How the American Jobs Plan will create jobs in Nevada

The American Jobs Plan is about creating good-paying, union jobs and building a clean energy future through big, bold investments in our infrastructure.

Before the COVID recession, Nevada was home to 33,788 clean energy jobs, including 11,265 jobs generating renewable electricity, 9,098 jobs related to the power grid and energy storage, 11,988 jobs in energy efficiency and 1,299 jobs in clean vehicles. Thousands of these jobs have not returned but the investments in the American Jobs Plan, which complement state efforts to advance clean energy and electrified transportation, could mean thousands more in these and related sectors. Here are some specific examples of what investments in the Plan could mean for the state:

Winning the electric vehicle market: The American Jobs Plan will put electricians and other contractors to work building a national network of 500,000 public and accessible EV chargers. It will also help automakers create domestic manufacturing jobs building electric cars, trucks and buses, competing with the foreign companies currently dominating this market.

- Nevada is quickly becoming a hub for EV manufacturing. Nevada is home to Tesla’s Gigafactory. In 2020, Panasonic announced a partnership with Tesla to produce high-capacity EV batteries at the facility, including a $100 million investment in expanding the plant.

- Electric vehicle charging stations across the state: According to the U.S. Department of Energy there are 425 public charging stations in the state, including a “Nevada Electric Highway” plan underway to expand several fast EV charging stations located at over 30 stops and exits along U.S. Highway 95.

Building and installing clean power and a stronger electric grid: The American Jobs Plan will put people to work manufacturing solar panels, installing wind turbines, updating power lines, and more to build the capacity to deliver clean electricity. This includes tax credits for clean energy and energy efficiency, and block grants to state, local, and tribal governments to accelerate this modernization.

- Already a strong clean energy economy in the Silver State: Almost a third of the state’s electricity came from renewable sources in 2020. Prior to the pandemic, clean energy jobs made up nearly one-sixth of all statewide construction employment, and clean energy workers in Nevada earn 17% more than the average wage. For example:
  - A proposed $1 billion Battle Born Solar project would cover 14 miles and be the biggest yet in the state. The project would create more than 1,250 jobs, including 1,125 direct jobs through the construction period.
The planned Chuckwalla Solar and Storage project is a 200 MW solar plant and a 180 MW battery storage system on the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians Reservation that would support 300 direct jobs throughout the construction period.

- Investments can support power infrastructure upgrades in the state:
  - A $2 billion energy transmission upgrade to the state’s power grid is in getting expedited review at the state Public Utility Commission. The proposal includes plans to build out transmission lines between Reno and Tahoe and Las Vegas to Yerington. The project is expected to generate $781 million in economic activity while supporting more than 4,000 jobs over the 11-year construction period. Three other transmission projects in the state that would connect renewable energy resources could also begin construction with additional resources.

Replacing lead pipes and modernizing water systems, including in tribal areas: The American Jobs Plan will employ plumbers, excavators, and other tradespeople to replace 100% of the nation’s lead pipes and service lines and includes billions of dollars in grants and low-cost flexible loans to states, Tribes, territories, and disadvantaged communities to support clean water infrastructure.

- Over the next 20 years, Nevada’s drinking water infrastructure will require $5.3 billion in funding for maintenance and upgrades. This includes a new treatment lagoon on Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribal lands, a Huffaker reservoir water quality and management project in Washoe County, and an advanced metering infrastructure project in North Las Vegas.

- Providing safer drinking water in Nevada through lead pipe replacement should be a priority: 23 public water systems exceeded safe levels of lead and other contaminants set by the EPA, while 3 water systems had high levels of lead, including one school, as of 2016.

Building and retrofitting buildings to save money and energy: The American Jobs Plan will employ people across the construction trades to build, preserve, and retrofit millions of homes and buildings. It also includes investments specifically for affordable housing units, including in rural and tribal areas.

- High energy bills are a big issue in Las Vegas: In Las Vegas, 20.95% of all households and 42.50% of low-income households are extremely energy burdened, meaning their energy burden is more than twice the city median, showing a big opportunity for savings as well as jobs.

Restoring our public lands: The American Jobs Plan will mobilize the next generation of conservation and resilience workers through a Civilian Climate Corps to work on protecting our public lands and waters.

- Nevada’s 11 shovel-ready trail projects total $70,084,000 and would provide 980 months of work while the worth of deferred park maintenance projects has a total of $251,924,773.