CLIMATE FORWARD SLC

Existing Conditions Report

March 2026

SUSTAINABILITY DEPARTMENT

Climate Forward SLC

Executive Summary

About This Report

Salt Lake City is updating its climate strategy. The updated plan—Climate Forward SLC—will identify **key priorities to guide the City's work toward achieving its 2040 greenhouse gas reduction goal.**

Importantly, the update process is also guided by the City's desire to **ensure that all neighborhoods and communities** benefit as we work to clear our air, lower energy costs, conserve water, improve food security, support new mobility solutions, and create a more resilient, green urban environment.

The first step in updating the City's climate strategy is to assess current conditions and the **relevant social, economic, and environmental factors that impact, or are impacted by, our warming climate.** This includes identifying vulnerabilities and hazards, analyzing our current and past greenhouse gas emissions, and assessing the City policies and programs that impact climate action and adaptation.

The information in the Existing Conditions Report, and the many studies, plans, policies and initiatives that it references, are the **foundation for crafting strategies for Climate Forward SLC that deliver tangible results for all our residents.**

Community Profile

Salt Lake City is growing more rapidly than most places. We are becoming increasingly diverse.

- We need to ensure that our outreach and solutions are inclusive, accessible, and relevant.

Our geographic location—between the Great Salt Lake and Wasatch Range—is central to our identity and quality of life.

- Our geography also creates climate challenges such as wintertime air inversions, wildfire risks, urban heat island effect, and the pressing need for water conservation.

Housing, energy, and food affordability are critical issues that affect many of our residents.

- Many renters are paying more than half of their income for housing, and homeownership is unattainable for most.
- Commercial rents are also high, making business ownership difficult.
- Without careful attention, the impacts of climate change could further increase the cost of living. **Our climate solutions need to contribute to making living here more affordable.**

Industrial and commercial growth in the coming years will increase our energy and water needs.

- Industrial and commercial sectors already account for over 85% of building energy use. As our economy continues to grow, energy demand in these sectors will also grow.
- Industrial and commercial sectors account for 60% of indoor water use and 50% of outdoor water use in Salt Lake City's water system. Increased efforts in water conservation are key to avoid future water supply challenges.

The city's Westside neighborhoods have less access to healthy foods and less urban tree canopy, exacerbating other forms of disparities for residents who live there.

- The city's climate action work and related efforts need to address these disparities.

Climate Hazards and Vulnerability Assessment

Salt Lake City is uniquely vulnerable to climate change due to its distinctive geography, unique ecological systems, arid climate, and rapid urban growth.

Our primary climate challenges stem from rising temperatures, which are changing the precipitation patterns and overwhelming existing infrastructure.

- This shift is causing more intense and short-lived rainfall events, accelerated snowmelt, and increased spring runoff, leading to an increase in the risk of flooding.

Our region ranks among the top three metro areas in the nation for urban heat island intensity.

- The west side of the city is especially vulnerable to extreme heat, driven by an abundance of heat-absorbing surfaces and limited vegetation—factors that also contribute to increased flood risk.

Drought, increased evaporation, and agriculture are driving the shrinking of the Great Salt Lake.

- Drought weakens lake effect snow, which reduces snowpack in the mountains.
- The drying lakebed creates pollutant-loaded dust that is transported by winds to nearby communities.
- Most of the water loss in the Great Salt Lake is driven by agricultural diversions, which primarily occur outside the Salt Lake region.
- While most climate hazards are expected to affect both low-income and more affluent communities in Salt Lake City similarly, **low-income neighborhoods face heightened vulnerability** due to several compounding factors including socio-economic conditions, health disparities, pollution exposure, and inadequate infrastructure.

Air quality challenges due to ozone and particulate matter pollution are a continued and persistent problem in the city.

- Residents on the west side of the valley carry the worst burdens, in part due to proximity to emission sources such as highways, industry, the airport, and the exposed lakebeds of the Great Salt Lake.
- This issue hinders economic development by making our City less appealing to businesses, workers, and tourists - another key source of revenue for our region.

- Over the last two decades, air pollution along the Wasatch Front has steadily declined despite major population growth, due to effective policy actions and deployment of cleaner technologies.

Community GHG Inventory

The most common benchmark for community climate planning and goal setting is locally produced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Salt Lake City has been tracking its GHGs for over 15 years and has a goal to reduce emissions from a 2009 baseline by at least 50% by 2030 and 80% by 2040.

Community greenhouse gas emissions fell 11% from 2009 to 2024, driven primarily by a 30% drop in the carbon intensity of electricity generation as the electric grid shifted toward cleaner energy resources**.**

- **Per capita emissions declined 25% from 2009 to 2024,** illustrating that local economic and population growth have been partially decoupled from emissions.

Electricity remains the largest contributor to community GHGs at 40% in 2024, followed by natural gas in buildings (29%) and on-road transportation (22%).

Achieving the City's target of an 80% reduction in GHGs by 2040 will hinge on accelerated uptake of decarbonization solutions, including the continued shift to renewable energy sources for electricity generation coupled with the electrification of buildings and vehicles. Additional solutions such as land-use planning and transportation mode shifting will play a role along with improved energy efficiency in buildings.

Public Input

In the initial stages of the Climate Action Plan update, city staff conducted a robust community engagement process that included an online public survey (which received over 700 responses), over 200 intercept surveys, and a business engagement survey.

- City staff also attended over a dozen community events and engaged with attendees using a dot board and other interactive activities to share their perspectives.

Survey respondents are most concerned about drought and lack of water, air pollution and its impacts, and more wildfires and smoky days.

- Respondents ranked reducing air pollution, shifting to clean, renewable energy, and increasing trees and green space as their top priorities for city action and expressed the most interest in city actions that reduce climate pollution and that have multiple benefits.

A survey of **local businesses** was also conducted, with over 50 representatives from a wide range of industries and business sizes participating.

- The majority **indicated considerable concern around climate change's impact on their business.** The primary areas of concern were employee health and safety, supply chain disruptions, and property and infrastructure damage due to extreme weather.
- Nearly 80% of survey respondents reported that they have implemented, are currently pursuing, or are interested in adopting climate-related actions, but were limited due to lack of funding, competing business priorities, and staff capacity.

Policies, Programs, and Plans with Climate Reference

Salt Lake City has long prioritized policies and initiatives that protect and enhance the environment.

- The City's General Plan, *Plan Salt Lake* (adopted in 2015), established a citywide vision for growth, sustainability, and livability through 2040 and identified guiding principles to achieve this vision.
- **Climate Forward SLC aligns with many of the guiding principles of *Plan Salt Lake*, particularly Guiding Principle #5: Air Quality.**

The City has also adopted multiple plans and implemented many programs and initiatives that support climate priorities.

- **Utah Renewable Communities (URC), also known as the Community Clean Energy Program, is a critical effort** and essential to achieving the SLC's renewable energy and emission reduction goals.
- *Connect SLC* and *Housing SLC* include several strategies that reduce the climate impact of the transportation and buildings sectors. Several plans address green spaces and climate resiliency.

Climate Forward SLC will build upon this legacy and the adopted City policies, programs, and projects to help advance the City's climate priorities.

Table of Contents

Community Profile

Key Takeaways for Climate Forward SLC

Our geographic location defines us but also creates climate challenges such as wintertime air inversions, urban heat island effect, wildfire risks, and the pressing need for water conservation.

We are growing more rapidly than most places, making our economy and population more diverse and dynamic while requiring us to adjust and scale our solutions to meet changing needs.

We are becoming increasingly diverse. We need to ensure that our outreach and solutions are accessible, relevant, and able to serve people from many different backgrounds.

Housing, energy, and affordability are critical issues that are affecting many of our residents. Climate change's impacts could make matters worse without careful attention and coordinated action. Our climate solutions need to contribute to making living here more affordable.

Industrial and commercial growth will increase our energy needs. These sectors account for over 85% of building energy use (residential is about 15%). As our economy grows and adapts to the impacts of AI and digital transformation, energy demand in these sectors will also grow.

The city's Westside neighborhoods have less access to healthy foods, less access to green space, and less urban tree canopy, exacerbating other forms of disparities for residents who live there. The city's climate action work and related efforts need to address these disparities.

Geography

> *Our geographic location—between the Great Salt Lake and Wasatch Range—is central to our identity and quality of life.*

Salt Lake City (SLC) has a land area of nearly 111 square miles and a population of over 215,000 (2024 estimate). It is the capital of Utah and the largest city in the state, located in the Salt Lake Valley and defined geographically by the Wasatch Range to the east, the Oquirrh Mountains to the west, and the Great Salt Lake to the northwest. At the western edge of the Rocky Mountains, the city has an average elevation of just over 4,300 feet.

