

## AN ADVANCED ENERGY ECONOMY IN NEVADA

Energy keeps the Nevada economy running, and clean is its future. By embracing technologies – classic and new, big and small – and harnessing market trends, Nevadans can have access to affordable, reliable, resilient energy, good jobs, and best-in-class technology options from which to choose. Already employing more than 30,000 Nevadans today, the advanced energy industry could double over the next decade with the right policies in place. At the same time, energy and infrastructure decisions that we make today will impact energy costs for decades to come. The state needs to have sound long-term planning processes in place for all energy resources, guided by an ambitious but realistic vision of a clean energy future.

### EMBRACE TECHNOLOGIES THAT LOWER COSTS AND IMPROVE RESILIENCE

- **Expand access to electric vehicles (EVs) and charging.** More families, businesses, and the Nevada government should be able to reap the thousands of dollars in fuel and maintenance savings by driving electric. At just \$1.02 for an “e-gallon,” EVs can protect drivers from the volatile global gasoline and diesel market, while also putting downward pressure on electricity rates. This means that all Nevadans – not just those that drive a plug-in car – can benefit. Expanding access means ensuring that automakers and dealers have EVs on their lots to test drive, lease, buy, and service, and making charging infrastructure universal. Everyone, including those who live in apartments and condominiums, should be able to find a convenient charging station close to home and work. Nevada has made impressive investments in charging infrastructure along highways, at tourist destinations, and urban depots, but more can be done. Even with limited funds, Nevada can deploy policies that expand the market, make best use of federal funds, and invite private capital to accelerate the transition.
- **Give consumers tools to reduce their energy bills.** Energy efficiency upgrades, including weatherization and installation of efficient electric appliances (e.g., heat pumps), can save residents and business owners money while making them more comfortable. Energy efficient products can have a higher upfront cost, but rebates and other programs can help low- and moderate-income individuals make the upgrade and decrease their energy burden. Workforce development programs that train contractors to install efficiency measures will grow the pool of eligible workers and lower installation costs for all.
- **Encourage the growth of distributed energy resources (DERs) that can serve as grid resources and provide backup when grid power goes out.** Residential and small commercial solar and storage, as well as programs and electricity rates that align customer usage with clean energy production, can provide long-term economic relief to customers.

These same resources can also serve as a critical energy resource that allow utilities to avoid expensive system upgrades and manage demand during the hottest hours each year. Importantly, DERs are a tool for energy resilience, helping NV Energy prevent blackouts and brownouts. If and when the lights do go out, systems set up to separate from the larger grid during emergencies (“microgrids”) can keep the power flowing to critical customers like hospitals and community centers.

- **Leverage Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding to complement state efforts.** The federal infrastructure act contains hundreds of millions of dollars for states to spend on critical energy infrastructure. Nevada should focus available IIJA dollars on weatherization, energy efficiency, and efficient electric appliances; EV charging infrastructure to support the state’s new goal to electrify medium- and heavy-duty fleets; transmission planning and technical assistance so that more renewable energy projects can be developed; and battery manufacturing and recycling to grow this burgeoning Nevada industry.

## USE SOUND LONG-TERM PLANNING TO KEEP COSTS LOW

- The energy system is undergoing a significant transition, driven by the rapidly falling costs of advanced energy technologies and by consumer preferences for cleaner, safer options. Electric utilities undergo long-term planning every three years, but gas utilities are not required to do the same. A framework for long-term gas planning could increase transparency into present and future costs and prevent non-critical spending on a system that is likely to see fundamental changes in the coming years. This will put Nevada on a deliberate path toward a safe, reliable, low-cost energy future.

## SUPPORT A MARKET-DRIVEN, REGIONAL APPROACH TO ENERGY

- As Nevada transitions to a modern, high-performing grid with a diverse energy mix, resource-sharing with other states offers a way to deepen energy cost savings and enhance reliability while making sure the electrical grid serves customers efficiently. A western Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) will improve the grid’s integration of Nevada’s renewable resources, save ratepayer dollars, and help to keep the lights on during extreme weather events. An expanded regional grid also offers economic opportunities for the state by creating good infrastructure jobs building solar, geothermal, and transmission. In addition, participation in an RTO will drive economic growth in Nevada by reducing electricity costs and attracting new businesses, like data centers, that prefer to site in states that participate in a regional power market where they have access to affordable, clean energy to power their operations.

