



ENVISION UTAH

HOW WE GROW MATTERS

Annual Report 2016

2016 HIGHLIGHTS:

Completion of Envision Layton
Provo Clean Air Toolkit completion and release
Get Healthy Utah statewide public health initiative
The Future of Education in Utah
Draft State Water Strategy
Completion of Utah County Agriculture Toolbox
Continued efforts of the Clean Air Action Team

Initiation of the Point of the Mountain Vision
Creating Quality Communities Project
Corporate Friends Breakfast, Keynote address by Dr. Denece Huftalin, SLCC
Common Good Awards Luncheon, Keynote address by Dr. Dana Suskind, 30 Million Words Initiative
Governor's Excellence in Energy Award
American Planning Association of Utah Achievement Award and Award of Merit

DEAR FRIENDS,

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Robert J Grow, President & CEO



ENVISION UTAH

Executive Summary 2016

ORGANIZATIONAL BLUEPRINT 2016:

Nineteen years ago, the Quality Growth Strategy set the national standard for community building. Envision Utah has always focused on bringing together Utahns, one community at a time, to shape the future of our state, and it has shared its success with regions around the country and the world. And always, the approach has been grassroots, market-driven, and based on the values of local residents. Last year marked the completion of a three-year effort to renew the growth strategy by bringing together 53,000 Utahns around the Your Utah, Your Future statewide vision. The results are now able to inform Envision Utah's work going forward to ensure our efforts have the largest and most meaningful impact possible. This past year has been an exciting and busy time for implementing the projects that came out of Your Utah, Your Future.

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Governor Herbert takes the stage for his remarks at the 2016 Common Good Awards

YOUR UTAH, YOUR FUTURE

In Review

SUMMARY

The Your Utah, Your Future (YUYF) vision is the culmination of more than two years of collaborative efforts to help Utah residents envision our own future. More than 400 experts from across the state worked together to identify critical choices we have to face in 11 key areas. Most importantly, 53,000 Utahns participated in the process of creating a clear idea for the future we want, which included a landmark statewide public survey. The result is a shared vision that will keep Utah beautiful, prosperous, healthy, and neighborly for current and future generations.

This vision, created by Utahns, for Utahns, establishes a clear context, framework, and direction for policy decisions and actions to achieve the future Utahns want. Although government will play an important role, Utahns recognize that achieving the vision will also require a concerted, cooperative effort by individuals, families, businesses, and other organizations in the private sector. Utahns envision a future in which their state and their communities are:

Safe, secure, and resilient

Utahns envision communities that are safe, close-knit, secure, and family-friendly, where good people create a great environment to raise children and enjoy life. They see a diverse and strong economy that is less vulnerable to disruptions, along with homes, buildings, infrastructure, and communities that can withstand a disaster. They envision producing a significant amount of their own food and energy, so they are more self-sufficient and less reliant on places outside of Utah.

Prosperous

Utahns envision a prosperous economy and thriving communities. They see plentiful, diverse jobs with high wages, which, combined with a low cost of living, allow Utahns to provide for their families and achieve a high quality of life. They envision a resilient economy that is able to compete in local, national, and global markets. To maintain a strong economy, Utahns believe that every person should have access to a good education so they can successfully contribute to that economy.

Neighborly, fair, and caring

Utahns envision a society that provides good opportunities for everyone through high-quality education, a strong economy, and access to a variety of housing options in good, safe neighborhoods. They see a future where everyone is able to contribute to a better community.

Healthy, beautiful, and clean

Utahns envision a healthy future in which the air is clean year-round. They see a future with good access to nature and outdoor recreation so staying physically active is convenient and enjoyable. They envision themselves being good stewards of Utah's air, water, and ecosystems so that Utah stays beautiful and clean as we balance all our needs. They also want fresh, locally grown foods for themselves and their families.

ROADMAP FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The Your Utah, Your Future vision was broken down into 11 topics to pursue:

Jobs and Economy: Continue to diversify and grow our economy, build a strong workforce, and connect to economies around the country and world.

Air Quality: Significantly improve our air quality by decreasing our emissions from automobiles, homes and businesses, industries, and other sources.