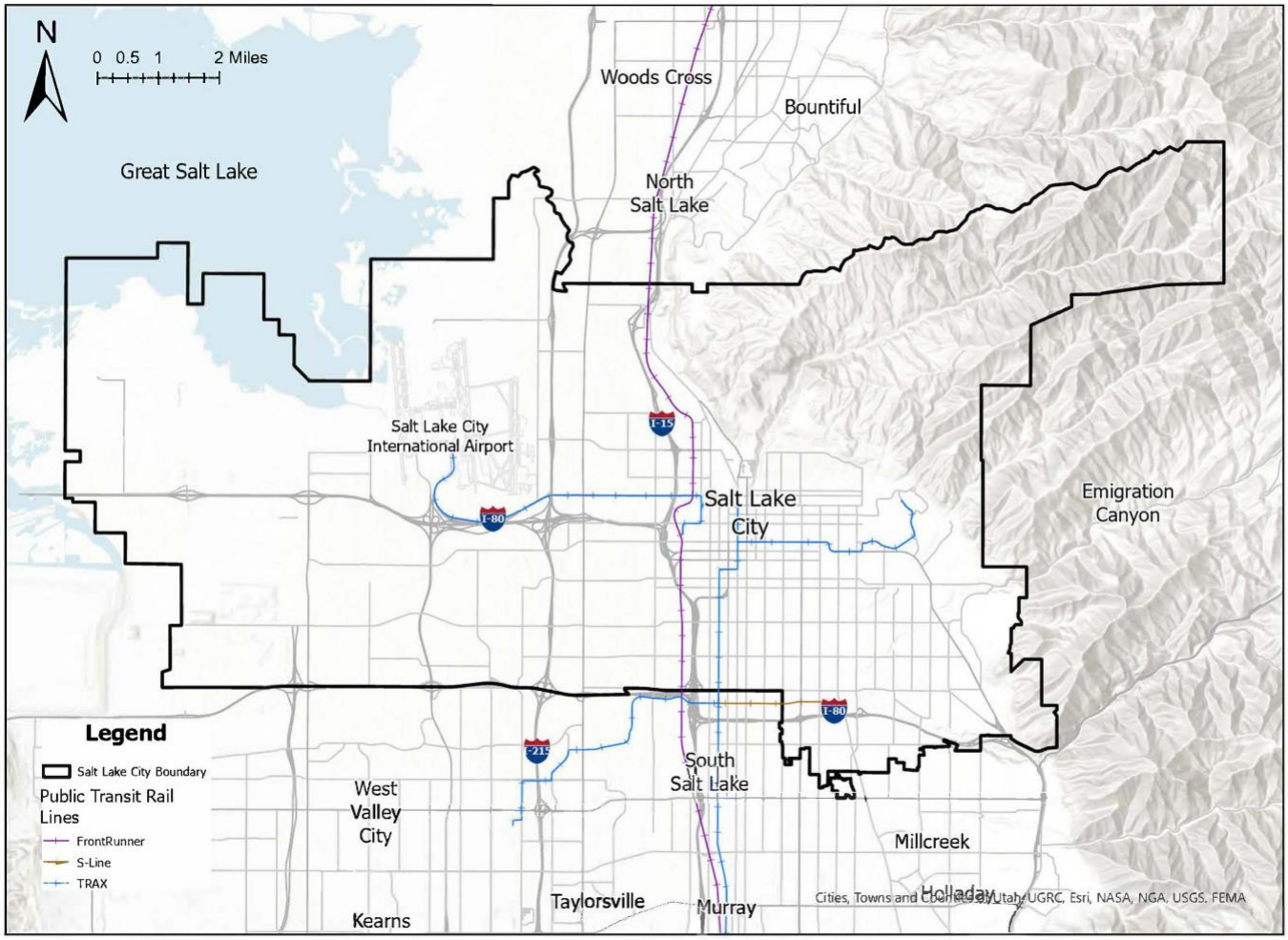


Figure 1. Map of Salt Lake City[1]

Population Growth

> *We are growing faster than most US cities and the rest of the region.*

SLC is one of the fastest growing cities in the US, growing 4.5% between 2019 and 2023. With over 215,000 residents, SLC is the largest city in the Wasatch Front, and the city continues to add more housing and more new residents than any other city in the region. Across the County, the population increased from 1 million in 2010 to 1.2 million in 2022. However, growth in the county is projected to slow in the coming years, with growth projected to drop to 0.7% annually between 2025 and 2065.[2]

Demographics

> *We are younger and more diverse than the rest of the state and will become increasingly diverse in the coming years. The state will become more diverse, too.*

Utah continues to diversify racially and ethnically, with the minority share of the population increasing over the past six consecutive decades.[3] State population projections from the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute at the University of Utah indicate that racial and ethnic diversification will continue to increase, with the Hispanic population increasing to one in five Utahns and the non-Hispanic White population decreasing to less than two of three Utahns by 2060.[4] SLC is more racially and ethnically diverse than the state. The Hispanic or Latino population is the largest minority population, representing 19.9% of the city's population. City Council Districts 1 and 2 have the highest shares of Hispanic or Latino population at 41% and 46%, respectively. Over half of the population of six tracts west of I-15 identify as Hispanic or Latino (W3, W6, W10m W11, W13).

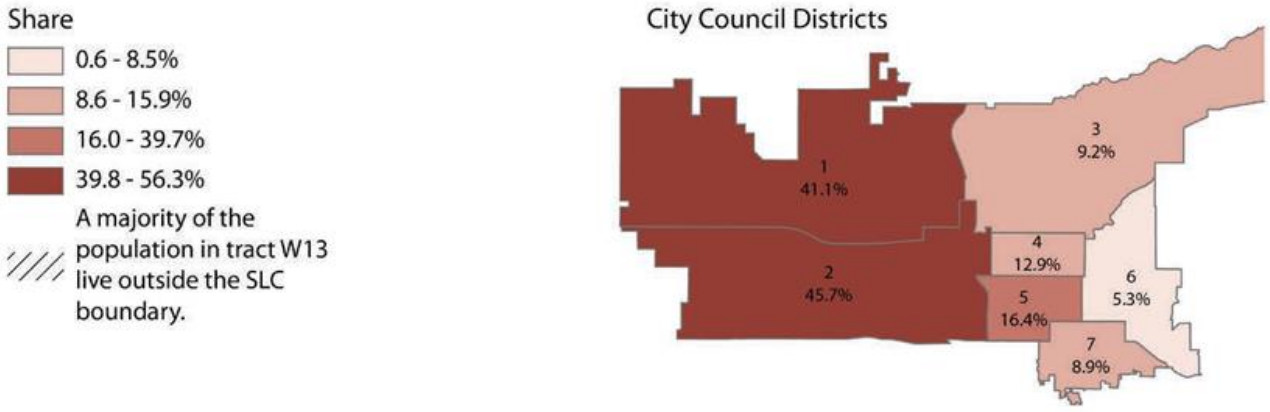


Figure 2. Hispanic and Latino Population in Council Districts and Census Tracts[5]

The second largest minority population is the Asian population, representing over 5% of residents. Additionally, 3% of residents are Black, 2% are Pacific Islander, 1% are Native American, and 5% report being two or more races. SLC has a foreign-born population of over 15%, and 83% of the foreign-born population speak a language other than English at home.[6]

	Salt Lake City	Council District 1	Council District 2	Council District 3	Council District 4	Council District 5	Council District 6	Council District 7
Non-Hispanic White	65.2%	36.1%	34.9%	78.1%	70.1%	72.7%	83.1%	82.2%
Hispanic or Latino	19.9%	41.1%	45.7%	9.2%	12.9%	16.4%	5.3%	8.9%
Non-Hispanic Black or African American	2.6%	3.5%	5.8%	2.0%	3.0%	2.0%	1.2%	1.1%
Non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native	0.6%	0.3%	1.9%	0.2%	1.1%	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%
Non-Hispanic Asian	5.3%	7.9%	4.1%	5.0%	6.7%	3.3%	5.6%	3.3%
Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	4.7%	5.2%	3.4%	5.5%	5.6%	4.7%	4.2%	3.9%

Table 1. Share of Population of City and City Council Districts by Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin[7]

In terms of racial segregation, a 2018 report by Apartment List shows that SLC is less segregated than most of the country, but that the city has failed to make significant progress in the past decade. As of 2018, the city had a segregation index score of 0.37, making it the seventh least segregated of the 50 largest metros. However, the report shows that since 2009 the metro has made zero progress in desegregating.[8]

As of 2022, the median age in SLC was 32.5, while it is 31.4 statewide.[9] Roughly 18% of city residents were children (5.2% under age 5, 12.8% between 5 and 17). In City Council Districts 1 and 2, youth under the age of 18 compose more than one-quarter of residents.

Projections from the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute indicate that statewide growth in the younger population will be increasingly more diverse compared to the older population. Over time, non-Hispanic Whites will be older, and other groups, especially multi-racial Utahns, younger. The projected non-Hispanic White population will comprise nearly three-fourths of growth for the retirement age population while among Utah preschool and school age populations, projections indicate almost half of the growth will be from individuals identifying as Hispanic or Latino.[10]

	Under 5	5 to 17	18 to 34	35-64	65+
Total	8.1%	21.7%	26.0%	33.4%	10.8%
Black or African American alone	8.8%	26.4%	32.7%	28.3%	3.9%
American Indian or Alaska Native alone	8.4%	21.5%	30.4%	33.6%	6.2%
Asian alone	5.0%	14.3%	33.7%	38.2%	8.8%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander alone	8.2%	22.3%	35.9%	28.2%	5.5%
Some other race alone	9.3%	25.4%	28.8%	33.2%	3.3%
Two or more races alone	15.7%	34.8%	28.4%	18.8%	2.3%
White, not Hispanic or Latino	7.5%	20.6%	25.0%	34.4%	12.5%
Hispanic or Latino	10.6%	26.9%	28.5%	29.8%	4.3%

Table 2. Race and Ethnicity by Age Groups in Utah, 2015-2019[11]

Housing

> *Housing affordability is a critical issue, including rents, home prices, and utility costs. Many renters are paying more than half of their income for housing, and homeownership is unattainable for most.*

SLC is a majority renter city (52%), and over half of renters are cost burdened, which means they spend more than 30% of their income on housing costs.[1213] In 2023, approximately 22% of renters spent over 50% of their income on rent, which is defined as extremely cost burdened.[14] Rent burdened households are distributed evenly across most tracts, showing that rent burden is a widespread issue.[15]

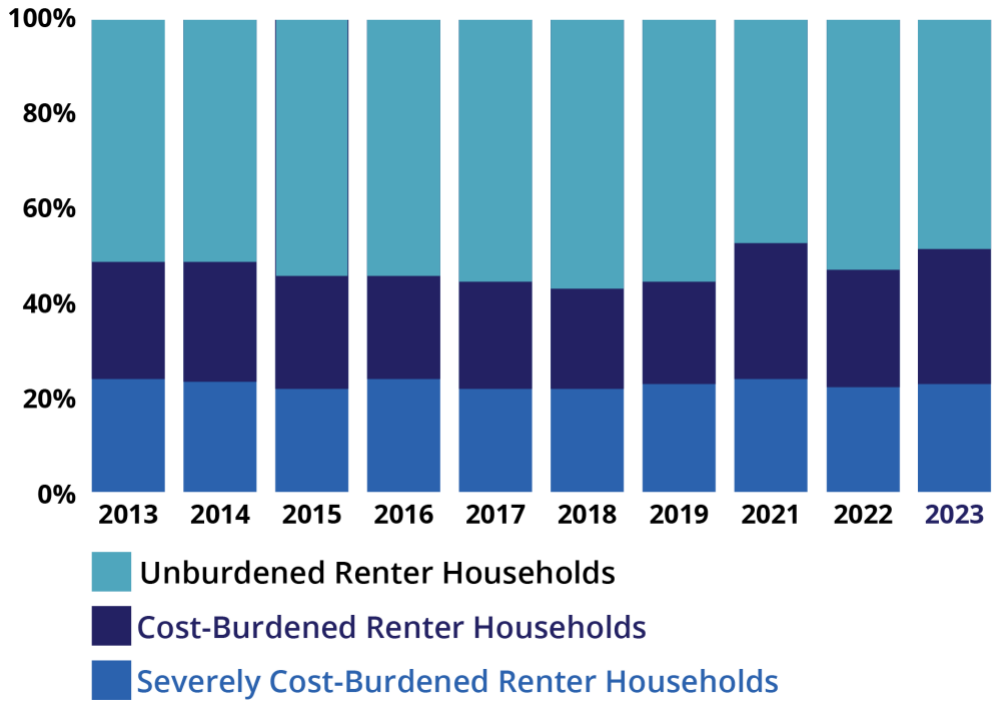


Figure 3. Salt Lake City Household Rent Burden[16]

From 2013 to 2023, median rent in Salt Lake City increased by 80%. The median gross rent in the city as of 2023 was $1,492.[17] According to Apartment List, the average utilities costs for a 915 sq ft apartment in SLC is $229.70 a month (including electricity, gas, water, and fuel costs).[18] According to the 2023 Housing SLC report, rental vacancy rates are low and home sale prices are unaffordable to most residents.[19] These factors all contribute to a high level of displacement risk, as documented in the City's 2023 Thriving in Place report.[20]

Displacement impacts affect everyone, but especially lower income families and people of color. More than half of all families with children live in displacement risk neighborhoods.[21] Across the city, the number of households with children is decreasing. From 2010 to 2020, the number of households with children dropped from about 1 in 4 to about 1 in 5.[22] Of all racial/ethnic groups, the Pacific Islander community has the largest share of its population living in tracts with displacement risk.

