

Coordinator of Resource Stewardship Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2024

Report prepared in compliance with Utah Code § 63A-1-116(3)(b)



Utah Department of
**Government
Operations**

Purpose

Sharing Best Practices

- [Title 63A, Chapter 1, Section 116](#)
- Create a sharing platform for State agencies and non-State entities to expand collaborative efforts for air quality projects.
- Promote air quality education and support the efforts of improving Utah's Air Quality within State government.



New Website

- In March 2024, the Coordinator of Resource Stewardship launched a new [website](#).
- The new website is divided into Air Quality Issues, Air Quality Solutions, and Current Initiatives with additional expansion to be added in the future.
- The website provides a consortium for past, current, and future plans that the Coordinator of Resource Stewardship, or other state agencies, are involved in that have the potential of improving Utah's air quality.



Award Recognition

Utah Business Green Business Award

- The Utah Division of Purchasing and General Services (Purchasing) was recognized by the [Utah Business Green Business Awards](#) for 2023 for its work in the sustainable procurement sector.
- Purchasing manages approximately \$2 billion in public spending for goods and services in addition to providing centralized services to support government operations.
- For the last two years, State Purchasing has been developing a sustainable procurement program (SPP).
- In developing an SPP, Purchasing has undertaken research to help establish benchmarks, set common best practices and provide specifics about key factors for successful SPP implementation.



UCAIR Community Partner of the Year



- Utah Office of Energy Development (OED) was awarded the [Community Partner of the Year Award](#) at the 2024 Utah Clean Air Partnership (UCAIR) Summit.
- OED was selected for the award for its efforts to improve air quality using a multi-pronged approach through a comprehensive suite of programs, such as the Uinta Basin Aerial Leak and Repair Detection Program and multiple tax incentives and rebates.
- “This award is a testament to the positive impact our office has for communities across the state,” says OED Deputy Director Harry Hansen. “Our work is enhanced through collaborations with community organizations like UCAIR. Take our Uinta Basin Aerial Leak and Repair Detection program, for example; that program was made possible through a UCAIR grant, coupled with state and federal funds. It supports local industry while also ensuring Utah’s natural resources are used to maximum benefit. We are honored to be chosen as Community Partner of the Year and to see our efforts recognized by a key partner.”



Clear the Air Challenge



- Each year, the State of Utah agencies participate in the [Clear the Air Challenge](#). [The Challenge](#) is run by Utah Department of Transportation’s TravelWise program, the Utah Clean Air Partnership (UCAIR), and the Salt Lake Chamber.
- The State of Utah participated in the 2023 Clear the Air Challenge and was pleased to receive 2nd place in the “Large Team” category.
- A total of 30 State agencies participated, with 334 employees taking on the Challenge. This participation is similar to that seen in 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic during which many employees teleworked. Teleworking continues to be the most popular mode of alternative transportation during the Challenge, making up 50% of the trips tracked.
- There were a total of 9,500 alternative trips taken, totaling 216,807 miles. This equates to 81.3 tons of CO2 being eliminated. That’s the same amount of emissions being saved as avoiding 91 road trips between Boston, Massachusetts and Salt Lake.
- Finally, one of our State Fleet employees, Guinevere, also received first place for individual participants.

NASPO George Cronin Award



- The Division of Purchasing and General Services was honored to be a Finalist for the 2023 National Association of Government Procurement Officials (NASPO) George Cronin Award for Procurement Excellence for “[State of Utah Sustainable Procurement Advancements](#)”.
- Named after NASPO’s first president, the George Cronin Awards for Procurement Excellence are NASPO’s annual awards for outstanding achievement in state procurement.
- Over the past two years, the Utah Division of Purchasing and General Services has been developing a sustainable procurement program from the ground up. The absence of an executive mandate or legislative instruction created a challenge; encouraging participation in a voluntary program. One response was to link it with other procurement initiatives, specifically a “buy local” campaign. The Sustainable Utah initiative demonstrates how sourcing locally is more sustainable.
- Another approach was to make participation easy. Recognition of third-party certification for sustainable products and services saves time and resources for purchasers. Partnership with Amazon provided benchmarks and progress tracking for the sustainability of small purchases.