Water: Supply sufficient, clean, and affordable water to families, communities, businesses, agriculture, wildlife, and recreation even as we grow, partly by significantly reducing how much water we use per person.

Education: Become one of the top ten states for educational performance by aggressively and consistently improving education through well-funded, highly leveraged, proven strategies.

Housing and Cost of Living: Maximize affordability by allowing a variety of housing types (single-family homes on a variety of lot sizes, townhomes, condominiums, apartments, etc.) in all communities and by making it convenient to drive less or travel without a car.

Energy: Use less energy per person and use diverse, clean energy supplies (both natural gas and renewable energy sources) that keep household and business costs affordable.

Agriculture: Increase our food self-sufficiency and the availability of healthy, locally grown food by preserving adequate land and water for agriculture and growing more crops that we can eat.

Disaster Resilience: Improve our resilience to catastrophic events (e.g., by strengthening our buildings and infrastructure to withstand a major earthquake) so that we minimize deaths, injuries, and damage and ensure our economy and way of life can return to normal quickly.

Public Lands: Manage public lands to create a balanced mosaic of recreation, tourism, habitats, and watersheds, energy self-sufficiency, grazing and farming, and mining.

Transportation and Communities: Improve travel convenience by building communities that bring destinations close to home and allow Utahns to drive shorter distances, take public transportation, bike, or walk.

Recreation: Expand parks, trails, campgrounds, picnic areas, natural areas, and other amenities to maintain Utahns' access to spectacular outdoor recreation and increase revenue from tourism.

IMPLEMENTATION CORNERSTONES

There are a four core strategies, or cornerstones, for implementing the vision of Utah's future. These cornerstones take advantage of synergistic opportunities across the 11 topic areas. These cornerstones are therefore robust strategies that improve the outcomes of multiple topics. By focusing our individual, business, and government efforts on the actions found in these four cornerstones, we can achieve Utahns' vision for the future.

The cornerstones developed from YUYF will act as the organizing principle behind implementation projects moving forward. The following projects represent in many ways the logical extension of their corresponding action team from the YUYF process. They are grouped according to the cornerstone they help fulfill.



CORNERSTONE ONE

A Network of Quality Communities

Our communities, cities, and towns are made up of places to live, places to shop, places to learn, places to play, places to work, and ways to travel between them all. Utah was settled with many small villages and towns widely scattered throughout Utah's valleys. Each town was centered around a main street or town center. Over time, as Utah has grown, many of those cities and towns have grown together, and their main streets and town centers have struggled to survive.

Restoring that fabric of neighborhood, village, town, and urban centers—and building a pattern of new centers as growth expands outward—will significantly improve the convenience of living in Utah as our population nearly doubles by 2050. Centers bring destinations closer to people, making it convenient to drive short distances, take public transportation, walk, or bike. This in turn improves air quality.

Building a network of quality communities that have these attributes is a robust strategy with significant benefits for almost every topic Utahns ranked as being important to our future: air quality, water, transportation, housing, cost of living, recreation, education, agriculture, health, disaster resilience, and jobs and economy. Specifically, benefits include:

- Better air quality, as people drive less
- Greater convenience of walking, biking, or taking public transportation
- Improved physical and mental health, as people are more active
- Reduced demand for water, as yards become smaller
- More agricultural land and water, as well as open space, as urban development becomes more compact
- More affordable housing in desirable neighborhoods for people of different incomes, abilities, and stages of life
- Decreased cost of living through less-expensive transportation options and the reduced need to own a car
- Better access for all Utahns to good schools, healthcare, recreation, healthy food, shopping, jobs, etc.
- Reduced concentrations of poverty, as Utah communities provide a range of housing choices
- Increased resilience to disaster, as development avoids hazardous areas
- Better recreational spaces close to where people live
- Healthier ecosystems and better stormwater management
- ...And many more!



POINT OF THE MOUNTAIN

This project entails working with stakeholders and the community to ensure that the Point of the Mountain region reaches its full potential as a high-tech center while maintaining a high quality of life for residents and employees.