Homeownership is increasingly unattainable to most residents of Salt Lake City. As of spring 2022, 71 percent of Utah households were priced out of the median-priced home, shrinking the opportunity for homeownership.[23] With median home sale prices at $490,000 (2021), 72.6% of all Salt Lake City households and 86.4% of renter households are unable to afford the median priced home.[24]

Income

> *Our incomes are lower on average compared to the rest of the country and state, with White households having higher median incomes than other groups.*

The median household income in SLC is $77,186, which is below the national median of $83,730 and nearly $20,000 lower than the statewide median household income of $96,658. Over 14% of the population lives below the poverty line, and poverty rates are highest among those under age 18 (16.1%). It is important to note that the high student population skews this data, given that students often have low wages.[25]

Census data shows significant variation in income by race. White and Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander households have the highest median income (above $79,000 in 2023), and Asian households have the third highest median income. Latino households have median incomes of just over $61,000 in 2023 and Black households have median incomes of approximately $38,000.[26]

As of 2023, the median household income for renters is $54,000, half the $108,000 median household income of homeowners, highlighting the greater financial strain experienced by renter households.

Economy, Workforce, Commercial, and Industrial

> *Our local economy has been growing and becoming more diversified.*

Salt Lake City and Utah more broadly are home to thriving economies. In 2024, Utah's real gross domestic product (GDP) growth led the nation, reaching 4.5%, significantly higher than the nation's 2.8% growth. Additionally, Utah's nominal GDP surpassed $300 billion for the first time. From 2023 to 2024, statewide personal income grew 6.1%, ranking Utah 4th highest among states in terms of growth.[27] One in four jobs in Utah is located in SLC.[28]

The labor force participation rate in SLC is 69.4%. Of the workforce, nearly two thirds work for private companies (64.5%). Additionally, 16.9% work in local, state, or federal government, 10.1% are private not-for-profit wage and salary workers, and 4.9% are self-employed.

Salt Lake City's job growth and projections continue to be higher than national averages. The Salt Lake City economy of $120.6 billion, as measured by 2025 gross metro product, is forecasted to climb to $123.9 billion in 2026 and $128.2 billion in 2027.[29] SLC has a growing number of IT, finance, outdoor products, and manufacturing companies, and in 2017, Utah ranked #1 on Forbes' Best States for Business.[30]

Industry sectors with the largest workforces are educational services, health care, and social assistance (26%); professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services (14.0%); arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services (12.5%); and retail trade (12%). The most represented occupations are management, business, science and arts occupations (about 62,500 people); sales and office occupations (about 24,500 people); and service occupations (about 20,500 people).

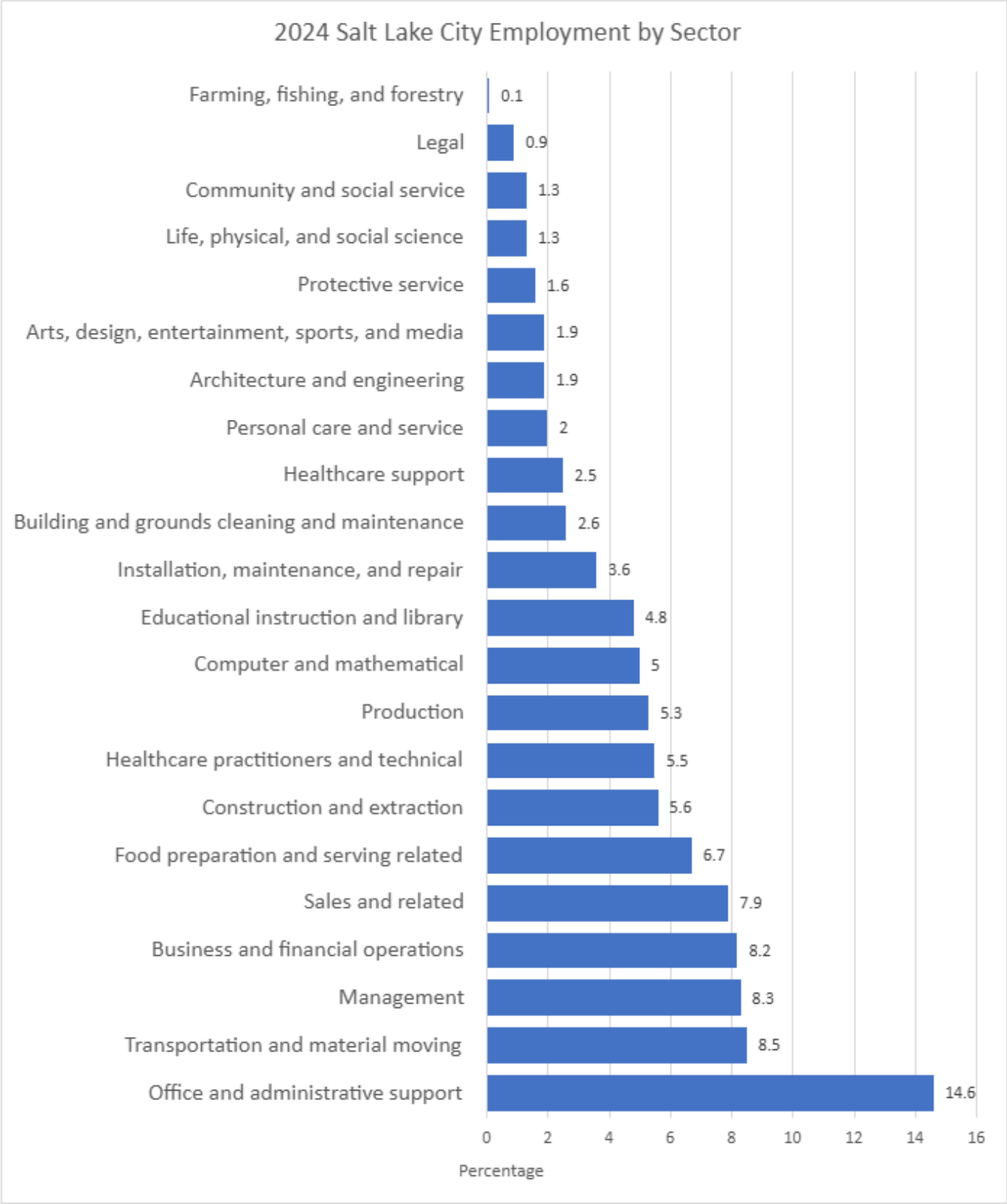


Figure 4. 2024 Employment by Sector[31]

While the commercial market currently has a surplus of space (25.2% of approximately 51,000,000 of space is reported as vacant), the industrial market has a vacancy rate of only 5.8% for 161,000,000 square feet (SF) of space and the retail market has a vacancy rate of only 2.6% for an inventory of over 40,000,000 SF.[32] As of Q4 of 2025, average rents across all office classes increased 0.9% year over year, reaching $26.12 per square foot per month.[33] Average rents across all industrial property types were at $0.81 per square foot per month, up slightly from the previous quarter.[34] High commercial rents are making business ownership difficult. Low vacancy rates in certain retail and industrial spaces combined with slowing development due to high interest rates and land costs will continue to drive up rent prices. [35]

Industrial and commercial growth in the coming years will increase our energy and water needs. Industrial and commercial sectors already account for over 85% of building energy use, and they are responsible for 60% of indoor water use and 50% of outdoor water use in the City's water system. As our economy continues to grow and adapts to the impacts of AI and digital transformation, energy and water demand in these sectors will also grow.

Commuting and Transportation

> *Over 250,000 people work within SLC, 83% of whom live outside the city limits and travel into SLC on a regular basis.*

People with low incomes often cannot afford to live near their workplaces and have longer commutes. The cost of getting to work increases as residents live further away from the central area of SLC.[36]

Residents use a variety of different forms of transportation to get to and from work. American Community Survey data from 2022 shows that the most common form of transportation was driving alone (55.2%). In addition to commuting alone, 12% carpool, 6% take public transit, 2.0% bike, 2.0% take a taxi, motorcycle or other means, and 17.5% work from home. According to the Connect SLC Plan, negative perceptions of public transit remain the largest barrier to transit use. Safety, convenience, and reliability of service need to be improved.[37]

At the state level, Utah has the third-highest rate of car ownership (over 96%), behind only Idaho and Wyoming. From 2018 to 2022, Utah had the fourth-highest increase in motor vehicle registrations (20.6%). Nearly one-third of Utah households own three or more vehicles.[38]

The City is working to improve access to transit and active transportation options and invests in several programs and infrastructure projects to build a transportation system that is safe and reliable for people walking, rolling, biking, and taking transit. For instance, the City has installed over 291 miles of bicycle lanes as of 2025. Additionally, programs like the 20 Mile Per Hour Local Streets Initiative and the citywide campaign of creating and improving crosswalks continue to make bicycle and pedestrian travel safer and less stressful. The City also works closely with Utah Transit Authority on service enhancements, capital upgrades, and transit pass programs.

Electric vehicle (EV) adoption in the city has risen from 0.7% in 2019 to 2.9% in 2025 (percent of all registered light-duty vehicles). EVs accounted for 7% of new vehicle sales in 2024, up from 1.3% in 2019. Used EV sales are also increasing and accounted for 2.8% of total used vehicle sales in 2025. Adoption of EVs is not evenly distributed, with adoption ranging from zero to 9% across SLC zip codes. SLC also has a well-established charging network with 451 publicly available Level 2 charging ports or plugs and 55 publicly available DC fast charger ports. As with EV adoption rates, the charging network is not evenly distributed, with many chargers concentrated in and around downtown and east of downtown to the University of Utah.[39]

The City's 2025 Community Electrified Transportation Study concluded that significant growth in charging infrastructure is needed to support future adoption scenarios. The Study also highlighted that advancing EV adoption, combined with mode shifting, is key to meeting the City's climate goals.

Food Security & Healthy Food Access

> *Food insecurity in Salt Lake City is higher than in the county, state, or country, with significant differences across demographic and geographic boundaries.*

According to SLC's 2022 Resident Food Access survey, about one in three SLC residents may be considered food insecure. Alarmingly, 29% of residents reported they had reduced or forgone food to pay for other household expenses at least once within the last year – an indicator of low food security. Further, 41% of residents were unable to access the kinds of food they prefer, particularly healthy foods. The populations most at risk of experiencing food insecurity in SLC are racial minorities, people with lower education attainment, renters, and people with disabilities.