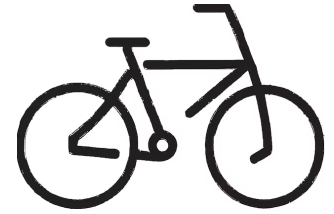
Alternative Transportation

State ECO Pass Program



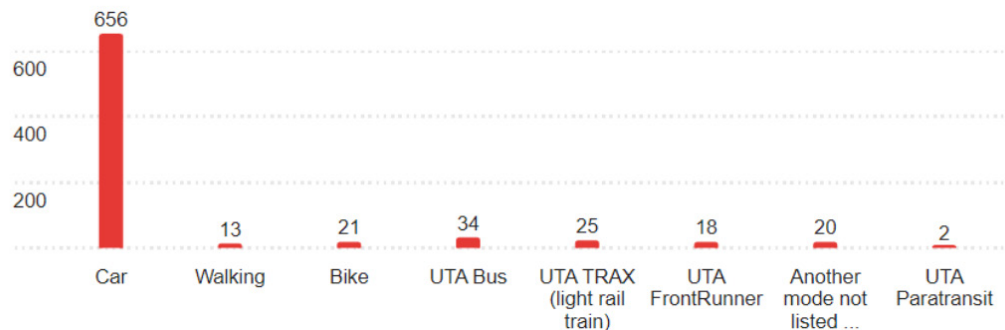
- A new Utah Transit Authority (UTA) State of Utah ECO Pass contract was been negotiated for state agencies, with the assistance of the Utah Division of Purchasing and General Services.
- The new contract (#MA4633) will be in place until 6/30/26, followed by three opportunities to renew the current contract, which would take us through to June 30, 2029.
- The ECO Pass continues to be \$59 per pass per month. This is a significant benefit for employees, as comparable passes from UTA are \$170 a month as of November 2024.

GovOps Transportation Committee



- As a part of the Utah Department of Government Operations' (GovOps) Return-to-Office initiative, five volunteer committees were launched to address concerns that were most frequently brought forward by staff. One of the committees created was the Transportation Committee. The Committee is currently made up of 13 members from multiple Divisions across GovOps.
- The survey received a strong response with 868 completed entries. The survey will help guide the Transportation Committee on their alternative transportation research.
- Current projects include:
 - » Secure bicycle parking
 - » Motorcycle parking
 - » "Idle Free" Zones in partnership with Utah Clean Cities
 - » Transportation kiosks
 - » Alternative transportation partnerships
- The goal of the Transportation Committee is to find "first and last mile" solutions for commuters to increase their confidence in using alternative transportation options for staff in their weekly commutes and decrease single occupant vehicle trips to our state managed facilities.

This bar chart shows the current commute modes of state employees at the Taylorsville State Campus site. Of the 656 employees that take the car, 595 are driving alone.



Division of Human Resource Management

Resource Conservation in State Job Postings



- GovOps, through the Utah Division of Human Resource Management (DHRM), manages a GOLD leadership program for state staff. During a GOLD Leadership program in 2023, one element of the program was a book club highlighting "Engaging Government Employees".
- From this reading, it is highlighted that government employees are particularly mission-driven when compared to their private sector counterparts. Additionally, the new generation from which we are hiring new employees is also particularly mission-driven. A Wall Street Journal article stated that "Over half of Gen Zs (55%) and millennial (54%) say they research a brand's environmental impact and policies before accepting a job from them." ¹
- In order to better tie in with this mission-based group, DHRM has now posted the state's efforts to improve air quality in multiple locations across the DHRM website, including its [Why Utah](#) page and the top of its [career landing page](#).
- Our hope is that by making our resource conservation efforts more visible, it will be another draw to come work for the great State of Utah.

