



# THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS

Award for Community Sustainability | 2016 Program Excellence Award

Despite its reputation for excess, Las Vegas faces the same issues as all cities: water shortages, energy costs, environmental concerns, and reducing the amount of waste that winds up in landfills. The city of Las Vegas' \$70 million sustainable energy program has made great impacts in each one of these areas that save the City more than \$5.5 million annually in electric and natural gas costs and reduces energy consumption more than 30 million kWh.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY

Las Vegas made an initial **\$40 million** investment in solar energy.

Using creative financing, grants, rebates, and subsidized bond programs, the city spent no general fund money. The city's current installed solar capacity is more than six megawatts. Since FY2010, Las Vegas has generated more than 34 million kilowatt hours (**savings: \$2.9 million annual energy costs**).



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Since FY2011, Las Vegas has upgraded more than 80 percent of its streetlights

and is upgrading the remaining 20 percent (cost: \$19.3 million dollars, all from grants and bonds; **savings: more than \$1.6 million annually**). The city completed energy efficient retrofits and upgrades on 10 city building with some of the highest energy consumption (cost: \$2.6 million, which came from bonds and a Green Building Special Revenue Fund; **savings: \$276,000 annually**). Using green building practices for public building construction and renovation, six new LEED-certified buildings have earned Las Vegas City LEED Gold Certification status.



## WATER CONSERVATION

Businesses and residents have **reduced water consumption by 40 billion gallons** thanks to innovative conservation programs. Since 2008, city facilities have decreased water consumption by 200 million gallons annually.



## RECYCLING

Las Vegas has recycling programs at all facilities, parks, community centers, offices and fire stations. Las Vegas **recycles more than 55 percent of all materials discarded at city facilities** (**savings: more than \$325,000 annually**). Single stream recycling has also increased community recycling to meet the EPA target of 35 percent or higher.



## THE FUTURE

In November 2015, the city of Las Vegas announced a renewable energy agreement with the state's investor-owned utility, NVEnergy, which will allow

**100 percent of its retail load to be served by renewable energy**

beginning in 2017.