Food insecurity in SLC is also geographically correlated. The persistent legacy of redlining and the resulting decades of disinvestment in some of SLC's neighborhoods manifests today as areas of Low Income and Low Access (LILA) by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). These areas were formerly referred to as "food deserts."[40] Residents living in LILA areas face economic, geographic, and transit-related barriers to accessing healthy food.[41] The share of residents reporting they have not had enough money to buy the food their household needs is highest in City Council Districts 2 and 4 (both 25%) and lowest in District 7 (13%) and District 6 (16%). District 6 data is likely impacted by the University of Utah student population, who experience higher average rates of food insecurity[42] despite living in a higher income area.

Cost is the primary barrier to accessing enough and the kinds of food people need due both to rising food prices and to increases in other essential expenses such as housing and healthcare. Accessing food in SLC is also highly dependent on transportation, especially access to a car. Neighborhood-level access to healthy and affordable foods consistently ranks among the top needs and desires expressed by SLC residents in city engagement and planning efforts.[43] Current research is assessing the spatial distribution of food retail (grocery stores, farmers markets, convenience stores), food production (community gardens, urban farms), and food assistance sites (food pantries, soup kitchens) to inform future planning efforts and food access initiatives.

Forestry and Green Space

> *Our urban forests and green spaces play a critical role in mitigating the effects of climate change, but access to these spaces is not evenly distributed across the community.*

Salt Lake City is home to 88 parks, 86,500 urban forest trees, six golf courses, and over 1,900 acres of natural landscapes.[44] [45] The 2019 Public Lands Needs Assessment found that the majority of city residents live within a ten-minute walk to green space but found some areas (markedly on the Westside) need more parks and/or more investment in park renewal.

The 2019 Needs Assessment also found that the downtown core is especially lacking in green space compared to the rest of the city. Most cities offer three times more green space to downtown residents than Salt Lake City. Near term investments like the

Downtown Beautification Initiative, Civic Center, and Fleet Block aim to create new green space downtown to better serve its growing population.

Urban forests play a key role in promoting public and environmental health and mitigating some effects of climate change. The SLC urban forest includes 260 species of trees that support biodiversity and improve air quality. As outlined in SLC's Urban Forest Action Plan, there is an uneven distribution of tree canopy across the city. Under current conditions, areas on the east side of the city have nearly twice the canopy as the those on the west side and about four times the canopy as downtown. Since wealthier communities have greater tree canopy, they also have greater access to the range of benefits of the urban forest, which include lower temperatures, reduced air pollution, and improved physical and mental health.

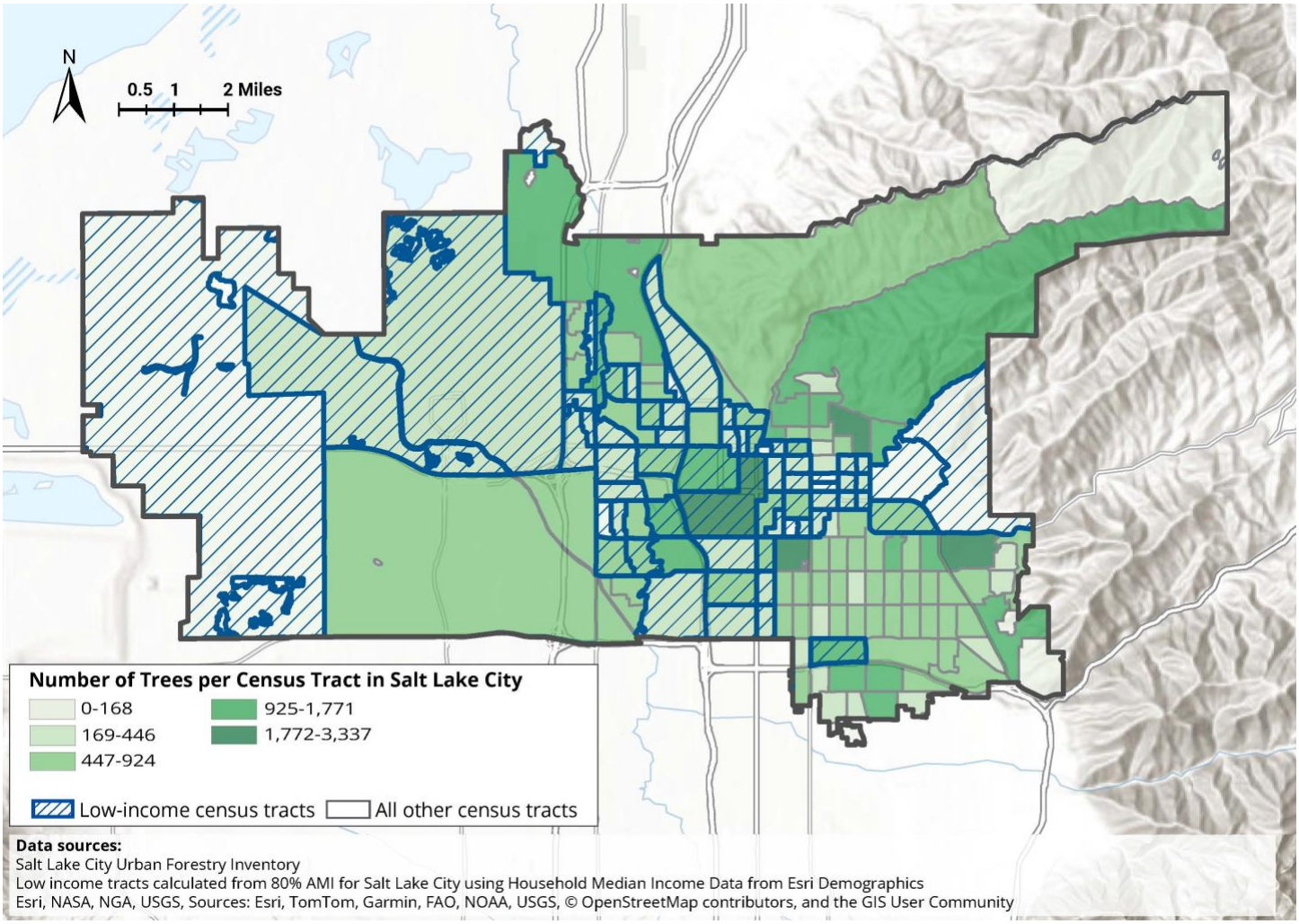


Figure 5. Redlining and the Urban Forest[46]

Urban Agriculture

> *Urban agriculture sites, such as community gardens and urban farms, serve as neighborhood green spaces while also helping improve healthy food access and environmental and community resilience.*

As of 2025, there are 159 urban agriculture spaces in Salt Lake City, including 97 yard-share sites, 47 community, school, and supportive housing gardens, four community orchards, nine urban farms, and two urban ranches. These sites occupy approximately 315 acres, with an additional estimated 1,250 acres zoned for agricultural use within the city's boundaries. Nearly 70,000 home gardens also exist throughout the city, representing 34% of residents who grow or raise some of their own food. According to the 2022 SLC Resident Food Access Survey, a majority (66%) of residents not currently growing their own food are interested in starting to do so, presenting an opportunity to expand local food production.

Urban agriculture initiatives offer a wide range of health, social, environmental, and economic benefits.[47] Notably, urban agriculture plays an important role in improving access to healthy and culturally relevant foods for both growers and the broader community. That's one reason the City has invested, since 2023, in the SLC Food Microgrant program, which makes grants to individuals ($250) and organizations (up to $5,000) to support local food production. More than 70% of SLC Food Microgrant recipients report sharing what they grow with family, neighbors, and local food assistance programs.

However, the relationship between urban agriculture and food access is complex.[48] Small-scale urban agriculture is often associated with high production costs, including land, equipment, and resources such as gas and water; as well as non-financial costs including time and physical labor. These challenges can make growing or buying locally grown food inaccessible to many people. Further, due to the higher costs associated with small-scale and urban food production compared to industrial agriculture, food sold from local farms may be more expensive and unaffordable for families with lower incomes.[49] Urban agriculture can also unintentionally increase land prices and contribute to displacement in low-income neighborhoods and communities of color, deepening existing disparities in land ownership and food access.[50] A majority of Salt Lake City's urban agriculture sites are located in historically redlined neighborhoods, with 75% situated in LILA areas, particularly on the city's Westside. While the relatively lower land costs and larger lot sizes in these areas can facilitate the development of urban agriculture sites, they do not always lead to improved food access for nearby residents. Local research shows that a significant portion of food produced on Westside farms is consumed by residents from the Eastside.[51]

Despite Salt Lake City's historical practices of planning around agricultural production[52] and broad community support for growing food locally, persistent challenges with land access, affordability, farmland loss, development pressure, and climate change present significant threats to the continuing viability of urban agriculture in SLC.

Water Use

> *Residential and commercial customers are the largest water users in Salt Lake City. Significant progress in water conservation has been made in the last two decades, but additional efforts are needed to accommodate future growth and support the Great Salt Lake.*

Salt Lake City's Department of Public Utilities provides all retail water service within SLC, as well as portions of other communities on the east side of the Salt Lake Valley. This includes portions of South Salt Lake, Millcreek, Holladay, Murray, Cottonwood Heights, and unincorporated Salt Lake County.

The customers within this service area include residential (single family, duplex, triplex, fourplex), commercial (business, hospital, hotel, restaurants, apartments), institutional (school, church, parks, government), and industrial.[53] As shown in Table 3, residential and commercial customers are the largest water users, with residential use accounting for nearly half of all outdoor use and a third of all indoor use. Commercial users account for half of indoor use and a third of the outdoor use.

User Type	Indoor Water Use (% of Total)	Outdoor Water Use (% of Total)
Residential	35%	48%
Commercial	50%	34%
Industrial	10%	2%
Institutional	5%	16%

Table 3. Current Water Use (2022-2024) by Customer Type[54]

Significant progress in system efficiencies and water conservation have been made in the last two decades. Between 2000 and 2024, water demand decreased by 23.5%. Per capita water demand in the system decreased from 285 gallons per day (GPD) in 2000 to 179 GPD

in 2024. Savings have been observed across all customers and in both indoor and outdoor water uses. Institutional customers have seen the largest reduction in total use, largely due to conservation efforts in parks, golf courses, and other open spaces.

Continued and increased conservation efforts are critical to meet future water demand. By 2060, customers will have to reduce water use by 18.7%. Without additional conservation efforts, water demand in Salt Lake City could exceed supply by 14% by 2060. The 2025 Water Conservation Plan proposes multiple conservation strategies to meet this goal.[55]

Even more ambitious conservation goals are needed to protect the Great Salt Lake. The 2025 Water Conservation Plan projects that by 2060 water use must be reduced by up to 24% to maintain and improve water levels of the Great Salt Lake.