Utah Department of Corrections

Green Thumb Nursery Program

- The Utah Department of Corrections is fostering a [horticulture program](#). It has allowed inmates to build nine prison greenhouses at the Utah State Correctional Facility. Those greenhouses provide plants for agencies across the state. They also help inmates develop life skills they can take with them after prison.²
- The Green Thumb Nursery Program grows plants for all kinds of reasons. One of those reasons is the restoration of native vegetation across the state.²
- They partner with many Utah agencies and organizations. These include the Salt Lake City Public Lands Department and the Utah Department of Natural Resources. These partnerships grow what is needed, for a fraction of the cost.²
- While the program has been financially beneficial to agencies all across the state, it is also great for the inmates involved. Inmates selected to be part of this program go through classes and get hands-on training in horticulture.²

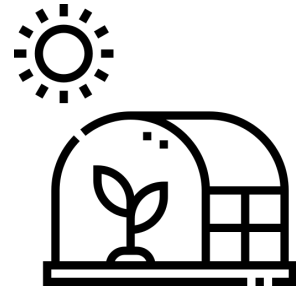
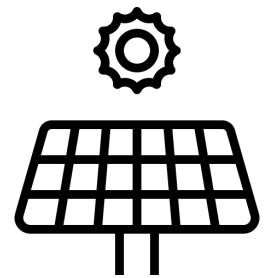


Photo by Heather Peterson,
KSL NewsRadio

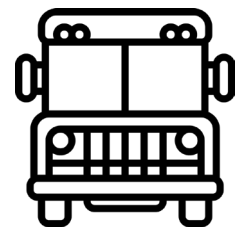
Solar Study at State Correctional Facility

- The Division of Facilities & Construction Management (DFCM) is currently investigating multiple ground-mounted solar options at the new state correctional facility. The option that is most intriguing involves a 3.5 MW array with large battery storage that is expected to save over \$300k annually in electric utility costs.
- DFCM applied for the Rocky Mountain Blue Sky Grant in the beginning of 2024, but was not awarded. DFCM is currently investigating opportunities provided by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).



Inmate Transportation Pilot

- In connection with the Utah 3rd District Court, the Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office and the Salt Lake Legal Defenders Association, the Utah Department of Corrections started holding district court hearings at the Utah State Correctional Facility in December 2023.
- A total of 276 inmates have had their court hearings held at the prison, and UDC plans to continue [the program](#) into the future.
- Scheduling hearings at the Correctional Facility cuts down multiple trips being taken from multiple facilities, making for a more efficient process overall.
- Finally, the new process is safer, especially when transfers of particularly dangerous inmates is involved.



Division of Facilities Construction & Management

EPA Wildfire Grant

- In the spring of 2023, the DFCM applied for the 2023 EPA Wildfire Smoke Preparedness in Community Buildings Grant Program.
- The grant was for \$400,000 for DFCM’s Carbon County State-owned Facility Indoor Air Quality Improvement project.
- The project is designed to implement adaptive controls to improve indoor air quality at state -owned facilities that are greatly impacted by wildfire smoke.
- Additionally, DFCM planned to modify HVAC equipment to accept known wildfire smoke mitigation strategies such as carbon and fine particulate filtration that targets a 95% removal efficiency of ozone and nitrogen dioxide, per ISO 1012102.
- Unfortunately, DFCM did not receive the grant funding, but DFCM learned much through the process and were able to improve indoor air quality through wildfire-impacted facilities in Price, Utah through HVAC improvements.



Community Collaboration

Utah Sustainable Business Network

- The [Utah Sustainable Business Network](#), formerly the Utah Sustainable Business Coalition, is a nonprofit organization that is made of more than 500 businesses, sustainability professionals, and community partners working to advance sustainable business practices in our state.
- The Coordinator of Resource Stewardship has worked with this group in the development of resource management best practices and education, sustainable procurement, and promotion of state programs aimed at improving air quality improvement.



Utah Natural History Museum

- The Coordinator of Resource Stewardship partnered with the Utah Museum of Natural History on its new “[Climate of Hope](#)” climate change exhibit.
- The exhibit highlights “[state government wins](#)”, and currently showcases the Utah Department of Agriculture and Foods’ [Utah Soil Health Program](#).
- The Utah Natural History Museum plans to regularly update the “state government wins” section to highlight the most current resource management best practices that the State of Utah is implementing.