In 2016, Envision Utah brought together over 100 stakeholders from Sandy to Lehi to begin talking about needs of the area. This group included high tech businesses, land owners, developers, brokers, cities, universities and continues to grow. This Point of the Mountain stakeholder group is designed to be as diverse as possible so that we can fully address all of the area's needs. The first stakeholder meeting was in January of 2016, and Envision Utah subsequently met with over 80 stakeholders individually to understand their hopes and concerns.

This project will shape future growth at the prison site and surrounding area in a way that maximizes community benefits through economic growth and a high quality of life. The process will engage stakeholders, residents, and market experts to understand what outcomes and strategies resonate with them. The vision will be based in market reality and on the values and desires of Utahns and will result in a strong vision and brand to maximize the benefits of a growing technology corridor from Sandy to Lehi.



CREATING QUALITY COMMUNITIES

2016 marked the first of this two year Creating Quality Communities project. Year one has included two key aspects. First, Envision Utah began working with cities and planning organizations along the Wasatch Front to update and renew the Wasatch Choice vision. The goal of this vision is to build additional buy-in from cities for a regional land use vision that is integrated with regional transportation plans. This vision will contain more land use detail—including a greater range of size of centers—than the Wasatch Choice for 2040 vision, and will also integrate land use and transportation, leading to the 2019 round of Regional Transportation Plan updates for Wasatch Front Regional Council, Mountainland Association of Governments, Utah Department of Transportation, and Utah Transit Authority. This means that these principles will be part of the documents used by planners all over the state. In 2016, we participated in small area meetings throughout most of the Wasatch Front to understand local needs and desires and to ensure that local stakeholders are part of the vision's creation.

This year we also convened numerous meetings with thought leaders to identify key barriers to quality communities and find ways to overcome these barriers. We invited a group of public and private stakeholders to participate in a series of meetings, which resulted in identification of the key barriers and the beginning of efforts to remove those barriers.

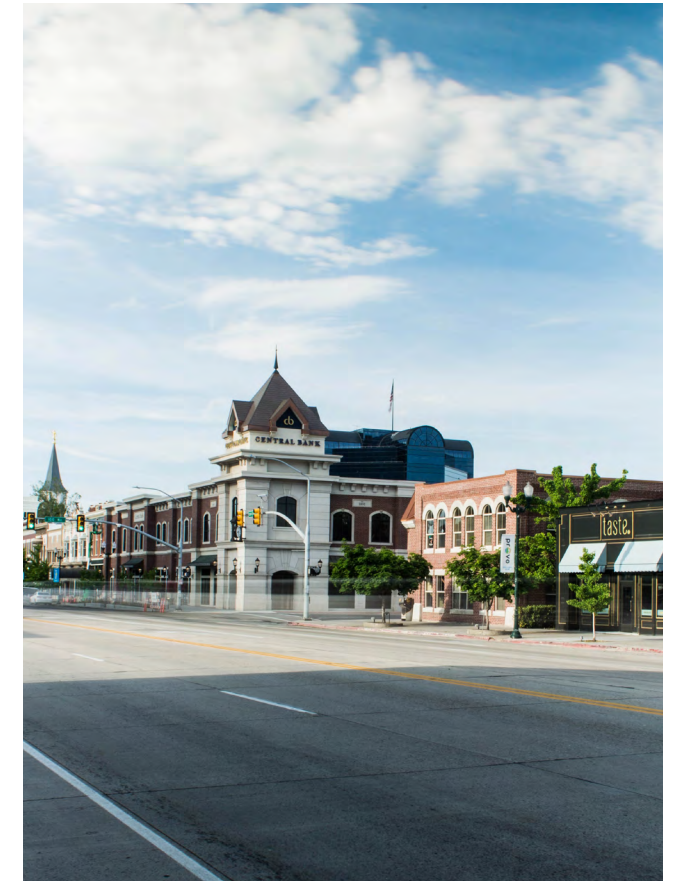
Moving forward in 2017, we are designing a series of courses to teach citizen planners, particularly city council members and planning commissions, not only how to implement centers, but also giving them concrete information on the direct benefits of centers principles for their communities. We will be partnering with USU to use their broadcast system to make these courses available throughout the state, and with Salt Lake County to provide trainings to each city and township in the county.