The impacts of climate change on water demand and supply will be continuously monitored and assessed, and SLC's water conservation goals will have to be adjusted as needed to address these impacts. The climate-related risks to SLC's water supply are described in Climate Hazards and Vulnerability Assessment Chapter.

Climate Hazards & Vulnerability Assessment

Key Takeaways for Climate Forward SLC

Salt Lake City's climate risks are primarily driven by rising temperatures, which are increasing evaporation, dry spells, and wildfires, and fueling more intense short-lived rainfall events and elevated flood risk.

Our region ranks among the top three metropolitan areas in the nation for urban heat island intensity, posing serious risks to public health, infrastructure, natural ecosystems, and food systems.

As one of the fastest-growing cities in the U.S., Salt Lake City faces complex urban planning challenges. Our climate strategies will need to support growth and affordability while reducing climate pollution, increasing and enhancing green space, conserving water, and improving community resilience to heat, drought, and other climate impacts.

SLC's low-income communities are more vulnerable to climate hazards and related health impacts due to socio-economic conditions, geography, pollution exposure, and inadequate infrastructure. These factors must be addressed in climate planning and resilience efforts.

Climate Hazards

SLC is uniquely vulnerable to climate change due to its distinctive geography, unique ecological systems, arid climate, and rapid urban growth. The city is nestled in a mountain valley between the Wasatch and Oquirrh ranges and adjacent to the Great Salt Lake—the largest saltwater lake in the Western Hemisphere and a critical habitat along the Pacific Flyway for migratory birds. As a semi-arid area with hot, dry summers and limited precipitation outside of winter snowfall, SLC is especially prone to drought and to high water demand for landscaping. Due to its location within a mountain basin, pollutants and dust often become trapped in the valley. Dust comes from neighboring deserts and exposed playas of dried lakebeds, including the Great Salt Lake..

The city's land cover—dominated by impervious, heat-absorbing surfaces like concrete and asphalt and lacking sufficient vegetation—intensifies the urban heat island effect and increases flood risk due to reduced natural water absorption. As one of the fastest-growing cities in the U.S., driven by strong economic activity, Salt Lake City faces mounting pressure on its limited water resources, rising energy demands, and expanding urban development. This rapid growth leads to habitat loss, increased pollution, and infrastructure expansion, all of which compound the region's exposure and sensitivity to climate-related hazards.

Analysis done for the 2019 Salt Lake County Hazard Mitigation Plan[56] examined different climate hazards affecting Salt Lake City, their likelihood of occurrence based on past events and their potential impacts on population, properties, and the economy. In Salt Lake City, the plan identified the most probable climate hazards as severe weather, including extreme heat and severe winter weather, followed by flooding, wildfire, and drought. However, when considering potential impacts, flooding and wildfire posed the greatest threats. The following sections explore the major climate hazards currently affecting Salt Lake City, assess their future likelihood, and examine their potential impacts along with key community considerations.

Extreme Heat & Urban Heat Island Effect

CURRENT CONDITIONS

SLC is getting significantly warmer (Figure 6),[57] with recent years bringing record-breaking temperatures.[58] Average summer temperatures are now 3.9°F higher than the 1895 average[59]. Over the last thirty years, the number of days with temperatures exceeding 90°F has risen from 13 to 32.[60] Heat waves—prolonged periods of unusually high temperatures—are also becoming longer, with the likelihood of a heat wave lasting more than three days increasing from 17% thirty years ago to 57% today.[61]

The city ranks among the top three U.S. metropolitan areas—alongside Miami and Louisville—for urban heat island (UHI) intensity,[62] a phenomenon where urban areas are significantly warmer than surrounding rural regions due to human-made surfaces and infrastructure. Important contributing factors include dark, heat-absorbing materials, and limited vegetation.[63] Salt Lake City is particularly vulnerable to heat due to its high percentage of impervious surfaces like concrete and asphalt, combined with low vegetation cover, resulting in reduced natural cooling and placing the city in the 98th percentile nationally for UHI risk.[64]

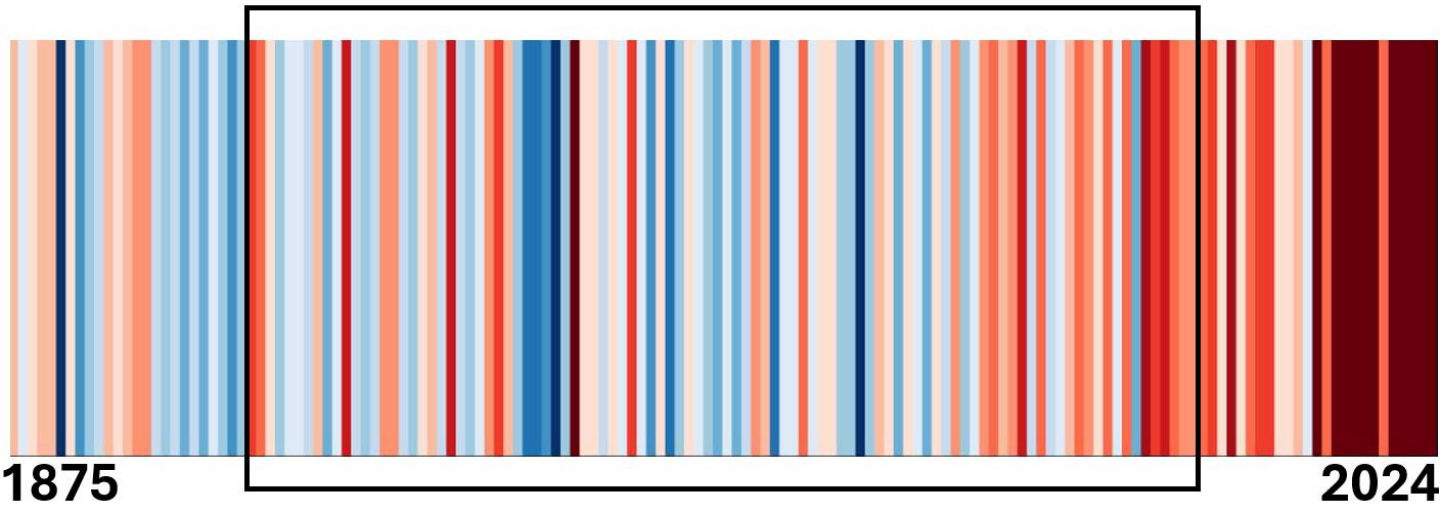


Figure 6. Salt Lake City's Warming Climate. SLC's annual average temperature increases (red shades) or decreases (blue shades) relative to the 1901–2000 average (highlighted in the black box)[65]

IMPACTS

Rising temperatures in Utah are disrupting water systems and ecosystems, particularly through shifting winter precipitation from snow to rain—reducing snowpack[66]— and contributing to earlier snowmelt. Although the winters of 2022-23 and 2023-24 brought above-average snowfall, long-term trends show a decline in snowpack,[67] threatening water supplies and seasonal cycles. Early snowmelt limits summer water availability, affecting native plants, wildlife migration, and hibernation patterns. Alpine habitats may shrink as tree species shift upslope, while warmer streams endanger cold-water fish like the native cutthroat trout and contribute to harmful algal blooms like those seen in the Jordan river recently.[68] Forests are also increasingly vulnerable to pests such as bark beetles due to heat and drought stress.

Human health, infrastructure, and food systems are also being impacted. Rising temperatures increase the risk of heat-related illnesses, especially for outdoor workers, with 11 heat-related deaths reported in Salt Lake County between 2019 and 2024.[69] Extreme heat strains the power grid, raising the risk of outages due to increased air conditioning use.[70] Heat also worsens drought, wildfire risk, and air pollution, including smoke and ground-level ozone.[71,72] Warming trends and erratic weather reduce crop yields and quality, increase water demand, intensify pest and disease pressures, and raise production costs, compromising both local and nonlocal food production. Strains to infrastructure and the power grid can cause disruptions in food supply chains that lead to spoilage and waste, decreased availability, and increased prices, which may worsen food insecurity.

ECONOMIC COSTS

Heat waves pose serious threats to public health and the economy. Each summer, the U.S. spends an estimated $1 billion on heat-related healthcare expenses.[73] Infrastructure is also vulnerable, as most roads are not built to withstand extreme temperatures, leading to increased maintenance and replacement expenses.[74] In 2024, global income losses due to reduced labor capacity from extreme heat reached an estimated $1.09 trillion,[75] highlighting the growing economic toll of rising temperatures. Additionally, higher-than-average temperatures during the 2017–2018 season led to a 26% drop in snowfall across the Rocky Mountain region, resulting in a 9.6% decline in Utah ski visits and a $109 million decrease in ski and snowboard spending.[76] As warming trends continue, similar impacts on winter recreation and tourism are likely to reoccur.

PROJECTIONS

Projections estimate that Salt Lake City will see around 53 days per year with temperatures exceeding 90°F in the 2035-2064 period—nearly double the average from 1976 to 2005.[77] These high temperatures pose significant health risks, especially for vulnerable populations.[78] Salt Lake City is expected to rank above the 85th percentile nationally for vulnerability to extreme daily maximum and yearly average temperatures by 2050.[79]

COMMUNITY CONSIDERATIONS

Rising temperatures in Salt Lake City are not affecting all residents equally. Low-income communities—especially those on the city's Westside—are disproportionately exposed to extreme heat (Figure 7). As of 2024, 57% of low-income census tracts experience above-average temperatures, compared to 41% of non-low-income tracts.[80] These disparities are tied to environmental conditions: low-income neighborhoods have less tree cover compared to more affluent communities (18% vs. 25%[81]) and also have more impervious surfaces (Table 4),[82] which trap heat and contribute to higher local temperatures and ozone levels.

