



*****NEWS FLASH***NEWS FLASH***NEWS FLASH*****

**LAS VEGAS HOSTS NATIONAL CLEAN ENERGY SUMMIT
*FUTURE LOOKS “BRIGHT” FOR SOLAR AND OTHER RENEWABLES***

The National Clean Energy Summit was held this week at the Cox Pavilion to discuss the state of the country’s current renewable energy policies and programs as well as the future outlook of clean energy. Attended by a bipartisan crowd of more than 500, speakers at the event included former President Bill Clinton, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and our own Nevada Development Authority President and CEO Somer Hollingsworth.

A key component that speakers from the public and private sector alike seemed to agree on was the federal government taking the lead in developing clean energy as a part of the U.S. economy. Former President Clinton outlined 10 specific actions the government should take to combat the looming energy crisis. These actions included items such as passing legislation to put a price on carbon emissions and establishing a cap-and-trade system; renewing and lengthening tax credits for renewable energy; establishing the federal government’s role in modernizing the electrical grid; and leading the global adoption of clean energy.

And while the former president called for the U.S. to become the global leader in the adoption of clean energy, Hollingsworth’s presentation outlined how Nevada is well on its way to becoming the national leader in the adoption of clean energy. Nevada is currently ranked No. 1 for solar watts per capita and solar as a percentage of retail sales. Las Vegas recently won a World Leadership Award for its Alternative Fuel Program, receiving top honors in the transportation category for a municipal fleet of which 90% operate on a variety of alternative fuels and which will be 100% fueled by alternative fuels within the next six months.

On the legislative front, a state mandate for Nevada Power requires 20% of power to be generated from renewable resources by 2015. The state also offers a 50% abatement for up to 10 years on real and personal property for qualified energy companies as well as a partial abatement of sales/use tax on capital equipment purchases. On the development side, Nevada is already home to a number of renewable energy companies. Nevada Solar One and Nellis PV (photovoltaic) are already producing nearly 80 megawatts of renewable energy. Ausra Manufacturing NV I, LLC, recently opened in Las Vegas and is the country’s first solar manufacturing facility. It isn’t just solar either – Biodiesel of Las Vegas is a 100 million gallon biodiesel production plant and a number of plans are being developed to capture Nevada’s wealth of geothermal resources.

With projects like BrightSource Energy, Solar Millennium, LLC and El Dorado Energy PV in the works and nearly 100 LEED registered projects in Las Vegas, Nevada is poised to continue growth in the renewable energy sector and further its goal of becoming the nation's leader in clean, renewable energy.