



## POLICYMAKERS

# How can **policymakers and elected officials** use the Clark County Climate Vulnerability Assessment?

The Clark County Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) key findings can be used by policymakers and elected officials to inform policy decisions, budget allocations, and infrastructure investments.

### **Climate Vulnerability Assessment:**

*A planning tool that identifies systems, people, and services that are vulnerable to climate hazards, as well as opportunities to enhance their near- and long-term resilience.*

## How Will Climate Change Impact the Region?

The CVA emphasizes the urgency of climate resilience in Clark County and highlights the following impacts:



### **EXTREME HEAT**

The 2.3 million people living in Clark County and over 45.6 million annual visitors will be highly vulnerable to extreme heat as some regional projections indicate that the **number of days over 115°F could increase by 10 times by the end of the century.**<sup>1</sup>



### **DROUGHT**

**Drought is expected to continue to impact the region's water supply**, which has pervasive impacts throughout the county and exacerbates other climate hazards including wildfires.



### **WILDFIRE**

**Local wildfires will become larger, more frequent, and more intense**, especially near Mt. Charleston, and growing regional wildfires will **significantly impact air quality for Clark county residents and visitors.**



### **FLOODING**

**Precipitation is expected to fall in less frequent, but heavier, bursts**, which may result in flash flood events that increase safety concerns for residents and pose a risk to critical infrastructure and habitats.

<sup>1</sup> Clark County. (2021). Climate Summary for Clark County, Nevada. Prepared for Clark County by Kim Lundgren Associates, Inc. and Adaptation International.



## Where Are We Most at Risk?

Climate hazards will impact nearly all people, services, and infrastructure in Southern Nevada. The CVA identifies the most significant climate impacts facing the region’s people, services, and infrastructure.

RISKS		HEAT	DROUGHT	WILDFIRE	FLOODING
Diminishing Water Resources	Reduction in water supply	☀️	💧		
	Impaired water quality and need for additional treatment	☀️	💧	🔥	💧
Disruptions to Power and Communications	Disruption to operations of critical facilities and services	☀️		🔥	💧
	Spikes in energy costs for residents and businesses	☀️		🔥	
Impacts to Human Health	Impacts to people experiencing homelessness	☀️		🔥	💧
	Impacts to outdoor workers	☀️		🔥	💧
	Impacts to people with health conditions	☀️		🔥	
	Impacts to people without vehicle access	☀️		🔥	💧
Challenges for Rural Communities	Limited access to emergency response	☀️		🔥	💧
	Increased exposure to climate hazards			🔥	💧
Challenges for Indigenous Populations	Institutional social and economic barriers that limit adaptability to climate change	☀️	💧	🔥	💧
	Loss of culturally and traditionally significant sites	☀️	💧	🔥	💧

## What Are Our Priorities for Action?

The CVA identifies opportunities to increase resilience in Southern Nevada:

- Integrate climate-related risks into **regional water and wastewater planning**.
- Improve **collaboration between energy utilities and critical agencies** reliant on power.
- Encourage **installation of energy storage, vehicle to grid technology, and microgrids** and prioritize demand-side energy management.
- **Protect and expand natural habitats.**
- Invest in **resilience hubs** and **coordinate dissemination of information** to reduce exposure to multiple climate and health hazards, such as extreme heat days or bad air quality days.
- Encourage standards to **protect outdoor workers** and provide worksite emergency preparedness training.

### Example Action: Resilience Hubs

Resilience hubs are community-serving facilities that support residents, coordinate communication, and distribute resources during extreme weather events and climate emergencies. Often located in existing community facilities, resilience hubs leverage inter-agency, multi-organizational relationships, and resources to support residents most vulnerable to climate change.

