

Current Environmental & Sustainability Efforts

Salt Lake County strives to operate in a sustainable manner to benefit the environment and the communities we serve.



BUILDING UPGRADES & CONSTRUCTION

- Established baseline data for monitoring building energy usage to estimate short- and long-term energy savings opportunities for all county-owned facilities
- Collected real-time data to maintain efficient buildings and/or plan for future capital improvements
- Conducted LED lighting upgrades and installment of motion sensors throughout county-owned facilities
- Followed LEED Gold building standards for all new construction

In 2019:

- 1.5 million kWh energy savings realized from recommission projects
- 2,000 tons/year reduction of greenhouse gas emissions



WORKPLACE CULTURE & POLICY

- Hired dedicated Energy Manager
- Implemented technology to enable telecommuting
- Established Contracts & Procurement policy to screen for and not award contracts to consultants who are in violation of environmental laws
- Offered and encouraged employees to use a variety of transit options: discounted transit pass & van pool
- Maintained no-idling policy, installed electric vehicle charging stations & secured GreenBike station
- Implemented strategic regional planning principles in project design and future land development that prioritize street connectivity, access to transit & jobs
- Environmental policy executive order issued in 2013

In 2019:

- Increased county employee participation in van pool = cars off the road
- Issued discounted UTA transit passes to employees

• Environmental Policy No. 2013-4



FLEET, WATER, RESTORATION & SOLAR PROJECTS

- Replaced existing fleet vehicles with alternative energy vehicles
- Collected water quality data throughout the County for macro-invertebrates, stream analysis, and stream sediment samples, as well as monitored for *E. coli*
- Ensured Clean Water Act compliance through ongoing Utah Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (UPDES) inspections
- Conducted outreach events, media presence, and training programs regarding UPDES
- Hosted the Annual Watershed Symposium to increase awareness of water related issues
- Implemented Ecosystem Restoration Projects (including Jordan River and Corner Canyon Creek projects)
- Reviewed county buildings for solar-readiness and installed solar arrays, e.g. installed 600,000 square feet of rooftop solar on the Salt Palace

Over past 5 years:

- Converted 80% of fleet sedans to hybrid vehicles (20 mpg/savings realized)
- Over 100 water quality data samples collected throughout the County

Since 2015:

- Over 20,000 trees and shrubs seedlings have been planted together with 3,000 + tree plantings
- 9 county facilities (including Salt Palace) equipped with solar arrays
- Salt Palace solar array provides 15-20% of annual power demand



LANDFILL AND RECYCLING

- Captured methane gas at landfill/converted it into fuel
- Processed 40,000 tons of green waste into compost annually
- Provided countywide recycling services
- Engaged in education program regarding landfill diversion practices and instituted internal, active recycling programs in all County facilities
- Total energy generated = electricity to power 3,000 homes

In 2018:

• Recycling programs kept 55,600 tons of waste out of the landfill

MAJOR GRANTS, CERTIFICATIONS & OTHER PROJECTS

- \$600,000 EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant, in partnership with Salt Lake City and Murray
- \$450,000 EPA Brownfields Contamination Removal Grant, in partnership with Salt Lake City and Ogden
- Salt Palace APEX/ASTM Certification (Received June, 2017): only convention destination in the world to hold five concurrent certifications in one shared partnership
- Appropriated funds to build and operate a new Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility in Sandy
- Administered Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) that provides low-income residents with safer, more energy efficient housing
- Administered GHHI "Asthma Direct Program" in coordination with the University of Utah Health Plans
- Partners with Salt Lake Green Team Committee, a group of 5 hospitality organizations that strives to operate facilities in an environmentally sustainable manner

In 2018:

- \$100,000 awarded for remediation of Murray property for a mixed-use development
- \$180,000 + awarded for environmental assessments on contaminated properties
- Sandy location = additional site for residents to conveniently dispose of HHW

Since 2012:

- 787 GHHI projects have been completed
- Asthma Direct Program = 1st in the country in which a medical provider has covered the cost of asthma-related residential remediation



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- Implemented Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program to enhance opportunities for residents to safely dispose of hazardous materials at no cost
- Implemented a Vehicle Repair Assistance Program (VRAP) for low-income residents for the purpose of repairing malfunctioning vehicle emissions control systems
- Assisted small businesses with the proper disposal of hazardous waste
- Oversaw Water Quality Bureau to ensure the safety of our drinking water
- Coordinated Environmental Quality Advisory Commission (advisory committee to Board of Health)
- Acted as a convener of the Utah Climate Action Network, a partnership between government, research institutions, non-profits/foundations, faith-based organizations, the private sector, and individuals working to address climate change

Since 1991:

• 21,543,603 pounds of hazardous waste have been safely recycled, reused or properly disposed

Since 2008:

• HHW program has partnered with Samsung recycling nearly 10 million pounds of electronic waste and saving \$1.8 million in recycling costs

Since 2004:

• Through the HHW program, 6,812 small businesses were able to safely dispose of 2,267,685 pounds of hazardous materials



Future Environmental & Sustainability Road Map

Salt Lake County commits to exploring ways to expand and improve it's approach and performance with regards to environmental responsibility, energy savings, and pollution control.



HIRING COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM MANAGER (SUMMER 2019)

Program manager will:

- Evaluate current environmental programs, develop and implement future programs and recommend new policies/initiatives
- Coordinate with county agencies and regional partners
- Bring stakeholders together to maximize impact
- Develop programs that encourage constituents regarding sustainability best practices



SHORT-TERM PROGRAM GOALS

- Holistic review of current sustainability efforts and gap identification, with a focus on air quality
- Update Environmental Policy No. 2013-4
- Continue recommission projects (25 complete, 33 in the pipeline)
- Continue LED lighting, solar, and HVAC upgrades
- Modify Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) application process
- Office of Data and Innovation to work with the University of Utah 2019 MPA Capstone class to assess the County's internal and external clean air opportunities
- Partner with Utah Clean Energy to produce a small business energy efficiency and renewable energy guide
- Continue to update Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) policy to include environmental considerations
- Consider Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) policy/legislation that permits bonding for energy efficiency upgrades
- Consider expanding upon the County's Vehicle Repair Assistance Program (VRAP)
- Consider participation in the Rocky Mountain Power Program to meet 100% net renewable energy goal by 2030, per the Community Renewable Energy Act (HB 411)
- Begin steps to expand electric charging stations throughout County facilities
- Apply for Clean Diesel grant to supplement replacement cost for 10 + trucks
- Add additional "green" vehicles to approved vehicle list



LONG-TERM PROGRAM GOALS

- Continue to align planning, transportation funds and economic development tools to promote regional connectivity and multi-modal access to jobs, housing, and recreation
- Consider pursuing a 100% net renewable energy goal
- Consider pursuing an 80% reduction of carbon emissions goal
- Create an Action Plan to provide a blueprint for achieving environmental sustainability goals