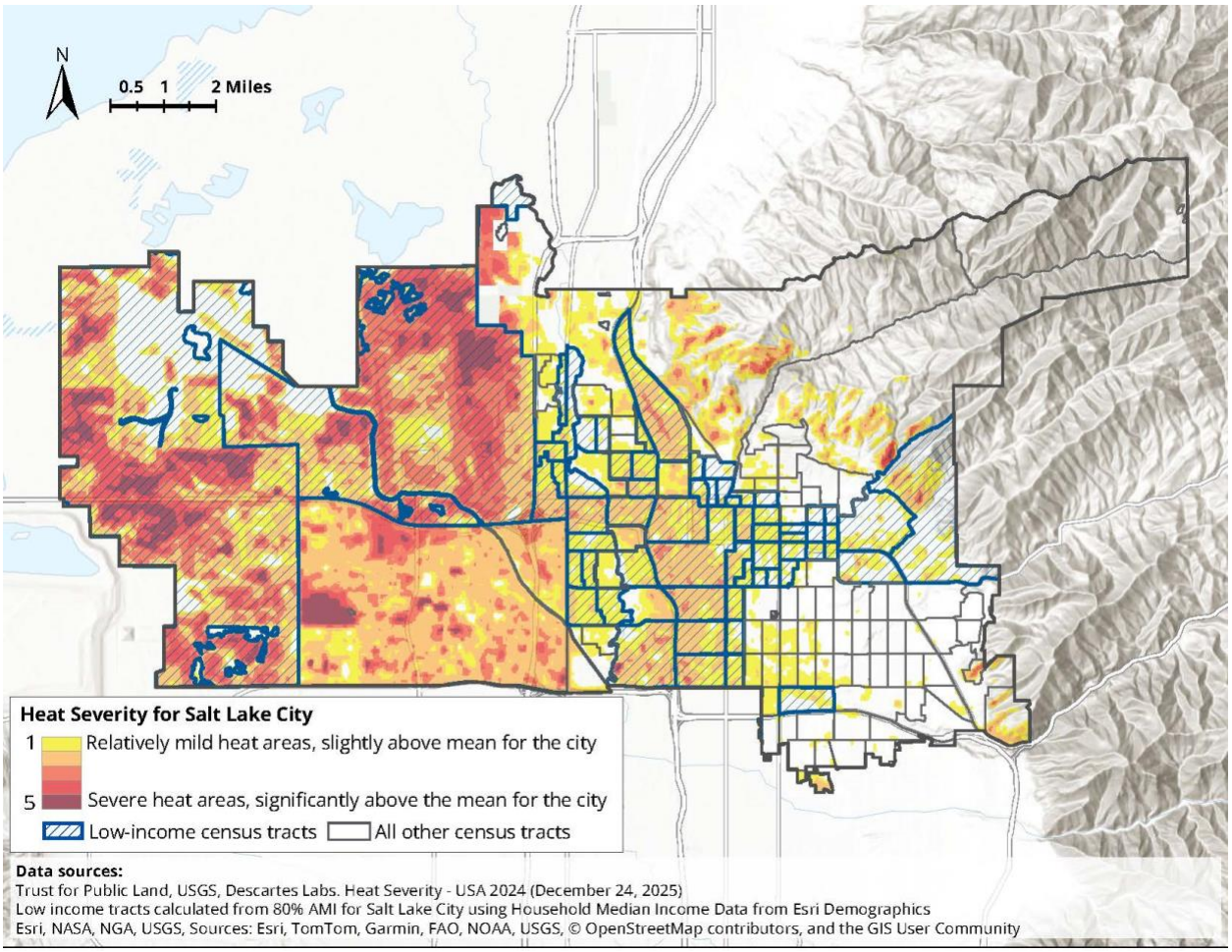


Figure 7. Heat Severity Map. Heat severity in Salt Lake City is rated on a scale from 1 to 5, with the darkest red areas significantly hotter than the average[83]

Category	Indicator	% of Census Tracts, Low-Income	% of Census Tracts, Non-Low-Income
Housing	Housing Burden	73	9
Housing	Impervious surface	47	25
Pollution	Proximity to hazardous waste	73	7
Pollution	Proximity to NPL/Superfund sites	100	95
Pollution	Proximity to Risk Management Plan facilities	60	16

Category	Indicator	% of Census Tracts, Low-Income	% of Census Tracts, Non-Low-Income
Pollution	Toxic releases	87	45
Health	Asthma in adults	100	27
Health	Low life expectancy	40	14
Workforce	Linguistic Isolation	67	11
Workforce	No High School Degree	73	2

Table 4. Low Income Population Burdened by Disparities and Impacts. Percent of census tracts in Salt Lake City that are ranked at or above the 80th national percentile for each indicator within the categories of burden[84]

Drought and the Shrinking Great Salt Lake

CURRENT CONDITIONS

While total statewide precipitation in Utah has remained relatively stable since 1895,[85] rising temperatures have intensified drought conditions, especially in the southwestern U.S. Over the past two decades, increasing temperatures have intensified the atmosphere's evaporative demand or its capacity to store water.[86] This shift has contributed to a megadrought—the driest period in over 1,200 years.[87] Since 2000, Salt Lake City has experienced drought conditions during 71% of weeks, with 15% classified as extreme or exceptional (Figure 8).[88] Notably, evaporation driven by higher temperatures accounted for 61% of the drought's severity between 2020 and 2022, making it a more significant factor than reduced precipitation. [89]

The shrinking of the Great Salt Lake is largely the result of human-driven water diversions, which are responsible for 67–73% of the lake's total water loss,[90] with agricultural use being the primary contributor (65%), followed by municipal and industrial water use (18%), wetland management (8%), Great Salt Lake mineral extraction (8%), and reservoir evaporation (1%). Statewide, agricultural water diversions are primarily used to produce forage and feed crops, particularly for cattle.[91] The majority of agricultural water diversions occur outside of the Salt Lake region. Salt Lake City does not provide significant water to agricultural uses.

In comparison, evaporation contributes a smaller share (8–11%) of Great Salt Lake water diversions, while natural variability, including changes in precipitation and runoff efficiency, accounts for the remaining 15–23%.[92] The lake's current water level stands at 4,191 feet, which is seven feet below the healthy threshold, leaving 54% of the lakebed exposed.[93]

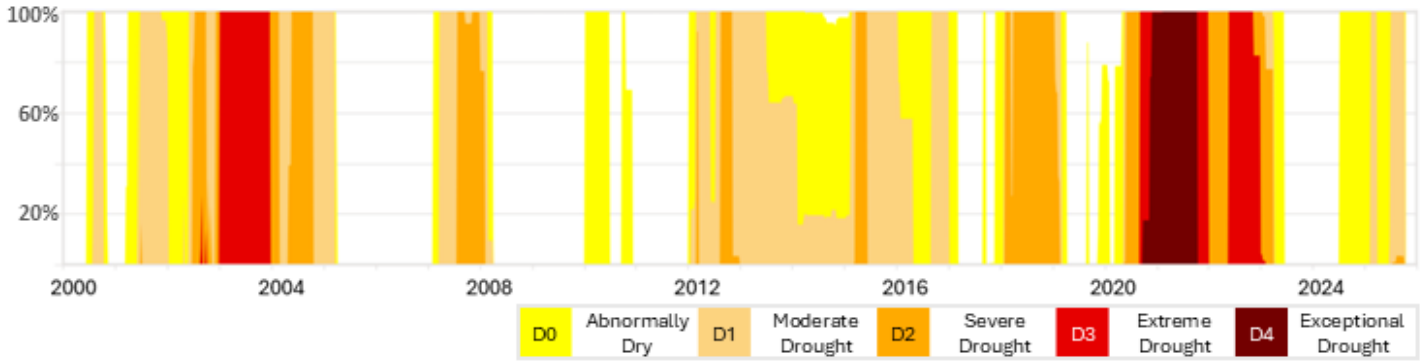


Figure 8. Drought Conditions by Week, 2000 to 2025. Weekly percentage area of the Salt Lake City-West Valley City experiencing drought from 2000 to 2025.[94]

IMPACTS

Salt Lake City is facing intensifying drought challenges, driven by rapid population growth and rising temperatures. Drought impacts include water restrictions, increased costs, and growing competition between agricultural, landscaping, and other human water needs. The shrinking Great Salt Lake worsens regional drought by weakening the lake effect, which is critical for generating heavy snowstorms that support Utah's water supply, economy, and ski industry.[95] The lake's declining water levels also pose serious threats to biodiversity and public health. Dust from the exposed lakebed darkens mountain snow, accelerating snowmelt and shortening the snow season while diminishing the snowpack's role as a natural reservoir.[96] Drought also raises wildfire risk and smoke exposure, worsening air quality.

Over 10 million migratory birds depend on brine shrimp in the Great Salt Lake,[97] but rising salinity threatens shrimp populations and bird survival.[98] Shrinking wetlands degrade habitats and allow invasive species like *Phragmites australis* to spread,[99] while warm, nutrient-rich waters increase the risk of harmful algal blooms.[100]

Exposed lakebed sediments can bring high levels of air pollutants like fine particulate matter (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$), to nearby communities, posing health risks.[101,102] Sediments from the exposed lakebed have elevated levels of arsenic, lead, and other heavy metals. However, a recent analysis of historical data by the Utah Division of Air Quality shows no increase in airborne arsenic and other heavy metals as lake levels have decreased.[103] The

analysis also found that heavy metal concentrations in sediment dust are below health standards. Research into the health impacts of the lakebed sediments is ongoing.[104] Additionally, the Great Salt Lake has become a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, releasing 4.1 million tons in 2020 due to soil drying and microbial activity.[105] These emissions were not included in the current greenhouse gas inventory and are projected to increase as temperatures continue to rise. If the lake were to fully dry up, annual emissions could reach 7.1 million tons, further intensifying regional climate impacts.[106]

PROJECTIONS

SLC is projected to have a slight increase in average annual total precipitation[107] that will likely be offset by rising temperatures and higher evaporation rates.[108] Days per year with no precipitation are projected to increase by four in 2050 from 232 in 2005.[109] But available evidence suggests that drought will become increasingly frequent and severe due to projected air temperature and evaporation increases.[110] Continued decrease in snowpack is expected into the foreseeable future. Due primarily to increasing air temperature, the proportion of precipitation that falls as snow will continue to decline.[111]

ECONOMIC COSTS

Drought has had significant economic impacts in Utah, particularly in agriculture and tourism. The 2002 drought was estimated to contribute to a total job loss of 6,110 workers and $120 million in income, with agricultural losses reaching $150 million (or $250 million in 2023 dollars).[112] Ranchers faced severe financial strain, often selling livestock at low prices without profit. Future droughts are expected to cause even greater losses if conditions worsen. The ski industry, a vital part of Utah's winter economy, is also vulnerable; during the 2017–2018 season, reduced snowfall led to a 9.6% drop in ski visits and a $109 million decline in spending. Additionally, the brine shrimp industry could lose up to $67 million annually.[113] The economic impact to the brine shrimp industry would also impact global food supply. The Utah industry produces 40-45% of the global supply of brine shrimp, enabling the production of over 10 million metric tons of seafood globally.[114] Mineral extraction industries could face over $1 billion in losses and more than 5,000 job cuts if the Great Salt Lake's decline continues.[115]

COMMUNITY CONSIDERATIONS

Water management practices mitigate drought hazards, as water is moved from water-rich mountainous areas to arid, low-lying areas. However, the desiccation of the Great Salt Lake and resulting dust storms represent an acute threat especially for minority populations,

including Hispanic and Pacific Islander communities in northern Salt Lake City, who will be disproportionately exposed because of residential and employment patterns.[116] Additionally, low-income neighborhoods in Salt Lake City are already vulnerable to air pollution, with all the low-income census tracts ranking above the 80th percentile for asthma prevalence (Table 3).

