



**SLCgreen**

2015

# State of Sustainability

Salt Lake City



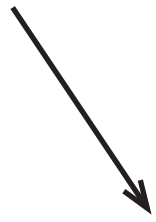
# Salt Lake City Sustainability Mission

The Salt Lake City Sustainability Division aims to preserve and improve our built and natural environments and provide people with information on sustainability issues affecting Salt Lake City. The Division of Sustainability develops goals and strategies to protect our natural resources, reduce pollution, slow climate change, and establish a path toward greater resiliency and vitality for all aspects of our community.



## Who We Are

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# Sustainability Energy & Environment Program



Salt Lake City & County Building, 451 S State Street

The Sustainability Energy & Environment (E&E) Program serves to ensure that Salt Lake City Corporation departments comply with all applicable environmental regulations and guides City-wide policy and practice to minimize the environmental impact of the community and of city operations. The E&E Program specifically focuses on **Environmental Compliance, Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies, Air Quality, Energy Conservation, Renewable Energy, and Food Security.**

## Core Services

### Environmental Compliance

The Sustainability E&E Program is responsible for completing environmental permits and remedial investigations of contaminated sites as required by the Department of Environmental Quality. The Program provides regulatory support and training to internal departments on environmental issues and manages environmental compliance for the Salt Lake Valley Landfill. Current and ongoing projects:

- Overseeing and contracting for environmental consultation services to perform routine monitoring as required by the U.S. EPA, State Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Salt Lake County Health Department. The Landfill is jointly owned by Salt Lake City and Salt Lake County. Operational management of the Landfill is provided by Salt Lake County. Regulatory compliance and engineering services have been provided by Salt Lake City.
- Coordinating with Department of Public Utilities to ensure the City's compliance with the Clean Water Act and ensuring departments are working within protocols established in the City's Storm Water Management Plan.
- Salt Lake City has approximately ten contracts with environmental consulting firms providing a variety of services, including Environmental Site Assessments, consultation on compliance with EPA, DEQ and local health regulations, and climate planning. The Sustainability Program manages all Environmental consultation contracts, reviews recommendations and reports from consultants, and approves environmental remediation plans and property acquisitions.

### Internal Policy and Ordinance

The Sustainability E&E Program establishes internal policies and local ordinances that will support our mission. For example, the Program initiated the [Sustainable Code Revision Project](#), a ground-breaking initiative to incorporate sustainability provisions into zoning and subdivision ordinances. Current and ongoing projects:

- Updating the City's Environmental Policy, including the Environmental Procurement Policy.
- Measuring the City's environmental performance through statistics such as community-wide and internal [carbon footprint](#) related to fuel, energy and natural gas usage.
- Investigating and implementing national and international standards for best management practices in environmental performance, reduction of energy use, pollution prevention and environmental management.
- Investigating and recommending policy and ordinance to improve air quality and reduce carbon emissions.

## Air Quality and Climate Change

The Sustainability E&E Program develops strategies to improve air quality and address climate change through vehicle emission reductions, conserving electricity and natural gas, and reducing other sources of pollution. Current and ongoing projects:

- Assisting all City Departments with the development of tailpipe emissions reduction plans, documenting current conditions and identifying strategies to reduce emissions from the City's fleet.
- Collaborating on fleet procurement decisions to reduce emissions from City vehicles.
- Promoting and advocating for active transportation and public transportation to reduce vehicle miles traveled.
- Leveraging grants from the State Division of Air Quality to incorporate more clean fuel vehicles into the City fleet and install a network of Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations for public use.
- Supporting the Utah Clean Cities Idle Free Utah campaign. Salt Lake City takes the lead on engagement with Salt Lake City area schools, promoting [Idle Free Ordinance](#) resources and voluntary efforts from drivers.
- Leading the creation and ongoing implementation of department "Climate Response Plans" which mitigate emissions from internal operations and the community, while also enhancing local resiliency to climate change impacts.
- Tracking community and municipal carbon footprints and reporting results to third parties responsible for compliance with local government climate commitments. Overseeing municipal and community carbon reduction planning to ensure achievement of goals.