PROVO CLEAN AIR TOOLKIT

In 2014, Provo was awarded a grant by Utah Clean Air (UCAIR) to pursue a "Clean Air Toolkit". The toolkit's goal was to present local residents and businesses with a centralized list of strategies they could use to achieve cleaner air in Utah County, and to make clean air the common goal of Provo City's strategic planning and operations. Provo worked with Envision Utah and Alta Planning to develop this list. This effort has culminated in a website, which provides specific tools that residents, business owners, and civic leaders alike can implement in their homes and various roles in the community.

The Provo Clean Air Toolkit is primed and ready to launch. Envision Utah is working closely with partners in the Provo area to ensure that the toolkit reaches the maximum possible audience and that the pollution-reducing measures it contains will achieve widespread adoption. A public launch will occur in the winter of 2016.



CORNERSTONE TWO

Homes, Buildings, Landscaping, and Cars of the Future

While Implementation Cornerstone One deals with how our communities and urban areas are organized, this Cornerstone concerns the kinds of homes, buildings, landscaping, and vehicles that make up those communities. Technologies and efficiencies exist today, and are improving every year, that can reduce air pollution; save money; make our homes, buildings, and infrastructure more resilient to disasters; and conserve water. This cornerstone includes the following as basic building blocks of great communities:

- Energy-efficient and Low-emission Homes and Buildings
- Disaster Resilient Homes, Buildings, and Infrastructure
- Low-emission or Electric Vehicles
- Low-sulfur Fuels
- Water-wise Yards, Parks, and Commercial Landscaping

Making these improvements to our homes, buildings, vehicles, and landscaping is a robust strategy that will improve Utah's future for air quality, water, energy, cost of living, disaster resilience, and jobs and the economy. Specifically, benefits include:

- Lower air-polluting emissions from our homes and buildings
- Lower emissions from cleaner vehicles with cleaner fuels
- Less water demand for landscaping, freeing water for other priorities
- Less energy consumption
- Lower energy costs for families and businesses
- Increased resilience to disasters by ensuring fewer deaths, less property damage, and more habitable homes and buildings
- A stronger economy through lower costs, cleaner air, better water management, and greater disaster resilience



GET HEALTHY UTAH

Get Healthy Utah is working to establish an organization and a long-term process to improve Utahns' health, with particular focus on a few key behaviors that have the greatest health impacts: diet and exercise. The benefits of a healthier population are numerous, ranging from a longer and improved quality of life to reduced health care expenditures. It is anticipated that the process will include coordinating with all significant population health efforts in Utah, proliferating best practices for motivating citizens to improve their health, public education efforts, working with stakeholders to make healthy decisions more convenient and affordable, and adjusting systems to support healthier behaviors.

In 2016, Envision Utah worked with Get Healthy Utah to organize their stakeholder engagement, convene a stakeholder symposium, and generate three scenarios for the future health of Utah's population. We are now working to organize a study analyzing Utahns' values, priorities, and current understanding relating to healthy behaviors. This research will inform messaging and strategy going forward.



STATE WATER STRATEGY ADVISORY TEAM

Since 2013, Envision Utah has been facilitating the work of the State Water Strategy Advisory Team. Members of the State Water Strategy Advisory Team were selected by Governor Gary Herbert and Envision Utah to represent a spectrum of professional experience and political affiliations. The team consists of water managers, climatologists, university researchers, elected officials, environmental activists, and others who were convened by Envision Utah to examine the options, gather public input, and propose a 50-year water strategy for the state. From 2013 to 2015, the team met to identify Utahns' choices related to water, create scenarios for public input, and synthesize a vision for the future. The State Water Strategy Advisory Team was also tasked with developing a proposed 2060 State Water Strategy, which contains more detailed strategies than are included in this 2050 vision.

As of September 2016, the team's chairs completed the first full draft of its proposed water strategy recommendations. These strategies were rooted in careful public outreach and collaboration across sectors. This project is underway with a final draft to be submitted to the governor's office in the coming months.