Precipitation and Flooding

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Salt Lake City is experiencing more frequent and intense short-duration rainfall events, driven by warmer air that holds more moisture. In October 2025, the city recorded its highest single-day rainfall in over 124 years,[117] highlighting this trend. These heavy downpours can overwhelm stormwater systems, as seen during the 2025 event that caused localized flooding and property damage in the Rose Park neighborhood. SLC's urban development has intensified flood risks, with many neighborhoods built along natural waterways and floodplains now constrained by narrow canals and impermeable surfaces like asphalt and concrete.

Additional factors compound the city's vulnerability. Some areas lie above shallow groundwater, which can rise during heavy precipitation, leading to flooding.[118] Rising levels of the Great Salt Lake—if they reach 4,210 feet—could also threaten critical infrastructure.[119] The region's steep slopes and snowmelt contribute to rapid runoff, while prolonged droughts have left soils dry and compacted, reducing their ability to absorb rain. As a result, surface runoff increases, heightening flood risks. Warmer winters are also shifting precipitation patterns, with more moisture falling as rain instead of snow, further accelerating runoff and flood potential. Currently, 39% of Salt Lake City's census tracts rank above the 78th percentile for flood vulnerability, and 56% have at least some level of risk.[120]

IMPACTS

Climate change is intensifying environmental hazards in Salt Lake City, with more precipitation falling as rain instead of snow, accelerated snowmelt, increased spring runoff, increasing the risk of flooding. These effects, combined with the city's steep terrain and unstable geologic materials, increases the risk of landslides.[121] Rapid snowmelt can also leave less time for water to soak into the ground, resulting in drier soil later in the summer and higher wildfire risk.[122]

Additionally, extreme precipitation events impact local food production by damaging crops, and eroding and polluting soils. Significant precipitation or flooding can lower yields and increase waste, increasing financial risk for local farmers and gardeners and raising costs to consumers. These events also pose significant risks to infrastructure, as water damage can quickly lead to mold, structural instability, and power outages, especially in older neighborhoods with above-ground utilities.

PROJECTIONS

By 2050, Salt Lake City is projected to receive 0.4 to 0.7 inches more precipitation annually.[123] However, this modest increase will likely be offset by rising temperatures and higher evaporation rates.[124] In the next 30 years, nearly 30% of properties in the city are at risk of flooding.[125] The areas along the Jordan River, near the Great Salt Lake, and at the base of the Wasatch Mountains are expected to face the highest flood risks (Figure 9). This underscores the vulnerability of a significant portion of Salt Lake City's built environment to future climate impacts.

ECONOMIC COSTS

While Salt Lake County is currently ranked as having a moderate flood hazard,[126] flooding remains the most frequent, costly, and destructive natural hazard in Utah.[127] Since 1923, 16 major flood events have caused over $1.3 trillion in damage.[128] Despite these risks, only 3% of Utahns carry flood insurance, even though just one inch of water can cause up to $25,000 in home damage.[129]

COMMUNITY CONSIDERATIONS

Flooding disproportionately affects low-income communities: 40% of low-income census tracts are at or above the 80th national percentile and are projected to face flood risk in 30 years, compared to just 20% of more affluent census tracts.[130]

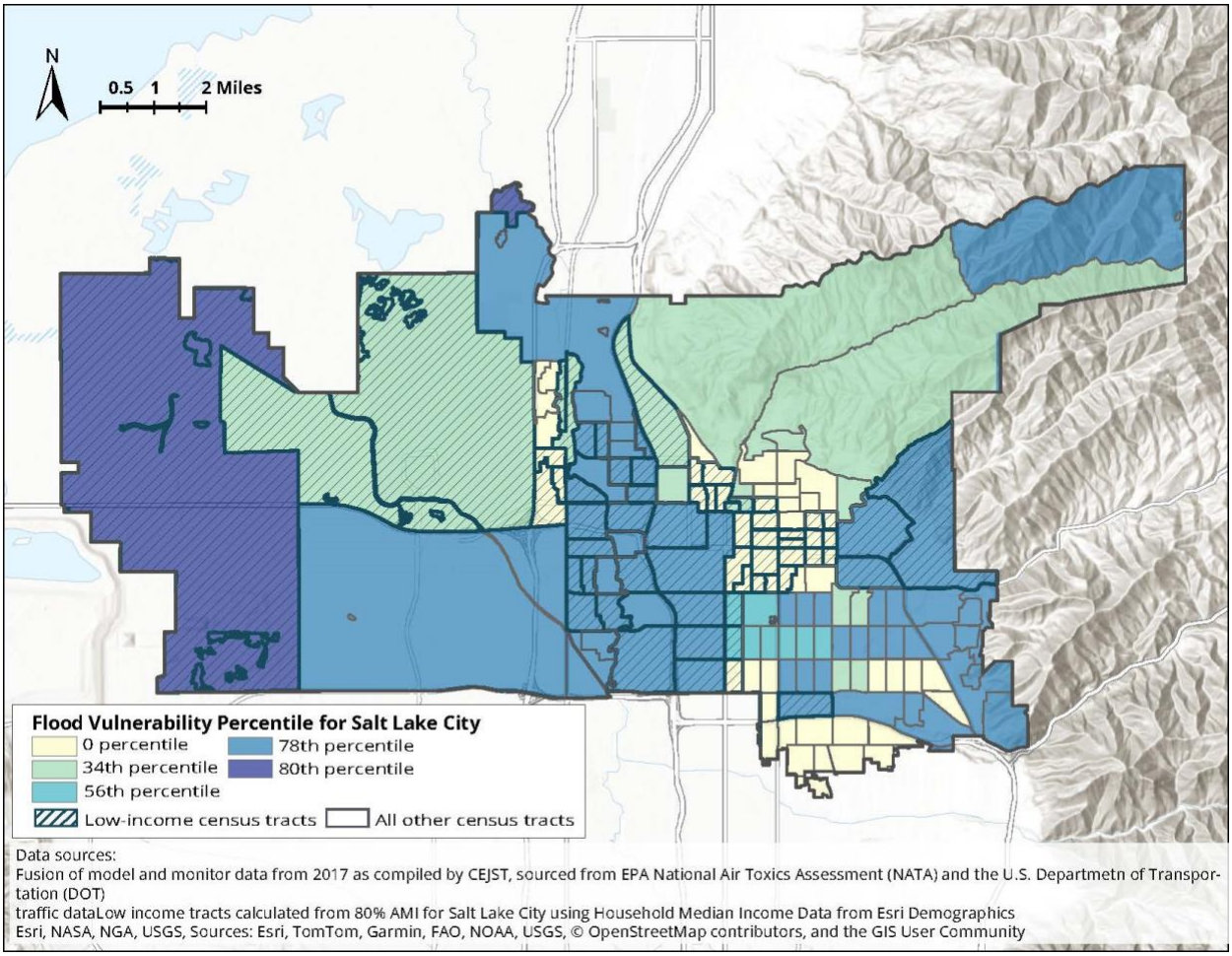


Figure 9. Map of Projected Flood Risks. Flooding risk in Salt Lake City for 2050.[131]

Wildfires

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Salt Lake City faces a higher wildfire likelihood than 92% of U.S. communities[132] due to its proximity to dry wildlands, hot and dry summers, frequent winds, and steep terrain that accelerates fire spread.[133] The City's wildfire risk is influenced by annual variations in vegetation, snowpack, precipitation, soil moisture, and temperature. Since the 1970s, wildfire seasons in the western U.S. have become longer and more severe. In Utah, the fire season has expanded from 82 days in the 1970s to 182 days in the 2000s, with average fire duration increasing from 3 to 41 days.[134] While wildfire exposure in Salt Lake City varies by location, the highest risks are concentrated in foothill neighborhoods and areas near

wildlands (Figure 10). Notably, over half of Utah's wildfires are human-caused,[135] making prevention and public education essential tools in reducing future fire risk.

IMPACTS

Wildfire poses serious risks to Salt Lake City's air, water, and overall environmental health—even in urban areas less likely to experience direct fire damage. Smoke from surrounding fires spreads across the valley, exposing all communities to harmful pollutants like $PM_{2.5}$, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxides, and ozone.[136] Despite recent improvements in $PM_{2.5}$ levels, increasing wildfire smoke threatens to reverse progress,[137] especially as Salt Lake City remains a non-attainment area for ozone and ranks ninth worst in the U.S. for ozone pollution.[138] These pollutants are linked to respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, and premature death.[139] Wildfires also degrade water quality by increasing runoff of sediment, nutrients, and heavy metals into reservoirs, straining treatment systems and infrastructure[140]—many of which are located in high-risk zones.[141] Additionally, wildfires can disrupt food production, raise prices, and negatively impact tourism and recreation, further compounding their economic and environmental toll.

PROJECTIONS

Longer and more severe wildfire seasons are expected to worsen in Salt Lake City as climate change drives earlier snowmelt, reduced snowpack, and prolonged droughts.[142] Approximately 24% of properties in Salt Lake City face wildfire risk over the next 30 years,[143] with 14 census tracts ranking above the 90th percentile nationally for properties at risk during that same period.[144] Continued development in foothill and mountain areas is placing more people and homes in high-risk zones. By 2050, Salt Lake City is projected to rank in the 80th percentile nationally for $PM_{2.5}$ vulnerability,[145] underscoring the growing threat to air quality from more frequent and intense wildfires.

ECONOMIC COSTS

Wildfires carry substantial economic costs, including damage to property and infrastructure, business interruptions, supply chain disruptions, and rising healthcare and insurance expenses. Recovery and rebuilding efforts further strain state and local budgets. Overall, the annual economic toll of wildfires in the U.S.—including losses from property damage, health impacts, watershed degradation, and insurance payouts—is estimated at $394 to $893 billion.[146] Wildfires are also expensive to suppress, with each ignition averaging $29,600.[147] The 2024 Sandhurst Fire in Salt Lake City cost $980,000 to contain.[148]

