

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

The City Built for Zero-Emission Business Events

The meetings and events capital of the world is also the most sustainable place in America to host one.



THE SETUP

The sustainability you can't see.

When people think about hosting an event in Las Vegas, sustainability and emissions are the last thing on their minds. They picture a fun event in a vibrant destination, with entertainment, education, and experiences all in one place. What they don't realize is that the same city built to host those events is also the most resource-dense, low-emission destination in the country. That advantage is no accident. It's built into the destination itself, layer by layer, starting at the government level with three tiers that each reinforce the next:

STATE

Nevada adopted the Paris targets by executive order and set a path to net zero by 2050, with a 50%+ renewable-electricity standard written into the state constitution. Its Priority Climate Action Plan extends that push beyond power to transportation, buildings, industry, and waste.

COUNTY

Clark County sets regional targets for clean energy, waste diversion, and low-carbon transportation across the metro through its All-In community plan, aiming for net-zero emissions and 100% clean energy by 2050.

CITY

Las Vegas powers every municipal building on 100% renewable energy under its 2050 Master Plan, right down to the Welcome to Las Vegas sign, with CNG transit and an expanding tree canopy.

**The sustainable choice here isn't the hard choice.
It's the default choice.**

Five Priority Action Areas.

At COP26 in 2021, event industry leaders launched the Net Zero Carbon Events initiative and Roadmap, now the sector's global standard, adopted by hundreds of organizations across more than 60 countries. It advises organizers to host 'net-zero' events by 2050, replacing the previous open-ended model where each event set its own goals, initiatives, and strategies. Net-zero doesn't mean creating no emissions at all; it means cutting them as far as possible, then offsetting whatever remains, so the balance nets to zero. To reach it, the NZCE directs every organizer to the same five priority action areas, the ones that drive the bulk of an event's footprint:

01 Power events efficiently with clean, renewable energy. Maximize efficiency, then move to renewable supply wherever possible, from on-site solar to a cleaner grid and renewable energy certificates, offsetting only the small residual that's left. It's the most direct lever for cutting emissions at the source.

02 Redesign events with sustainable materials, and be waste-free. Design the build around reusable, circular materials, hired or made from recycled content rather than new, then divert whatever remains through recycling, donation, and compost so almost nothing reaches the landfill.

03 Source food sustainably, and eliminate food waste. Favor lower-impact, seasonal, and locally sourced ingredients to cut food miles, plan portions to limit surplus, and rescue or compost whatever's left so little food waste ever reaches the landfill.

04 Move goods efficiently, transition to zero-emission logistics. Source gear and materials locally, consolidate what does move onto as few trucks as possible, and shift toward low- and zero-emission vehicles, so almost nothing has to ship in from far away.

05 Reduce and mitigate the emissions of travel. Attendee travel is the largest share yet sits mostly outside the organizer's control, so the real levers are working with travel partners, easing the trip, and choosing a central destination everyone can already reach.

Clean Energy on Every Event.

Whatever venue you book in Las Vegas, your event starts on renewable power, and at the marquee properties, nearly all of it. The major resorts generate their own solar, Mandalay Bay carries the largest rooftop array in the country, and every venue draws from a grid that's already roughly half renewable. Here's what each delivers:

MGM Resorts

Up to 100% of MGM's daytime electricity across its Las Vegas resorts runs on its own solar: a 100 MW Mega Solar Array plus the 115 MW Escape project and 400 MWh of storage. Mandalay Bay's convention center is capped by the largest rooftop solar array in the country, 28 acres of panels. Host at Mandalay Bay, MGM Grand, ARIA, or Bellagio, and your event draws almost all its power from renewable energy automatically.

Wynn & Encore

Wynn's 560,000-sq-ft convention center runs on 100% renewable power, rooftop solar backed by a 160-acre off-site array. Book meetings or exhibits there, and your event is renewable-powered by default.

Venetian & Palazzo

The Venetian Convention & Expo Center, 2.25M sq ft and one of the world's largest LEED-certified venues, now sources 100% of its electricity from renewable energy. Its Green Meetings program builds sustainability into every booking, from locally sourced menus to post-event impact reports.

Las Vegas Convention Center

The LVCC follows a Climate Action Plan targeting a 50% emissions cut by 2030 and 100% by 2050, cutting building demand through efficiency upgrades like full LED lighting and drawing more of its power from Nevada's increasingly renewable grid.

Every Other Venue in Las Vegas

Beyond the marquee properties, every venue draws from an NV Energy grid already ~47.5% renewable and mandated to 50% by 2030, fed by some of the largest solar arrays in the country, including Gemini Solar and the Copper Mountain complex. The City of Las Vegas even runs all its own buildings on 100% renewable power.

