



# RESILIENT COUNTY OPERATIONS

## ACTION

RCO-5

**Assess number of cooling stations provided by Clark County and continue to ensure equitable distribution.**



### DESCRIPTION OF ACTION

Cooling stations provide shelter and water to the public during extreme heat days. By offering these stations and distributing them equitably across the county, Clark County can increase the community’s resilience to the impacts of climate change. The County should also consider the type of buildings best suited for cooling centers and how they are operated.

### LEAD DEPARTMENT

Environment & Sustainability

### OVERALL TIMEFRAME

Medium

**SHORT** = Less than 1 year  
**MEDIUM** = 1 - 3 years  
**LONG** = 3 years or more

Planning Considerations

IMPLEMENTATION STEPS	TIMEFRAME	KEY PARTNERS
<p><b>1</b> Inventory and assess capacity of the County’s operational cooling centers.</p>	<p><b>SHORT</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Real Property Management</li> <li>Parks &amp; Recreation</li> <li>Southern Nevada Health District</li> <li>Office of Emergency Management</li> </ul>
<p><b>2</b> Create a map that overlays the cooling centers with heat mapping and environmental justice populations (low income, minority, and non-English speakers) to identify disparities in access to cooling centers.</p>	<p><b>MEDIUM</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Geographic Info Systems</li> <li>Social Services</li> </ul>
<p><b>3</b> Using research about the types of buildings that are best suited for use as cooling centers, identify existing buildings that could operate as cooling centers, prioritizing areas that are especially vulnerable to extreme heat and with high concentrations of environmental justice populations.</p>	<p><b>SHORT</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Building &amp; Fire Prevention</li> <li>Office of Emergency Management</li> <li>Real Property Management</li> <li>Parks &amp; Recreation</li> <li>Public Works</li> <li>Clark County School District</li> <li>Senior centers</li> <li>Social Services</li> </ul>
<p><b>4</b> Ensure availability of required equipment and services at all cooling centers (i.e. generators, water).</p>	<p><b>SHORT</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Southern Nevada Health District</li> <li>Real Property Management</li> <li>Office of Emergency Management</li> <li>Finance</li> </ul>
<p><b>5</b> Develop a plan to operationalize additional cooling centers, as needed, and streamline communication and notification system for opening cooling centers on days with extreme heat.</p>	<p><b>SHORT</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Southern Nevada Health District</li> <li>Parks &amp; Recreation</li> <li>Real Property Management</li> <li>Office of Emergency Management</li> <li>Social Services</li> <li>Public Communications</li> <li>Public Information Officer</li> <li>Finance</li> </ul>

## FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL RESOURCES

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### TECHNICAL

- [Measuring Heat Islands, EPA](#)
- [The Use of Cooling Centers to Prevent Heat Related Illness: Summary of Evidence and Strategies for Implementation, Center for Disease Control](#)

## CONSIDERATIONS FOR COLLABORATION/ OVERCOMING BARRIERS

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- Partner with community organizations and programs that are also operating cooling centers, such as cities, Salvation Army of Las Vegas, Catholic Charities, and places of worship.
- Target outreach to those most vulnerable to the heat (e.g. seniors, low-income populations) to ensure equitable access.
- Consider additional services that cooling centers could provide, such as vaccination sites, information fairs for community organizations, etc.
- Develop site-specific contingency plans for operation during public health crises or other emergencies.
- Track visitors to cooling centers to better understand demand.
- Consider the availability of each site based on its other uses (i.e. classes, programs, events).

## MEASURING SUCCESS

### OUTPUTS\*

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- List of cooling stations with capacity, hours of operation, etc.

### OUTCOMES\*

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- Decrease in the number of heat-related illnesses
- Decrease in residents' average distance to the nearest cooling center
- Increase in the number of residents served by County cooling centers

\*An **output** describes what has been created through implementation of the action.  
An **outcome** is the level of performance or achievement that occurred based on what was created.