CLEAN AIR ACTION TEAM

The Clean Air Action (CAAT) was the first team assembled to address any of the topics of YUYF. To create a vision for the future of air quality in Utah, a team of experts gathered over a two-year period to share knowledge and extensively research and discuss options for improvement. Members of the CAAT were selected by Governor Gary Herbert and Envision Utah to represent a spectrum of professional experience and political affiliations. Team members included healthcare professionals, legislators, business leaders, community leaders, and other experts from across the state. From 2013 to 2015, the action team met to identify Utahns' choices related to air quality, create scenarios for public input, and synthesize a vision for the future. The CAAT was also tasked with recommending immediate actions to improve air quality.

The results from this team have already begun bearing fruit. Just this past year, the legislature proposed a change to require ultra-low NOx water heaters in all new homes, the team has worked with refineries to convert more of Utah's fuel to low sulfur, "Tier 3" gasoline, and the largest homebuilder in the state—Ivory Homes—decided to make 6-inch studs and better insulation standard. These conversations and plans were both started and guided by the CAAT, and thanks to their continued efforts in 2016, Utah's air will be cleaner tomorrow than it was today.



CORNERSTONE THREE

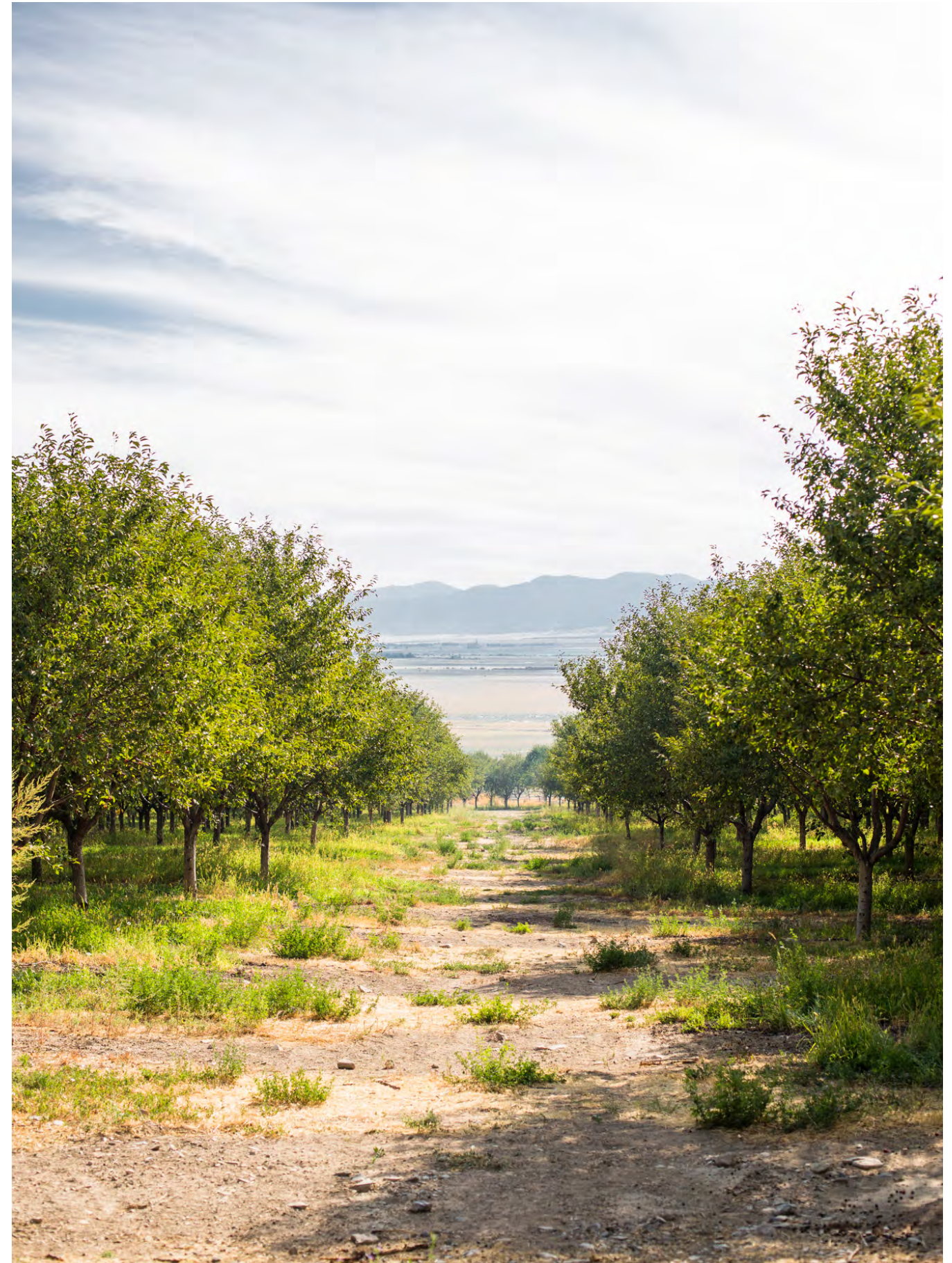
A Thriving Rural Utah