## Achievements

### Salt Lake Climate Leaders

In 2015, the Sustainability E&E Program created a [Climate Leaders](#) training program for City employees. The initiative included nine separate 90 minute workshops that engaged staff on a variety of climate change issues and built capacity within the organization to achieve ambitious climate goals. The first year of Climate Leaders had 26 participants representing every major department at the City. The City held its first internal [Climate Week](#) from October 12-16, 2015, which raised awareness and spurred action on climate change.

### Climate Action Champion

Salt Lake City is one of 16 cities designated by the White House as a [Climate Action Champion](#) in 2014. The cities represent a diverse group of communities that are defining the frontier of ambitious climate action, and their approaches can serve as a model for other communities to follow.



### Clear the Air Challenge

In 2009, Salt Lake City assembled a diverse group of community leaders to tackle air quality and the [Clear the Air Challenge](#) was born. The group wanted to focus on a proactive and positive campaign to encourage residents to use alternatives to driving alone. From 2009 through 2012, the Challenge was run by Salt Lake City. In 2013, the Salt Lake Chamber took over and has run a successful monthly campaign each year. Since its inception, the Challenge has eliminated over 11.7 million miles of vehicle travel, saved roughly 5.8 million dollars and prevented over 80,000 pounds of air pollutants.

### Idle Free Ordinance (2011) & Enhanced Outreach (2015)

In 2011, the Idle Free Ordinance was approved unanimously by the Salt Lake City Council. The ordinance prohibits unnecessary vehicle idling over two minutes within city limits on public property and private property that is open to the public. In 2015, the City secured a UCAIR grant to redesign the Idle Free City signs, update information on the [SLCgov.com/Idlefree](#) website, create new resources and partner with local businesses and schools to help spread the word about the ordinance and the benefits of being idle free. Through these renewed efforts, roughly 519,638 pounds of criteria air pollutants are eliminated annually.

# Sustainability Energy & Environment Program



## Energy

The Sustainability E&E Program implements and supports ways to save energy through efficiency and conservation while also leading renewable energy project development and policy. Current and ongoing projects:

- Leading an internal Energy Management Steering Committee to develop annual Comprehensive Energy Management Plans and track results to reduce overall energy consumption, along with associated costs and emissions, for all major City facilities.
- Promoting and facilitating development of renewable energy sources both on city facilities and in the community, including supporting policies at the state level that allow for reasonable access to the electric grid and fair compensation for clean energy.
- Encouraging financing for commercial energy projects through the use of City-supported mechanisms, including the Economic Development Loan Fund and Commercial PACE Financing. In collaboration with our Treasurer's Office, we are completing an internal process to handle PACE loans, and have a potential partner for a pilot project.
- Participating on the State's Clean Power Plan stakeholder group to ensure that renewable energy and energy efficiency in low income housing is included in the implementation plan.
- Participating in Design Review Committees for internal City projects to ensure compliance with existing energy ordinances and Executive Orders, including Net Zero construction, LEED requirements and other related Best Practices.
- Implementing a new employee engagement platform to encourage energy conservation behaviors within City facilities and build off the work of Salt Lake Climate Leaders.
- Through the [e2 Business Program](#), advising businesses on ways to increase efficiency and decrease environmental impact, through energy conservation, water conservation, and waste reduction and recycling.

## Achievements

### Project Skyline and the Mayor's Skyline Challenge

[Project Skyline](#) is a cornerstone initiative of the Sustainability Program designed to cut energy waste in commercial buildings citywide. Project Skyline aims to accelerate investment in energy efficiency and raise awareness of building energy performance. The Project kicked off in 2014 with the [Mayor's Skyline Challenge](#), a multi-year competition for building owners and operators. Participants are challenged to reduce air pollution and hit energy-saving targets by evaluating their building's energy use, setting goals and implementing projects. Twenty buildings participated in the first year of the challenge and the City recognized five leading participants at an awards ceremony in July 2015.

### Comprehensive Energy Management Plans

Sustainability leads a Steering Committee of Airport, Engineering, Public Services and Public Utilities staff charged with creating and implementing Comprehensive Energy Management Plans for their departments. These plans detail implementation pathways and document results of major energy efficiency and renewable energy efforts at the City.



