

The “State” of Quality Growth Utah, 1999—2003

The Legislature asked the Quality Growth Commission to review progress *statewide* on accomplishing the purposes of the Quality Growth Act, and to report their findings to the Political Subdivisions Interim Committee by November 30 annually, beginning in 2002. The Commission interprets the statutory language broadly. The accomplishments of the Commission are only part of the story. Other entities have worked toward the same goals. Envision Utah, The Nature Conservancy, the regional Associations of Governments and other State agencies such as the Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture and Food, and the Department of Community and Economic Development.

In spite of the current economic slump, growth continues. In the 1990’s, Utah’s population grew 30% from 1.7 million to 2.2 million. Although the projection for the next decade is a slower increase, the state will increase by 19% adding 500,000 people. In 2002 some areas already experienced over 3% increase in population from 2000. (For a more information on Utah’s growth indicators, please refer to the full Legislative report).

Good planning has produced demonstrable results. For example:

- Land consumption has been slowed
- Public transportation opportunities have increased
- Water is being conserved
- Private property rights have been protected

However, there are some trends of concern:

- Housing prices should increase somewhat more than the historical long-term trend
- Traffic pressure on our roads will increase
- Utah’s per capita income is consistently lower than the U.S. average

Utah is among many states implementing quality growth reforms.

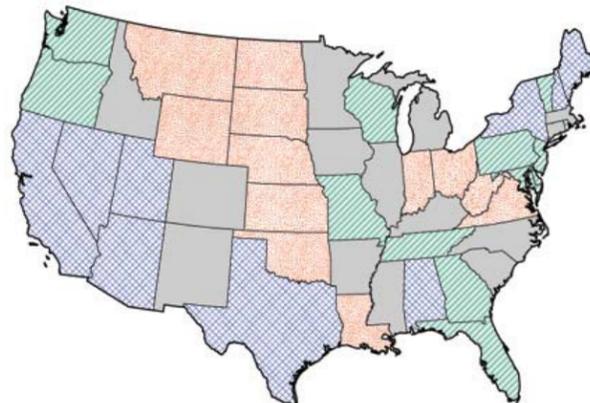
Teal (diagonal) = moderate to substantial reforms

Navy (cross hatch) = pursuing additional reforms

Dark Gray (solid) = pursuing first reforms

Dark Red (dots) = little or none

Source: American Planning Association



The full text of this report can be found at
<http://governor.utah.gov/Quality/Publications.htm>

*In order to address Utah’s growth-related issues, the Commission has developed the **Quality Growth Communities Program**.*

The Vision

A Quality Growth Community creates a responsible balance between the protection of natural resources - land, air, and water - and the requisite development of residential, commercial and industrial lands to accommodate our expanding economy and population.

The program integrates multiple housing choices with commercial areas while preserving critical lands. A Quality Growth Community recognizes the impact it has on neighboring communities and seeks cooperation between them to solve common problems while protecting private property rights. Quality Growth Communities also maximize the efficient use of infrastructure, natural resources, and public resources.

Purpose

The purpose of this initiative is to bring state funding for infrastructure improvements into alignment with the Quality Growth Principles that were adopted by the Quality Growth Commission. The program is based on the following concepts:

- Providing priority funding for communities that choose to be designated a “Quality Growth Community”.
- Give recognition to communities that plan for the future.
- Help local governments improve their services.
- Direct state infrastructure funds to participants.
- Encourage local governments to deliver services more effectively.

Benefits of Participation

Quality Growth Communities (Cities, Towns or Counties) who choose to participate in the voluntary certification receive several benefits. These include priority state funding, recognition, and technical assistance through qualified planners.

Certification Requirements

A Quality Growth Community or service provider will use public process (public hearings, workshops, commissions, etc) to write and adopt a Quality Growth Plan and implement ordinances addressing the following areas:

- Economic Development
- Infrastructure
- Housing
- Critical Lands Conservation



Quality Growth Commission

The Quality Growth Commission has thirteen members who are appointed by the Governor and approved by the Senate. Staff services for the Commission are provided by the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, and partially by local entities through the Utah Association of Counties and the Utah League of Cities and Towns. Though the Commission holds no regulatory authority, it does have responsibilities in three broad areas:

- Provide local governments with planning assistance, training, and incentives for implementation of quality growth principles and initiatives.
- Administer the LeRay McAllister Critical Land Conservation Fund.
- Recommend Principles of Quality Growth, how to define Quality Growth Areas, and advise the Legislature and Governor on growth management issues.

Quality Growth Principles

- **Local Responsibility** — *Local governments are responsible for planning and land use decisions in their own jurisdictions in coordination and cooperation with other government entities.*
- **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.*
- **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 and 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.*
- **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.*

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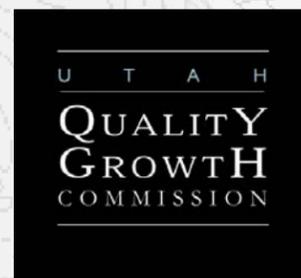
Real Estate
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Dee Allsop
Kathleen Clarke
Jerry Stevenson



five years of Quality Growth in Utah

*State of Quality Growth
Report to the 2004 Legislature*

1999

2000

2001

2002

2003



Summary Brochure