Rural communities in the state have their own opportunities and challenges, which vary from place to place. Though 90% of Utah consists of rural private and public lands, the vast majority of Utah's population, and the focus of much of Utah's prior strategic effort, is in the urbanized Wasatch Front and back. As Utah's population nearly doubles by 2050, however, we need to ensure that rural Utah thrives, while still maintaining its rural heritage. Utahns resoundingly support having a balance of uses for our public and private rural lands in order to foster thriving rural economies. The following elements are key to a thriving rural economy:

- Economic diversity
- Agriculture and food production
- Recreation and tourism
- Energy development and mining
- Watershed management
- Telecommunications systems

Increasing rural Utahns' access to high-capacity, fast Internet connections will improve the ability of rural communities to attract and retain new businesses and telecommuters and provide high-quality education to families. Supporting a thriving rural Utah by improving these elements is a robust strategy with significant benefits for jobs and the economy, water, agriculture, recreation, public lands, and education. Specifically, benefits include:

- A vibrant, diverse rural economy based on strong industries in agriculture, energy, mining, recreation and tourism, and other sectors
- Better educational opportunities by connecting students to more resources
- Improved ability for new generations to stay in rural Utah because a strong economy and quality of life will prevent them from having to move elsewhere
- Improved food self-sufficiency and access to healthy, locally grown food
- Increased water storage in aquifers
- Reduced flooding and a cleaner water supply
- Healthy ecosystems
- Preserved cultural heritage
- Good access to recreational areas and opportunities