### Municipal Renewable Energy Projects

The City has completed seven separate solar PV projects, along with a bio-digester that creates electricity for the water treatment plant. In total, these projects generate over seven million kilowatt-hours of electricity per year and reduce the City's carbon footprint by nearly 12 million pounds annually. During 2015-16, the City completed renewable energy feasibility studies for three separate departments. New renewable energy development associated with these studies, along with participation in emerging utility programs like Subscriber Solar, will boost the City's clean energy profile to over 10% of its municipal electricity needs by 2016 and closer to an internal target of 50% renewable electricity by 2020.



## Food

The Sustainability E&E Program promotes and facilitates local food production and access to healthy, nutritious food. Current and ongoing projects:

- Increasing access to healthy, local food for residents living in food deserts (areas of low access to supermarkets/outlets that sell fresh, nutritious foods). The City recently secured a [USDA grant](#) to add eight new points of sale through a mobile market and new farm stands in the Glendale/Poplar Grove area.
- Facilitating the [Food Policy Task Force \(FPTF\)](#) to advise on policies and programs that remove barriers to Salt Lake City residents accessing healthy local foods.
- Reducing food waste. The Sustainability Division is exploring resources that could help residents to make more sustainable consumption choices, as well as working with the FPTF to create programs that divert consumable and non-consumable food waste from the landfill.
- Establishing community gardens on City-owned properties and working with Wasatch Community Gardens to manage the gardens.
- Developing a [culinary incubator kitchen](#) that provides commercial kitchen space and business resources for farmers, and burgeoning food entrepreneurs to increase the availability and diversity of local food.
- SLC [FruitShare Program](#) harvests residential fruit trees and donates surplus fruit to local social service agencies that help distribute produce to residents experiencing food insecurity. To date the program has donated almost 80,000 pounds of fruit.
- Evaluating underutilized City properties for potential urban agriculture uses.
- Managing [Community Food Mapping tool](#) which helps residents determine how much food they can grow and where they should plant based on solar radiation.
- The [Dining with Discretion](#) campaign provides resources and a presentation to empower residents to make low carbon food choices. Dietary choices account for twenty five percent of Utah's household carbon footprint.

## Achievements

### Community Food Assessment

Salt Lake City completed a [Community Food Assessment \(CFA\)](#) in 2013 that evaluated the current state of Salt Lake City's food system, identifying barriers and opportunities to achieving a strong and resilient local food system. The report also identified 10 key priority areas that included 75 policy and program recommendations.

### Ordinance Revisions

Salt Lake City revised urban agriculture ordinances and zoning policies to allow more opportunities to grow and access healthy food. Revisions included a provision that allows community gardens to sell their produce on site to the public. The suite of ordinances also relaxed restrictions on backyard chickens and beekeeping.

### Community Garden Expansion

Since 2010, 27 additional community gardens have been established in Salt Lake City. In 2013, the [Green City Growers](#) program significantly expanded community garden opportunities for city residents by making City-owned/managed land available for community development, with four existing gardens to date and one currently under development.



# Sanitation Program

Sanitation Operations, 2010 West 500 South



The Sanitation Program is a component of the Refuse Fund and is the operational unit of the Sustainability Division. The Sanitation Program is responsible for effectively managing the City's residential waste stream while encouraging waste reduction and diverting recyclable and compostable materials to their highest and best use. Through a joint resolution signed in 2011, the City set a goal of Zero Waste by 2040 and a goal of diverting (recycle or compost) 70% of the waste stream by 2025. The program diverted 38.2% of the waste stream in 2014-15.

## Core Services

### Weekly Curbside Garbage, Recycling, and Compost Collection

Residents are offered a selection of curbside can sizes with variable fees in a "pay-as-you-throw" rate structure that encourages waste reduction and recycling. Additional garbage cans are available for a fee; additional recycling and compost cans are available at no extra cost.

### Glass Recycling

Through an agreement with Momentum Recycling, Salt Lake City offers residents the opportunity to recycle glass at 20 public drop-off stations or through an optional monthly curbside collection service. More than 4,000 residents participate in curbside collection.

