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WHAT IS CLEAN ENERGY?

Clean energy is power that doesn't create pollution as a side-effect. Dirty energy on the other hand is created by burning fuels that create pollution, which is bad for our health and environment. Clean energy can also be called "renewable energy" and we also include energy efficiency as a related program because it reduces the use of dirty polluting energy.

Renewable Energy is power generated from natural resources – such as sunlight, wind, and geothermal heat – which are naturally replenished. Dirty energy comes from limited resources which are gone once burned. Renewable energy technologies include solar power, wind power, and hydroelectricity.

Energy Efficiency is using less energy to do the same things. For example, insulating a home allows a building to use less heating and cooling energy to achieve and maintain a comfortable temperature. Also, using compact fluorescent (CFL's) and LED light bulbs requires less energy than an incandescent bulb to produce the same amount of light.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF CLEAN ENERGY?

Generating electricity from renewable sources and conserving energy through efficiency has many benefits:

1. **Creates jobs** – The clean energy economy in the United States is putting more and more Americans to work. Solar and wind energy are among the fastest-growing industries in the nation, employing hundreds of thousands of Americans in positions with good wages. Energy efficiency technology and retrofits also employ millions, and many of these jobs are local and can't be outsourced, improving the economy.
2. **Stabilizes and lowers energy costs** – The price of renewable energy has dropped a lot over the last few years, and is now competitive with dirty energy prices. While the supply and cost of fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas fluctuates, the cost of operating clean energy facilities is constant and resources like the sun and wind are free. Energy efficiency lowers energy use which lowers energy bills.
3. **Improve public health and environmental quality** – The air and water pollution emitted by coal and natural gas plants is linked to breathing problems, neurological damage, heart attacks, and cancer. Solar and wind energy produce none of that pollution. Fossil fuel pollution is also causing a devastating change in the climate – and we feel the effects of it here at home and across the globe. We're constantly setting heat records, wildfires, and droughts in the West, while seeing more intense weather patterns generally around the world including floods, hurricanes, and more. Again, clean energy doesn't produce the carbon pollution that is warming our planet.
4. **Provides a more secure energy supply** – Our old model of energy production, centralized in big power plants, is vulnerable to outages and even attacks. A few key transmission lines or power plants going down could put major cities out of commission. Clean energy adds new power sources, and by having



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solar panels on individual roofs, we create a power system that is more reliable and resilient. With finite fossil fuels some of which are imported from other countries, diversifying with clean energy makes the US more self-reliant.

WHERE IS NEVADA NOW?

Public support for Clean Energy:

Survey after survey shows that more than 70 percent of Nevadans want our state to get more energy from clean and renewable sources, and support a variety of policy ideas to get us there.

Clean Energy Progress:

The Legislature recently finished its 2017 session, and it was good for clean energy. State lawmakers passed 11 new measures with support from both parties, and Governor Sandoval signed 9 of them into law. These policies fix the rooftop solar program, increase energy efficiency, invest in batteries that can store renewable energy, set aside funding for low-income programs, and more. A few highlights:

Energy Efficiency – Two new laws improve energy efficiency programs and require a certain percentage of funds for those programs specifically go to low-income households. As a result, homes and businesses will get help finding and making improvements that save energy and lower bills.

Clean Energy Fund – A new fund has been set up to specifically help Nevadans afford clean and renewable energy projects. It will take private donations and match investments to provide long-term, low interest loans. This results in more clean projects reaching more people sooner.

The two policies that did become law were:

Renewable Energy Standard: Would have required 40% of the state's energy to come from clean sources by 2030, spurring a faster transition away from fossil fuels. The current requirement of 25% by 2025 remains in effect.

Community Solar Gardens: Would have allowed for a new type of solar project in between individual rooftop solar and large-scale solar plants. These projects would use open lots or large rooftops to create mid-size solar "gardens" and a variety of homes and businesses could sign up to receive a certain percentage of the energy generated. This would have given members a bill credit, lowering energy bills and opening access to clean energy for renters and others who aren't able to get rooftop solar for any reason. There were also funds set aside to help low-income communities access these gardens.

There's still more work to do to move the state forward on issues of clean energy. We must be vocal to ensure it's a priority of our elected officials, and that programs are accessible to all Nevadans.