisticated gas collection systems. The best way to eliminate leaks completely is to avoid sending organic matter to the landfill and instead capture all the methane generated in a controlled environment, like an anaerobic digester, where we can also maximize the clean-energy potential of this resource. This double-acting strategy creates a big win for the climate by focusing on the largest source of methane in the County (12.5% of overall GHG emissions) while creating a fossil free fuel source that can be used in a range of applications. Implementing a system to divert organic waste away from landfills will enable Clark County to avoid up to 1.3 million MTCO₂e per year by mid-century.³⁴



IMPACT OF ORGANICS TO ENERGY

The Pathways Analysis illustrates the potential for reducing emissions through high-impact strategies—in this case, implementing an organic waste to energy system. See [Pathways to Reducing Emissions](#) for more information.

TRACKING PROGRESS

National average household diversion rate is 32.1%³⁵

Monitoring these fundamental numbers will help demonstrate progress towards the goals.

METRIC	BASELINE	YEAR	2030 TARGET	2040 TARGET
Household Diversion Rate County-wide	19.7% ³¹	2019	40%	70%
Tons of Organic Waste Diverted from Landfill County-wide	166,560 tons ³²	2019	720,000 tons	1,600,000 tons
Energy Efficiency Jobs in Clark County	8,400 jobs ³³	2019	10,000 jobs	12,000 jobs

Targets are derived from Nevada Recycling and Waste Reduction Report (2019) and the [Nevada State Climate Strategy](#).

Improved Tracking

Some actions in this plan cannot be monitored by metrics currently being tracked. Developing and monitoring additional metrics will improve knowledge of how actions are progressing.



Number of individuals trained in green industries, for example via incubator or skilled trades partnership.



Tons of waste generated by sector.



Full characterization of the mix and resource potential of materials generated by each sector.