### Neighborhood Cleanup

One time each year City residents are allowed to place large bulky items on the curb for collection. Green waste is collected separately from garbage and diverted to the compost operation at the Landfill. Approximately 6,500 mattresses are collected each year in the program, and in 2016 the City will divert them to a facility for recycling.

### Holiday Tree Collection

Sanitation encourages residents to place holiday trees in the compost can for regular collection, but large trees that do not fit the can are collected during a two week period each January and diverted to the compost operation at the landfill or are chipped for use in City parks.

### Education and Enforcement

Sanitation supports a five-member team that inspects cans at the curb to identify items that are not being properly diverted. The team makes person-to-person contact whenever possible to help residents learn to properly utilize their curbside cans. There are Spanish- and Tongan-speaking personnel available. Team members use bicycles, electric-assist bicycles, and battery powered scooters to inspect more than 5,000 recycling and compost cans each day. Daily data is compiled and used to target areas for outreach. Outreach efforts have resulted in a 90% clean recycling stream and a 97% clean compost stream.

# Sanitation Program continued

## Core Services, continued

### Permit Reviews: Special Events and Construction and Demolition Waste

All special events in the City are required to develop a waste management plan that includes recycling. Sanitation helps event planners create and implement the plans and provides garbage and recycling cans for a small fee. Signage is also provided. After the event, Sanitation compiles diversion data and works with planners to improve future events. Larger events, such as the Pride Festival and Salt Lake Arts Festival, have reduced their waste and increased their recycling significantly. Construction and demolition projects that exceed 1,000 square feet are required to submit waste recycling plans that show how they will recycle 50% of their waste to Sanitation for review. The process is done in coordination with the City building permits office.

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Additional services include:

- Coordinating the Master Recycler program ([www.slcmasterrecycler.com](http://www.slcmasterrecycler.com)), which educates and empowers community champions for recycling and waste diversion.
- Supporting recycling at work by City employees by offering tools, materials, and onsite consultation at offices and facilities
- Hosting four free [e-waste collection events](#) at locations around the City, in partnership with the Salt Lake County Health Department

## Achievements

### Zero Waste Plan

In 2011, the City Council passed a resolution to minimize the amount of waste sent to the landfill and maximize the amount of material recycled into the best and highest use. Goals were set to achieve 50% diversion by 2015, 70% diversion by 2025, and total diversion by 2040. The Zero-Waste Plan encompasses the City's past and future efforts to reduce and divert waste:

- Special events recycling in 2008
- Mandatory curbside compost collection in 2010
- Construction and demolition debris recycling in 2014
- Can downsizing campaign in 2015



Mattress recycling will be added in 2016, and currently there is an ordinance under consideration by the City Council which would require recycling services for businesses and multi-family complexes. The Sanitation Program would oversee the implementation and be responsible for enforcement. The Zero-Waste plan is in the process of being updated to address food and organics diversion.

### Waste Characterization Study

In 2012, the City completed a study of the City's waste stream to determine each component and identify near- and mid-term targets for increasing diversion from the Landfill. The study considered residential and commercial waste including recovered materials (recyclables and green waste), household hazardous waste, and construction waste. The study provides actionable data to guide future planning.

### Organics and Compost Study

In 2014, the City contracted with consultants to evaluate the Salt Lake Valley Landfill's composting operation to determine challenges, improvements, and the potential for introducing food waste composting. Sanitation is working with Salt Lake County and the Salt Lake Valley Landfill to improve the composting facility to accept food waste and provide a better end product. A high quality compost product can be used for local agriculture, to reduce erosion and save water, by parks and open space to improve the City's green infrastructure, and in community and backyard gardens.

### Sanitation Equipment Lifecycle Analysis

Sanitation recently conducted an in-depth lifecycle analysis of its 33 automated refuse trucks to determine optimal replacement schedules. The goal is to optimize utilization and return on investment while avoiding excess maintenance and maximizing salvage value. The analysis was performed with the City's Fleet Division. Sanitation is currently analyzing its entire fleet with a goal of right-sizing for efficiency and reducing emissions.



