

# SNWA Programs Help Combat Heat Islands

Climate experts predict that by mid-century Southern Nevada will experience more than 100 days a year with temperatures exceeding 100 degrees. This is expected to increase urban heat island conditions where surfaces and structures like block walls, asphalt, sidewalks and buildings radiate heat that has been absorbed throughout the day. This causes overnight temperatures to remain high, allowing temperatures to climb faster each day.

While the urban heat island (UHI) effect is not unique to Southern Nevada, experts agree that shade from trees and plants is one of the most effective strategies to reduce its impact. Unfortunately, some existing tree species in our valley such as the Afghan pine, purple leaf plumb, and others will struggle to adapt to the extended heat conditions expected in the future.

As a result, the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) launched a Tree Enhancement Program that offers \$100 for every new, qualifying tree planted during a grass conversion project. The tree rebate is an additional incentive for property owners replacing grass landscapes under the SNWA's Water Smart Landscapes Rebate Program (WSL).

Since 2023, more than 5,000 new trees have been planted through the program. Once mature, these new trees will add two million square feet of additional canopy coverage to our community.

The SNWA has also funded the installation of 1,000 new trees planted in underserved areas of the community in partnership with ImpactNV, a local non-profit dedicated to enhancing Southern Nevada's long-term sustainability.

For more information about the WSL and Tree Enhancement programs, visit **[snwa.com](https://snwa.com)**.