

Utah Quality Growth Commission

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Utah's Quality Growth Principles

State Leadership:

The state's role is to provide planning assistance, technical assistance, information and incentives for local governments to coordinate and cooperate in the management of growth.

Local Responsibility:

Local Governments are responsible for planning and land use decisions in their own jurisdictions in coordination and cooperation with other government entities.

Conservation Ethic:

The public sector, private sector and the individual should cooperate to protect and conserve water, air, critical lands, important agricultural lands and historical resources.

Economic Development:

The state shall promote a healthy statewide economy and quality of life that supports a broad spectrum of opportunity.

Efficient Infrastructure Development:

State and local governments and the private sector should cooperate to encourage development that promotes efficient use of infrastructure, water and energy resources.

Housing Opportunity:

Housing choices and housing affordability are quality of life priorities and state and local governments should cooperate with the private sector to encourage both.



Achieving

Quality Growth

Highlights From a Statewide Progress Report for Utah

Has Utah made any progress in its efforts to achieve quality growth? **You bet it has.**

Background:

Preserving quality of life is important to all Utahns. After a decade of unprecedented growth, many residents have asked "What progress has Utah made in its efforts to achieve quality growth?" And more specifically, "What progress has Utah made in the last four years?" Four years ago Governor Leavitt and the State Legislature enacted the Utah Quality Growth Act — the first statute in Utah explicitly addressing growth challenges. The Act created the Utah Quality Growth Commission whose mission over the last four years has been to foster quality growth in Utah. The Quality Growth Progress Report is the first attempt to describe the efforts of numerous entities, as well as the Quality Growth Commission, toward achieving Quality Growth.

The Context for the State's Quality Growth Progress:

Utah faced some real growth challenges since the Quality Growth Commission was created in 1999. The 2000 Census showed that Utah was the fourth fastest growing state in the nation from 1990 to 2000. Rapid growth has challenged our ability to keep our air and water clean, educate our children, and provide government services. Growth pressures will continue to challenge Utah. In the last decade Utah added approximately 510,000 people. In the next decade Utah will add an estimated 600,000. In the 90's, Utah's vibrant economy helped cushion these growth pressures, but Utah has recently faced the same economic challenges as the rest of the nation. Utah has benefited from the global exposure of successfully hosting the 2002 Olympic Winter Games. The success of the games is a direct result of good planning—just as Utah's future economic viability is linked to quality growth planning for our communities.

QUALITY GROWTH MILESTONES

- 138 communities in Utah have completed and adopted an affordable housing plan since 1998.

- During 2001 and 2002, Utahns saved an average of 90 megawatts per day on each of the Power Forward yellow alert days. There were no red alert days in these years.

- Utah conserved approximately 9 billion gallons of water over the summer of 2002 as part of the state's Slow the Flow campaign.

- Governor Leavitt has awarded 26 Quality Growth Awards through Envision Utah.

- 15 rural Utah communities have achieved "21st Century Community" designation through the 21st Century Community Program.

- The state's Smart Site program has created 500 jobs in rural Utah.

- Utah exchanged 106,000 acres of scattered state-owned trust lands for 120,000 acres of federally-owned lands that are suitable for residential, commercial, oil, gas and mineral development.

- The state completed its Intelligent Transportation System to help monitor and improve travel on Utah roadways. The system includes 233 traffic cameras that are used to save time, resources and lives as transportation and public safety officials manage transportation.

- State of Utah presented \$20 million to the Utah Transit Authority for the purchase of railroad rights-of-ways for commuter rail between Salt Lake and Ogden.