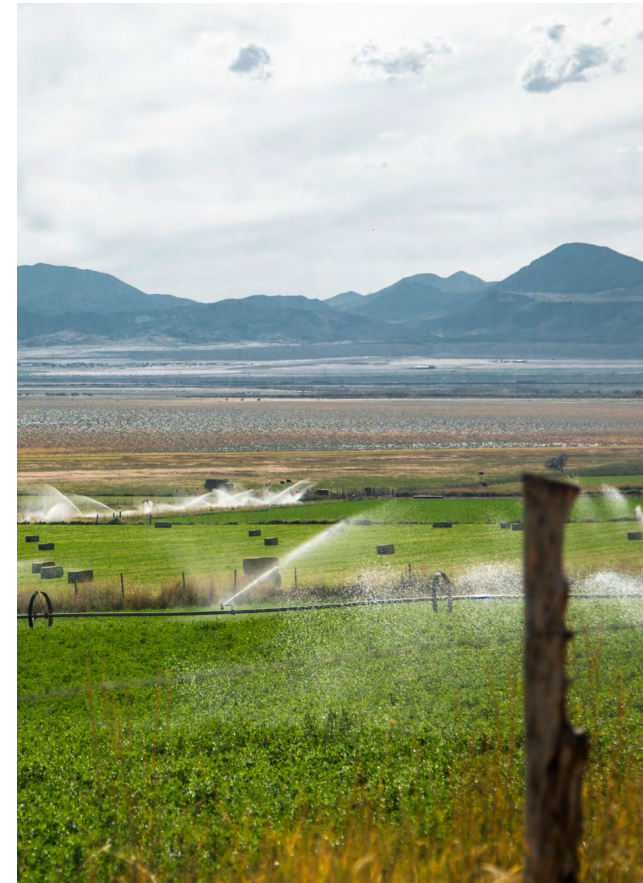


UTAH COUNTY AGRICULTURE TOOLKIT

Utahns envision feeding their families with healthy, high-quality food grown in Utah. They see an abundance of locally grown products as part of a healthy lifestyle that will improve the quality of life for them and future generations. Utahns also envision being more self-reliant and less dependent on other states and countries to provide their food. They also want a future in which Utah's food industry provides jobs across the state. Three in four Utahns believe that farming and ranching are critical to the state, but some of Utah's best agricultural lands face enormous pressure to be converted into housing, businesses, and communities.

Envision Utah's agriculture effort was a tremendous success demonstrating the collaborative power of bringing Utahns together. Lawmakers, regulators, farmers, nonprofit organizations, and others were joined together to create a path forward for preserving and strengthening agriculture in our state. This project began in April 2015 and culminated in a toolbox release event in the fall of 2016.

The Utah County Agriculture Toolbox was released in late September at Utah State University Extension's Farm Field Days in American Fork. Continuing into 2017, we are working on bringing these tools and strategies to other counties in Utah, with the goal of improving agriculture in the state now and into the future. The final strategy document is now available online and in print.



CORNERSTONE FOUR

People Prepared for the Future

Utahns believe everyone deserves an opportunity to receive a high-quality education that prepares them to participate in the workforce and in society and that maximizes their individual potential. To provide a good education to Utah's growing population, we need to do accomplish the following:

- Statewide Plan
- High-quality Educators
- Early Childhood Education
- Assessment and Assistance
- Participation and Collaboration
- Access to Opportunities Beyond High School
- Affordable Postsecondary Education

Fostering a highly educated population is a robust strategy with significant benefits for jobs and the economy, cost of living, health, communities, and other topics. Specifically, benefits include:

- A strong economy, with more jobs for everyone and higher tax revenue
- Increased abilities of Utahns to find good jobs, experience personal economic stability, and save money
- Greater likelihood that Utahns will vote and volunteer in their communities
- Reduction in crime and need for social services (food stamps, unemployment benefits, etc.)
- Improved chances for low-income children to break the cycle of poverty, as they complete school, find good jobs, and increase lifetime earnings
- Fewer health issues, such as diabetes, heart disease, and obesity




THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION IN UTAH

Since 2013, Envision Utah has been facilitating the work of the State Water Strategy Advisory Team. Members of the State Water Strategy Advisory Team were selected by Governor Gary Herbert and Envision Utah to represent a spectrum of professional experience and political affiliations. The team consists of water managers, climatologists, university researchers, elected officials, environmental activists, and others who were convened by Envision Utah to examine the options, gather public input, and propose a 50-year water strategy for the state. From 2013 to 2015, the team met to identify Utahns' choices related to water, create scenarios for public input, and synthesize a vision for the future. The State Water Strategy Advisory Team was also tasked with developing a proposed 2060 State Water Strategy, which contains more detailed strategies than are included in this 2050 vision.

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My education, Our future

 My Education Story

[About Us](#)

Education as a transformation tool for Utahns

Talk to your
baby

Preschool

Teachers

Access &
Equality

Post
Secondary
Education

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In addition to the projects represented by our cornerstones, Envision Utah has been busy engaging with the public and with our stakeholders throughout the year. Envision Utah has gained national acclaim for its tried-and-true process for outreach and engagement, scenario development, values research, and ultimately community visioning. The Envision Utah team is also always working with numerous existing stakeholders to maintain strong relationships for years to come. The following represent the highlights of those efforts, which include many other regional and national speaking engagements and conferences.



LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

February 2, 2016

This year's legislative breakfast took place on February 2nd at the open of the 2016 Legislative Session. Envision Utah presented the major tenets of the YUYF vision for 2050, addressed the state's lawmakers on the core strategies needed to achieve that vision, and spoke to the broad public support of these initiatives. Many in the legislature were participants in drafting the vision, and were able to act as supportive witnesses to the collaborative approach of the Envision Utah process.