Designed for Circular Productions.

The greenest material is the one you never build. Almost everywhere else, an event is built from scratch and dumpstered days later. Las Vegas runs the other way: the room, signage, and most of the gear already exist, so the bulk of an event is never manufactured at all. From materials to production gear, the city is built to keep as much as possible out of the landfill.

Permanent Venues

From immersive showrooms and theaters to full-scale arenas and stadiums, the city's venues come with built-in seating, staging, lighting, and sound, sized for anything from a breakout room to a stadium floor. A production drops into a fully-built room instead of designing and building one, cutting the materials, packaging, freight, and crews that building from scratch would demand.

Rented & Reused Assets

Most of what an event physically runs on is rented, not bought. Booth kits, furniture, and AV from the city's production houses cycle from show to show on refurbishment schedules, already-manufactured goods reused rather than built new. Beyond rental, local artists, the downtown arts district, and secondhand and nonprofit thrift sources give décor and furnishings a second life, without extracting raw resources or manufacturing anything new.

Digital, Not Printed

The biggest source of event materials waste is single-use print: banners, signage, and collateral built for one show and thrown out. Vegas runs on screens instead. LED walls, digital wayfinding, and arena-scale displays across the major venues replace printed graphics with pixels, so signage changes instantly and nothing is hauled off when the show ends.

Local Production Centers

When something must be built new, regional scenic shops, print houses, and fabricators do it within a few miles, designed with post-consumer recycled content (PCRC), rapidly renewable materials, and the least raw input possible.

The Recovery Network

Whatever an event leaves behind meets one of the most complete recovery networks in the country. Regional haulers handle single-stream consumer recycling, while dedicated recovery facilities take the construction and tradeshow debris, lumber, carpet, and oversized builds, that make up the bulk of event waste. Food scraps and cooking oil are composted, surplus is donated, and even the regional landfill captures its methane for power.

Grown Close, Kept from the Landfill.

Sustainable food comes down to two things: sourcing it close, and wasting as little as possible. Las Vegas is set up for both. At the heart of the Southwest's farm belt, the city sources most of a menu within a day's ground haul instead of flying it in, and its kitchens build seasonal menus around the lowest-mile ingredients. What isn't eaten rarely reaches the landfill: resort and caterer programs rescue surplus for local families, and the rest is composted or recovered.

Local to Las Vegas

Inside the valley, the nonprofit Gilcrease Orchard farms roughly 100 acres of apples, peaches, tomatoes, and squash on natural artesian water, and small farms in nearby Moapa Valley add year-round greens and vegetables within 100 miles. Craft breweries like CraftHaus and Tenaya Creek and makers like Freed's Bakery round out low-mile food and drink.

Across the Southwest

A day's drive out, the region's farm belt takes over. California's Imperial, Coachella, and Central valleys grow the nation's winter produce, citrus, and dates; Yuma, Arizona supplies roughly 90% of the country's winter leafy greens; and Utah adds cattle, dairy, and orchard fruit. All of it reaches Las Vegas by ground, not air.

Seasonal Menus

How a menu is designed matters as much as how far it travels. Vegas chefs and caterers build menus around what the region grows in season, so the freshest, lowest-mile ingredients lead and long-haul, high-impact items stay off the plate.

Food Rescue Programs

Surplus event food doesn't have to be waste. Resort programs like MGM's Feeding Forward, which has topped 5 million meals, and the Venetian's Food Rescue Alliance route unserved food to local hunger-relief partners like Three Square and The Just One Project, while caterers like Sodexo Live! run their own donation programs. Protected under Good Samaritan laws, it reaches local families, not the landfill.

Composting & Animal Feed

What can't be eaten is still diverted. Kitchen scraps go to regional composting through Terra Firma Organics, Las Vegas Livestock turns tons of event and casino food waste into pig feed, and used cooking oil is recovered through RenuOil, so very little ever reaches the landfill.

Sourced locally, not shipped in.

For most events, the supply chain is the hidden bulk of the footprint: the trucks and planes that haul booths, gear, and materials in, and the crews flown in to build them. It all comes down to distance: the farther everything travels, the higher the emissions. Las Vegas flips that math. Because the city runs the busiest event calendar on earth, the entire supply chain of suppliers, warehouses, equipment, and crews already lives here, so an event can source or move nearly everything it needs within the region or by low-emission means. Almost nothing has to ship in.

Zero-Mile Sourcing

Every venue and resort keeps in-house furniture, drape, and equipment on hand, and exclusive services like Sodexo Live! at the LVCC cater thousands from kitchens already on-site. Sourced inside the building, they travel zero miles and add nothing to the footprint.