# Communications & Engagement



Salt Lake City Green (SLCgreen) is the external brand for Salt Lake City's Division of Sustainability and the Environment. Salt Lake City Green is a registered trademark of Salt Lake City Corporation. SLCgreen strives to be the leading voice in "all things green in SLC" – encouraging a robust dialogue about the importance of reducing our community impact on the environment to ensure our city is a vibrant, healthy and sustainable place to live, work and play.

## Communication Goals

SLCgreen's goals for its communications efforts:

1. Showcase Salt Lake City's leadership on climate action, renewable energy, energy efficiency, recycling and waste diversion, alternative transportation, air quality emissions reduction, creating a strong local food system and supporting businesses in sustainable upgrades.
2. Educate and empower residents on the small changes they can make in their daily lives to reduce their impact on the environment and have a positive impact on air quality, climate change - and often their pocketbooks.
3. Collaborate with other governments, non-profits and businesses to provide education to our residents on sustainability issues.

## Communications Activities

**Electronic engagement** (website, blog, social media and e-newsletter). See "Connect with SLCgreen" section for details.

**Media relations.** Traditional outreach to Salt Lake City's key media outlets via press releases, media events and targeted story pitches to local environmental reporters.

**Community events and tabling.** Every year, Salt Lake City Green attends 30-40 community events, with the bulk of events occurring from May-September. Events include a long standing booth at the Downtown Farmers Market and presence at the Live Green! Festival. During the 2015 outreach season, focus was placed on attending community events from each neighborhood in the city. Projected 2016 priority is attending even more multi-cultural events with customized materials.

**Door-to-door neighborhood engagement.** During 2015, SLCgreen piloted two door-to-door neighborhood campaigns.

**Curbside glass & downsizing.** In an effort to increase awareness of both the voluntary curbside glass recycling program and garbage can downsizing options (which reduces residents' refuse fees), SLCgreen partnered with Momentum Recycling to implement a neighborhood canvassing campaign. Canvassers knock on every door in target neighborhoods, answering questions and enrolling residents on the spot. Outreach resulted in 300 + new glass subscriptions and almost 400 new can downsizes. Plans to continue this program are underway.

**Can contamination & community research.** Sanitation identified a neighborhood that had high can contamination rates on Salt Lake City's west side in the Westpointe neighborhood. The goal of community engagement was to improve resident accuracy for placing materials in the curbside recycling and composting cans. Two focus groups were offered in English & Spanish and door-to-door surveying also took place to gauge resident knowledge about proper use of the waste diversion cans. Residents supplied a variety of ideas to engage with their community, and were very receptive to door-to-door education.

**Stakeholder list.** Salt Lake City Green also has an active stakeholder list that is tapped when support is needed for the SLCgreen department as a whole, or different issues that require immediate action.

## Current Communications Priorities

Current priority areas for SLCgreen communications efforts:

- Utilize strategic "communicating climate change" principles from [EcoAmerica](#) to incorporate climate change and climate action into SLCgreen engagement efforts, including Climate Week.
- Promote Salt Lake City's waste diversion programs, including curbside recycling, composting, glass and can downsizing, with an emphasis on underserved populations.
- Prioritize community events in geographically diverse areas of Salt Lake City.
- Enhance engagement efforts with underserved populations, specifically our Spanish language populations who reside on the west side of Salt Lake City, building on information collected from Westpointe pilot engagement program.
- Identify and develop champions from our existing contact lists, both stakeholder and green team.



## Facebook

[www.facebook.com/saltlakecitygreen](http://www.facebook.com/saltlakecitygreen)



## Twitter

[www.twitter.com/slcgreen](http://www.twitter.com/slcgreen)



## Instagram

[www.instagram.com/slcgreen](http://www.instagram.com/slcgreen)



## The Green Blog

[www.slcgreenblog.com](http://www.slcgreenblog.com)



## Green Team Email Newsletter

<http://eepurl.com/v6-wT>

SLCgreen e-newsletter is sent every Wednesday & highlights important news, events and updates



## Website

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## Stakeholder List

If your organization is interested in supporting our work through information sharing and other partnership opportunities, please email [SLCgreen@slcgov.com](mailto:SLCgreen@slcgov.com)