	<i>The Progress</i>		<i>Explanation</i>	<i>How We Know (Data from the last four years)</i>	<i>Next Steps</i>
	Our Communities Are Better Prepared	More Utah communities are prepared to avoid the costs and inefficiencies that come from the lack of planning and coordination.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More public officials have been trained on growth issues, making them better prepared to address the planning issues facing their communities. 2. More communities have received outside resources and technical assistance to help them plan for quality growth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Utah Local Governments Trust has trained over 1000 public officials and citizens at their Certified Community Planner seminars since 1999. • Envision Utah has trained approximately 1000 public officials at their Urban Planning Tool Box training sessions since 1999. • The Utah Rural Summit has gathered approximately 800 public officials since 1999 and discussed a variety of land use planning and economic development concepts relevant to rural Utah. • The Western Rural Development Center at Utah State University has trained approximately 150 public officials through their Rural By Design Tool Box and other quality growth related efforts in the last four years. • The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget has helped train approximately 30 local elected officials on public lands issues. • The Utah Quality Growth Commission has met with citizens and local elected officials for each county in the state to help create Utah's Quality Growth Principles. 	<p>Develop county planning tool box</p> <p>Make Planning tools more accessible and user-friendly</p>
	Our Transportation Options Are Improved	People living in and visiting the Greater Wasatch area have more transportation choices now than ever before. Utah has a world-class transportation system that makes our economy stronger and improves livability.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Centennial Highway Fund has reduced congestion and lowered transportation costs for businesses. 2. Improved public transit has alleviated stress on our roads and provided options for children, the elderly and those without a driver's license. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Utah Department of Transportation has completed 16 miles of I-15 reconstruction through the Salt Lake Valley. • 17.5 Miles of TRAX light rail has been completed. • Utah has acquired 175 miles of commuter rail corridor, stretching from Payson to Brigham City. • The Utah State Division of Parks and Recreation has helped numerous communities plan and build trails through trail building grants. The Division of Parks and Recreation has awarded to Utah local governments a total of \$500,000 for motorized trails and \$1.5 million for non-motorized trails over the last four years. • Salt Lake City has re-stripped 10 miles of roads to include bicycle lanes in the last four years. 	<p>Reconstruct I-15 through Utah and Davis counties</p> <p>Expand rail systems to Ogden, Draper, and West Valley</p> <p>Complete the Bonneville shoreline trail</p>
	Our Critical Lands Are Being Protected	Utah has protected lands critical for recreation, wildlife, air quality, water quality, agriculture, and other purposes. While Utah as a state has a good deal of open space, other lands with attributes critical to our quality of life need to be protected.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The state has completed land trades with the federal government that benefit our environment and our children's education. 2. Many entities have preserved critical lands or have completed critical lands plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state has completed two major land trades with federal land management agencies. These trades have given the state title to developable lands which will benefit the state's education trust fund while also protecting critical resources in sensitive areas. • The state's LeRay McAllister fund has helped preserve 30,000 acres of critical land throughout Utah over the last four years. • The Utah Quality Growth Commission has studied land ownership in Utah and passed operating procedures to ensure that land preserved through the McAllister Fund meets a compelling public interest. • Envision Utah has helped to protect the quality of life in the Greater Wasatch Area through the Davis County Shore Lands Plan. • Non-profit preservation groups such as The Nature Conservancy, Utah Open Lands, and the Trust for Public Land have preserved approximately 31,000 acres of sensitive lands in Utah. • Combined, the state of Utah's various agencies have preserved nearly 17,000 acres of critical lands in addition to projects that used McAllister Funding. • The Utah Quality Growth Commission has helped 34 Utah local governments prepare for growth through critical lands planning. 	<p>Complete more land trades with federal agencies</p> <p>Conserve habitat to keep species off the Endangered Species list</p> <p>Complete an open space plan for the Wasatch Front</p>
	Our State Is Leading the Way	Utah is addressing quality growth better now than it was four years ago, and doing it in a way that emphasizes local control and state leadership.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Utah has been recognized as a leader among states for its bottom-up approach to quality growth. 2. Several state agencies have made significant strides toward quality growth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Envision Utah received the American Planning Association's prestigious Daniel Burnham Award for their work to improve Utahns quality of life through grass-roots planning efforts. • The National Governor's Association (NGA) selected Utah as a leader in integrating quality growth and transportation planning. Of the six states selected by NGA, Utah is the only one effectively fostering locally controlled quality growth, rather than taking a top-down approach. • Governor Leavitt's 1000-Day Economic Plan includes "Enhancing Utah's Life Quality" as one of three strategies for improving Utah's economic viability. • The Utah Quality Growth Commission is developing an Quality Growth Communities Program to reward communities for implementing Quality Growth Principles. • The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget is working with the US Forest Service to help rural counties have more influence in public lands decisions. 	<p>Continue to measure our progress toward quality growth</p> <p>Launch a Quality Growth Communities Program to encourage local governments to implement the state's Quality Growth Principles</p>