Local Sourcing

Las Vegas is a smaller city than it looks. Encore, CORT, and most suppliers an event needs sit inside the 100-mile radius that defines 'local,' close enough to build an entire event from what's already in the valley, with no cross-country freight at all.

Last-Mile Transport

When gear does move, it can move clean: local rental houses like Sunbelt Rentals and Ahern, both headquartered right here, supply electric forklifts and low-emission handling, so even the dock-to-floor last mile runs electric, not diesel.

Unions & Production Crews

Las Vegas is a union town, so the skilled crews that build nearly every event are already here, not flown in. With local labor working from local warehouses, both the people and the gear start on-site, and the crew flights and inbound freight vanish entirely.

Built for Nonstop Events

Las Vegas hosts more events than any city on earth, so the gear, crews, and warehouses never leave; the infrastructure that ships in and out for a single show elsewhere simply lives here, moving from one event to the next without ever shipping in.

The easiest place to reach.

Attendee travel is the largest single share of an event's footprint, but under the global standard it's attributed to the attendees and their employers, not the organizer. The organizer's real lever is the destination they choose, and picking one everyone can already reach cuts the emissions the standard can't assign to anyone. On that measure, no destination moves more people with less travel than Las Vegas.

The Flight In

Flights are the biggest and hardest-to-cut piece of an event's travel footprint, and most of a flight's emissions come from takeoff and climb, so every connection adds another full one. That's why nonstop access matters: with 170+ nonstop destinations, Harry Reid lets far more attendees reach Las Vegas on a single direct flight, cutting the most carbon-intensive leg before the event even begins.

Minutes from the Gate

Harry Reid sits just 3.7 miles from the Strip's convention corridor, against 13 miles in Orlando and 21 in Chicago, the next two largest event cities. Hosting in Vegas cuts the arrival trip for thousands of attendees by roughly 75%, from the airport to the host venue and resorts.

The Integrated Resort

At an integrated resort like Mandalay Bay, the Venetian, or Wynn, the guest rooms, convention halls, dining, and entertainment all sit under one roof, so attendees move between sessions, meals, and their rooms on foot. For most of the event, that eliminates travel for thousands of attendees, and their collective emissions, entirely, something only a handful of destinations in the world can offer.

Zero-Emission Transit

When an event spans multiple properties, the all-electric Vegas Loop now links the convention center with resorts from Resorts World to Encore, Westgate, and Fontainebleau, for true zero-emission travel across the corridor, alongside the electric monorail.

Electric Rides

When a ride is unavoidable, it can still be electric. Uber and Lyft EVs and the driverless Zoox robotaxi, now carrying public riders across the valley, handle on-demand trips, while charter operators run electric shuttles to move groups between venues. Point to point, the tailpipe is optional. In Las Vegas, once an attendee lands, they can travel the entire event at zero emissions.

Every area, already covered.

The NZCE calls for 'net-zero' emissions, and the Zero Waste International Alliance sets the definition: 'zero' means 90%, not 100%. Clear that bar across each of the five action areas and the event is zero-emission. In Las Vegas, you're already most of the way there:

01 Energy

MGM's resorts, Wynn/Encore, and the Venetian Resort Campus already run events on up to 100% renewable power, and every event rides a grid mandated to 50% renewable by 2030.

100%

RENEWABLE

02 Materials

Drop into turn-key venues and reuse booth kits, furniture, and décor, then divert the rest to reach zero-waste status.

90%

REUSE

03 Food

Build menus from valley farms and the wider Southwest, then rescue or compost the surplus so almost nothing reaches the landfill.

90%

REGIONAL

04 Logistics

Source gear locally or by low-emission means; production houses, rental firms, caterers, labor, and GCs are all here.

90%

LOCAL

05 Travel

Direct flights into Harry Reid, a compact walkable core, travel-free resort campuses, the all-electric Loop, and EV rides make low-emission travel the default.

90%

LOW-EMISSION

Five areas. One destination. **Already at zero.**

The model the global standard is asking the industry to build by 2050, Las Vegas already runs, across all five areas at once. No other U.S. destination can say that, which makes a verified zero-emission event bookable here today, not a decade from now.

THE HOME OF ZERO-EMISSION EVENTS

Zero emissions. Zero compromise.

You don't have to wait for 2030. Every lever is already in place here, so your event can be the proof, showing guests and partners that a zero-emission event is operational reality.

Ready to make it real? Book a 20-minute call, and Green Analytics will map your next event to zero across all five areas: measured, verified, and ready to promote.

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