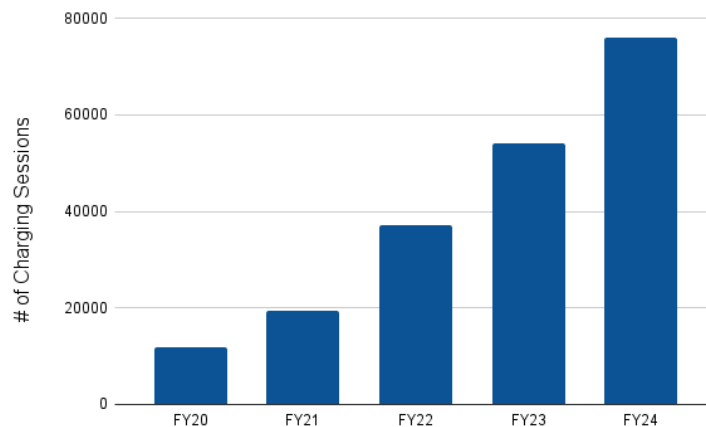
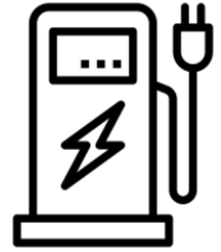


Photo by Mark Johnston, NHMU

State Electric Vehicle Charging Network

State EVSE Utilization

- The State of Utah currently has 178 EV charging stations, with more planned to be installed in FY2025.
- The number of electric vehicle charging sessions increased from 54,126 sessions in FY2023 to 75,915 sessions in FY2024. This is a 40% increase in utilization.
- The FY2024 sessions led to over 2.3 million pounds in greenhouse gas (GHG) emission savings. This is the equivalent of carbon being sequestered by 1,853 acres of US forests in one year.³



NEVI Plan Update

- The first of [Utah's National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure \(NEVI\)](#) funded electric vehicle (EV) charging stations was opened in June 2024. The station is located in Lions Park, near Arches National Park and was completed in partnership with Rocky Mountain Power.⁴
- UDOT has shown its commitment to a future in which everyone can choose to ride or drive electric with plans to double the state's current fast charging capacity by the end of 2025 with 14 new sites funded through NEVI.⁴
- Utah is receiving about \$36 million in federal funding to complete the project. Combined with a minimum 20% cost share from private businesses, the state is expected to invest a total of \$43 million to install public chargers that are available to the public for round-the-clock use.⁴



Utah Department of Agriculture & Food

Utah Soil Health

- The Utah Department of Agriculture & Food's (UDAF) [Utah Soil Health Program](#) was created during the 2021 General Session (HB0296) to recognize soil health as essential to protecting the state's soil and water resources, bolstering the state's food supply, and sustaining the state's agricultural industry.
- The purpose of the program is to promote the adoption of soil health practices through increasing our understanding of soil health and its impacts on the productivity, economics, and environmental aspects of agriculture as well as how it benefits the general public of Utah.
- Healthy soil can act as a filter to remove pollutants from the air. Soil can also store excess carbon from the atmosphere, which improves the soil's ability to maintain moisture and nutrients.⁵



1. Marks, A. (2023). Gen Zs and millennials look to employers to address climate concerns - WSJ. Retrieved from <https://deloitte.wsj.com/sustainable-business/gen-zs-and-millennials-look-to-employers-to-address-climate-concerns-c1cddbe8>
2. Peterson, H. (2024). Prison greenhouses benefit inmates, agencies across Utah. Retrieved from <https://kslnnewsradio.com/2107671/how-prison-greenhouses-are-helping-utah/>
3. "How Much Is a Ton of Carbon Dioxide?" MIT Climate Portal, climate.mit.edu/ask-mit/how-much-ton-carbon-dioxide. Accessed 12 Sept. 2023.
4. "First NEVI Funded EV Charging Station Opens in Utah · Joint Office of Energy and Transportation." Joint Office of Energy and Transportation, 27 June 2024, driveelectric.gov/news/utah-nevi-station-opening.
5. Buckley, P. by E. (2016). "soil and air" - where crops meet the environment. Retrieved from <https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2016/05/31/soil-and-air-where-crops-meet-environment#:~:text=Soils%20can%20also%20act%20as,air%2C%20increasing%20greenhouse%20gas%20levels>.

Driving Toward Better Air Quality Year-around

Stay up-to-date on the latest State agency air quality projects by following us on:

Facebook: @Utah Resource Steward

X: @UtahSteward

Resource Steward Homepage: <https://govops.utah.gov/resource-stewardship/>

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