Sustainable Water Solutions: Getting it Done
Salt Lake City Experience

Fostering Resilience: Leading on Sustainable Water Solutions
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Salt Lake City Water Responsibilities

- Public water supplier to 345,000 people
- Stormwater and sewer service to 185,000 people
Water Sources

**Sources of Water (average year)**

- Streams
- Groundwater
- Reservoirs

- Streams:
  - Little Cottonwood Creek
  - Big Cottonwood Creek
  - City Creek
  - Parley’s Creek

- Reservoirs:
  - Deer Creek
  - Mountain Dell/Little Dell

- Groundwater

35% Streams
55% Groundwater
10% Reservoirs
Salt Lake City Watershed Management Strategies

Land and Water Rights Acquisition

Water Quality Monitoring

Enforcement of Regulations

Public Watershed Education – “Keep It Pure”

Development Review

Partnerships and Collaboration
Climate Change Vulnerabilities

- Precipitation change or uncertainty
- Snowpack decrease
- Earlier runoff timing
- Decrease in water quantity
- Increase in water demand
- Water quality degradation
- Drought intensification
- Catastrophic fire
Climate Response — Adaptation

- Investment in natural resource stewardship
- Water demand management (conservation)
- Good land use planning
- Partnership building
Specific Climate Response—More Costly/Complex Adaptation

- Increase reservoir capacity
- Aquifer storage and recovery
- Find and develop new water sources
Climate Response—Mitigation

- Along with adaptation, serve as an example to address the root of the problem
- Renewable Energy Plan
- Energy Management Plan
- Energy-Water Nexus
LIVABILITY AGENDA

- The Resilient Economy
- Salt Lake City in Motion
- A Wise Energy Future & Quality Environment
- Innovation & Celebration of Education
- A Commitment to Equality & Opportunity
- Enhancing the Artistic & Cultural Life
Incorporates sustainability provisions into the City’s development codes (Zoning, Subdivision and Site Development Ordinances) that will contribute to making Salt Lake City one of the most sustainable communities in the country.
WATER CONSERVATION

Climate change, population growth, and the demand of new developments make water conservation a necessity—especially in an arid place such as Salt Lake City. Utah receives the least precipitation - only 13 inches! With 51% of domestic water consumption going toward landscape irrigation, changes are necessary and possible.

Reduced per capita water use by 14% over the past four years.
WWW.SLCGOV.COM/SLCGREEN

SUSTAINABILITY DASHBOARD

Sustainable Salt Lake Plan 2015 reflects a broad and ambitious agenda to establish a path toward greater resiliency and vitality for our community.

SUSTAINABLE SALT LAKE PLAN 2015

Engage
Let us know your priorities and ideas for the future of Salt Lake City.

Explore
Take a closer look at what we're doing to improve our community.

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Local and Place Based Collaborative Decisions

- Often there is more in common than we think between positions
- Growing realization that stakeholders with a lot at stake must work together or a lot could be lost. Winners and losers
- Numerous examples coming out of consensus and collaborative initiatives
Words Matter - Talking About Water Sustainability

- Communication may be our biggest challenge.

- Work around climate change may be instructive

- Look EcoAmerica [ecoamerica.org]:
  - Communities Climate Communications Guide coming early next year
  - Let’s Talk Climate series

- Local Context and Information Brings it Home
  - Example: History – Utah Tradition of Self Sufficiency

- Some words:
  - Best Place to Live for our Families
  - Clean Energy, Healthy Environment and Future, Good Stewards
  - Saves Money, Improves Bottom Line, Businesses Thrive
  - Build Stronger Communities
  - Don’t wait for Washington politicians
Thank You
Q&A

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