CORPORATE FRIENDS BREAKFAST

April 28, 2016

In April, we held our 17th annual Corporate Friends Breakfast. This event allows us to spread information about our work to businesses and other organizations, and thank them for their partnership and support. This year's keynote speaker was Dr. Deneece G. Huftalin, president of Salt Lake Community College. She spoke to over 300 guests on the economics of college access and its role in developing the workforce of the future. This helped spark conversations about education and served as a foundation for the public launch of our education effort later in the year.



WASATCH CHOICE 2050 CONSORTIUM

June 29, 2016

The Wasatch Choice 2050 Consortium focused on updating and building on the 2040 vision for how transportation, land use, and economic development can be shaped to improve the quality of life for residents along the Wasatch front. The Consortium was combined with Utah's Active Transportation and Health Summit to highlight the importance of building vibrant communities that promote active living. Envision Utah led a plenary session to address how we can create the kind of communities Utahns envisioned in their responses to the Your Utah, Your Future survey.



OMAHA METROPOLITAN AREA
PLANNING AGENCY (MAPA) TOUR

October 20–21, 2016

From October 20–21, Envision Utah helped develop and lead a tour of Salt Lake City to visitors from the Omaha region. Members of this group included foundations, consultants, developers, elected officials, public sector employees, economic development groups, and planners. The purpose of their trip was to learn about our region and take back lessons on how they can improve conditions back home. Their metro recently received a TIGER grant to develop a bus rapid-transit system in their city, and wanted to understand how Salt Lake was successful in building transit and transit oriented development.



COMMON GOOD AWARDS

October 27, 2016

On October 27, Envision Utah held the 2016 annual Common Good Awards. This year, awards for advancing the 'common good' went to organizations who exemplify excellence in education. This year's event was sold out and had record attendance. We were pleased to have a very diverse audience allowing us to reach as many people in the community as possible.

Our keynote speaker and founder of the 30 Million Words Initiative®, Dr. Dana Suskind, presented her research on how interacting with children builds their brain to set them up to a path of future success. She was introduced by University of Utah's Senior VP of Academic Affairs, Dr. Ruth Watkins.

The Common Good Awards were presented by Hope Eccles, steering committee co-chair for Envision Utah's education effort. The awards went to Latinos in Action, Robert & Katharine Garff's Success in Education Foundation, and Goldman Sachs' impact investing initiative, Pay for Success. Governor Gary Herbert presented remarks about Utah's potential to become a nationwide leader in education.

The event also served as a kickoff celebration for Envision Utah's Future of Education in Utah initiative and helped to spread the word about what this effort plans to achieve.



AWARDS


Awarded to Envision Utah in 2016



EXCELLENCE IN ENERGY AWARD

Utah Office of Energy Development


Awarded at the 2016 Governor's Energy Development Summit in recognition for Envision Utah's work to develop a consensus-based vision for energy production and consumption in the state.



ACHIEVEMENT AWARD – SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF YOUR UTAH, YOUR FUTURE

APA of Utah


The Utah APA's highest award. Awarded to Envision Utah by the Utah Chapter of the APA in recognition for the broad stakeholder and public approach to the Your Utah, Your Future Vision.



AWARD OF MERIT – ENVISION LAYTON GENERAL PLAN

APA of Utah

Awarded by the Utah Chapter of the APA in recognition of the city vision developed for Layton and launched in 2016.



CONCLUSION

Thanksgiving 2016

Envision Utah credits its success and resolution to the great public/private partnerships forged over the last two decades.

We sincerely thank our supporters for believing in our mission of helping residents create communities that are rich in opportunity and defined by unparalleled quality of life. As Envision Utah continues to move forward, we are appreciative of the monumental community support for local nonprofit capacity building and excellence that is fundamental in maintaining the exemplary quality of life in this region now and for generations to come.

At Envision Utah, we are deeply grateful to all of our grantors, donors, and contributors for their friendship, guidance, and generosity.

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