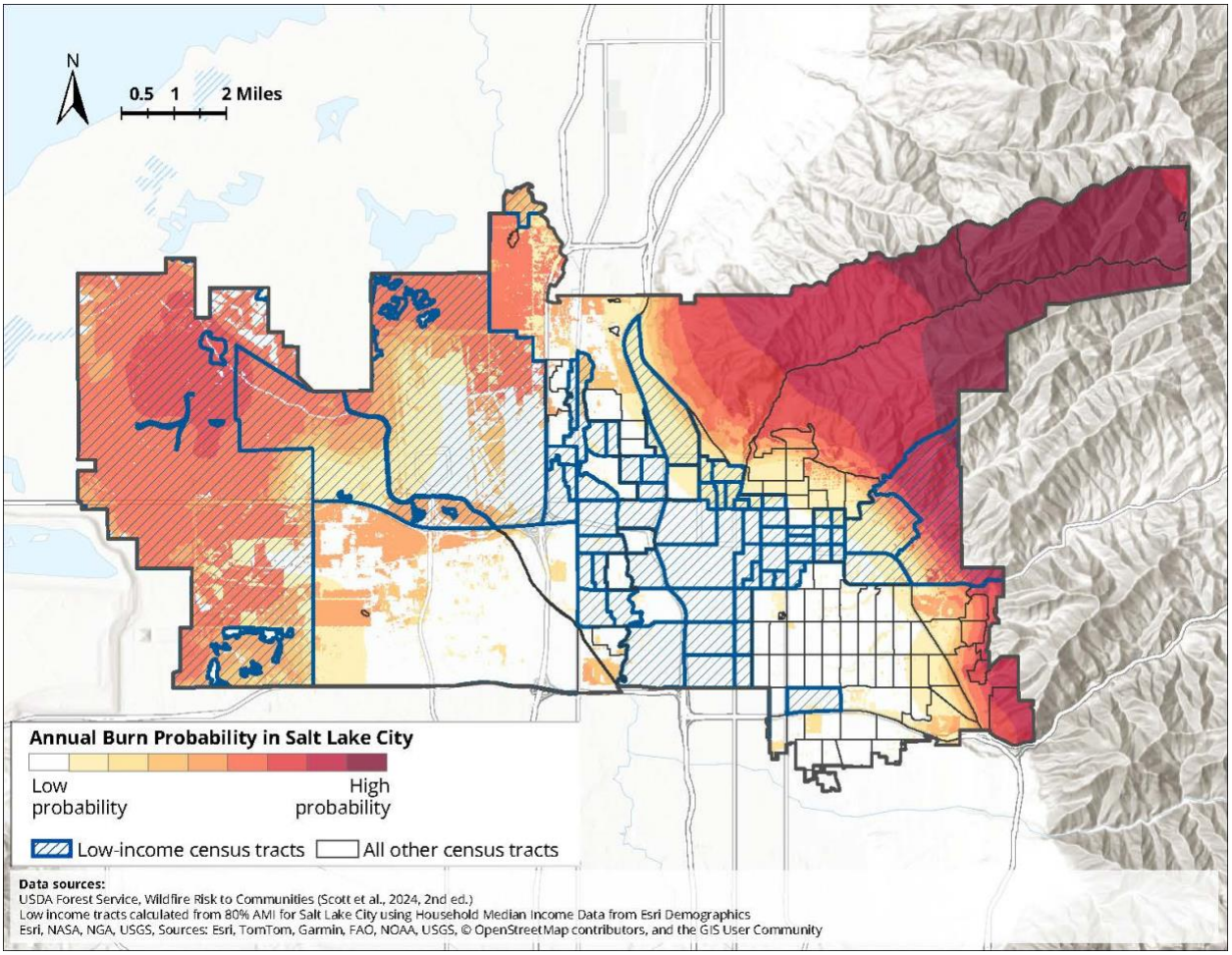


Figure 10. Map of Wildfire Probability. Current annual wildfire burn probability in Salt Lake City. [149]

COMMUNITY CONSIDERATIONS

Although wildfire smoke spreads across the Salt Lake Valley, its impact is not felt equally. Certain demographic groups—particularly low-income communities—are more vulnerable to the health effects of smoke, compounding existing environmental and health disparities. These communities often live in less airtight homes, lack access to costly air purifiers, and face barriers to healthcare despite higher rates of respiratory illnesses like asthma (Table 4). Individuals who work outside, such as landscapers, construction workers, and farmers, are also at high risk for negative health effects from smoke exposure.

Air Quality

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Airborne particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10}), measuring 2.5 to 10 micrometers or smaller, originates from sources such as vehicle emissions, industrial activities, mining, construction, roadways, wildfires, and increasingly from exposed lakebeds, including the Great Salt Lake and Sevier Lake.[150, 151, 152] Although Salt Lake City has recently been reclassified to attainment for $PM_{2.5}$ federal health standards, it remains among the 25 U.S. regions most impacted by short-term $PM_{2.5}$ pollution.[153]

Ozone pollution is a major health concern along the Wasatch Front, with the Salt Lake City metro area ranking ninth worst in the U.S. in 2025[154] and designated as a nonattainment area due to exceedances of the federal health standards.[155] Formed by reactions between nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in sunlight, ozone is primarily a summertime issue. Despite significant NO_x reductions since 2000, ozone levels have only slightly declined, indicating the region is VOC-limited.[156] Effective mitigation requires reducing both NO_x and VOC emissions, which stem from traffic, off-road engines (particularly two-stroke landscaping equipment), biogenic sources, personal care products, industrial solvents, and biomass burning.[157] Local geography and the Great Salt Lake further influence ozone distribution through transported precursors, reflective surfaces, and breezes that trap pollution, creating east-west variation across the valley.[158, 159, 160]

Air pollution has been a persistent challenge in the Wasatch Front since the arrival of the early settlers in the 1850s.[161] However, recent regulatory efforts and technological advancements have led to significant emissions reductions, even as the region's population has grown. Figure 11 shows total emissions of key criteria pollutants (CO, NOx, PM_{10}, $PM_{2.5}$, and VOCs) per source category in Salt Lake County compared to population trends. Between 1996 and 2020, total emissions declined by 41% while the population increased by 39%. The reductions are largely driven by decreases in on-road and non-road emissions (i.e. vehicles and off-road engines) resulting from improved emission control technologies, better fuel efficiency, and the introduction of Tier 3 low-sulfur fuel. Continued population growth and climate change may put pressure on recent emission reduction trends, but this progress shows that meaningful improvements can be achieved by implementing effective policies and deploying cleaner technologies .[162]

IMPACTS

Airborne particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10}) and ozone pose significant environmental and health risks in the Salt Lake Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). $PM_{2.5}$, which can penetrate deep into the lungs and bloodstream, is linked to increased rates of cardiovascular, respiratory, and neurological diseases, as well as a 42% higher rate of asthma-related emergency visits. Ozone and $PM_{2.5}$ have been linked to increased school absences.[163, 164] Dust from exposed lakebeds, including the Great Salt Lake, often contain toxic elements such as arsenic, mercury, and lead, compounding health concerns.[165] Encouragingly, recent data indicate that regulatory measures may be mitigating further increases in heavy metal concentrations.[166, 167] In addition to health impacts, dust accelerates snowmelt by settling on regional snowpack, creating further environmental challenges.

Air pollution is also hindering economic development and costs Utah $1.9 billion costs annually. This economic impact is due to healthcare expenses, damage to crops, lost earning potential, as well as indirect costs, such as loss of tourism, and decreased economic growth and business investment in our region.[168]

COMMUNITY CONSIDERATIONS

The west side of the valley carries the worst burdens as air quality monitors show the most polluted hotspots[169] (Figure 12) and pollution exposure has been shown to disproportionally affect socioeconomically disadvantaged schools.[170] This is due, in part, to the interstate highways and rail lines that run through the area; concentration of various industries; dense clustering of warehouses and associated activity of heavy-duty diesel trucks; and the jet engines from the Salt Lake City International Airport.[171] Dust concentrations are highest on the west side of Salt Lake County, near the Oquirrh Mountains, close to Rio Tinto Kennecott's Bingham Copper Mine, the smelter, and the Black Rock gravel pit (Figure 13). Ozone pollution also exhibits significant spatial variation across the valley, with elevated levels near the southeastern edge of the Great Salt Lake, coinciding with many low-income census tracts (Figure 14).

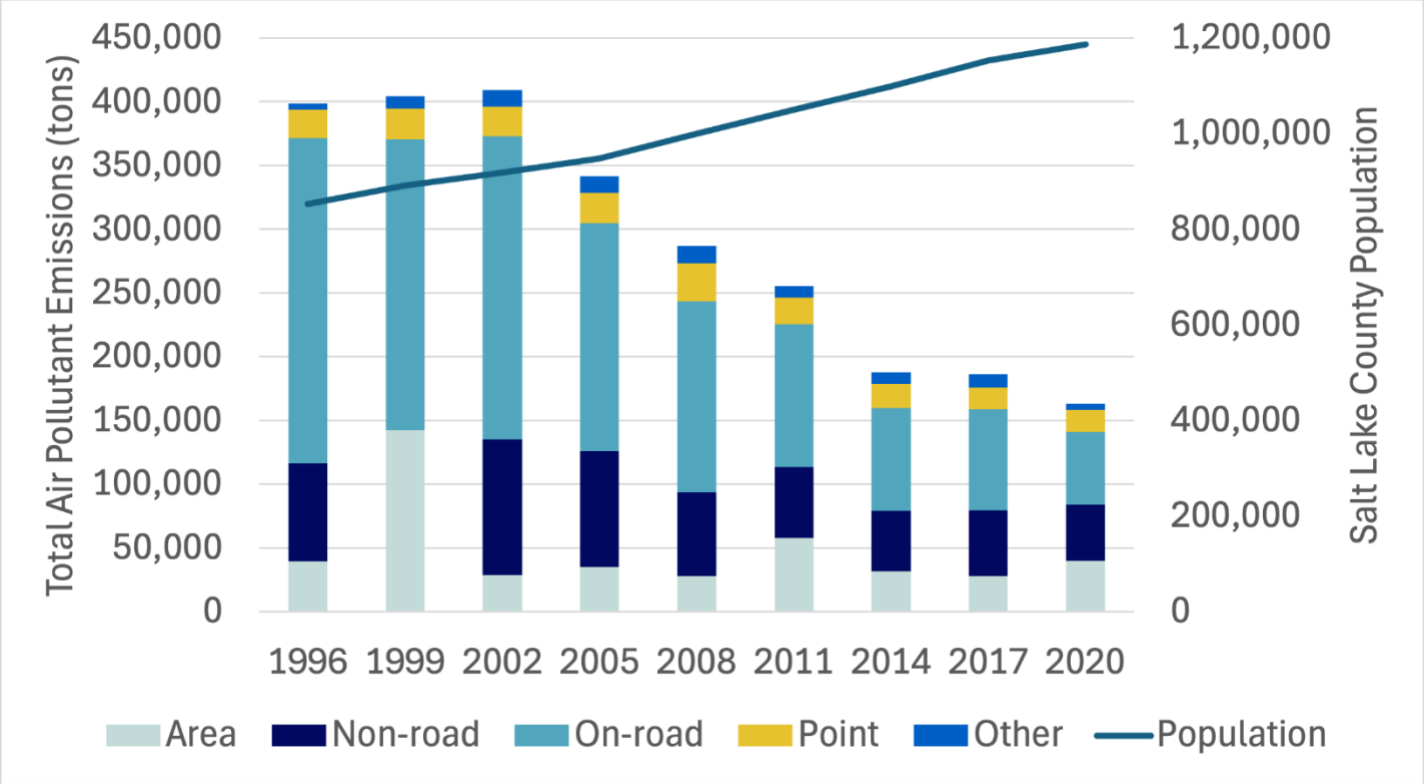


Figure 11. Total emissions of select criteria pollutants compared to population of Salt Lake County over time.[172173]

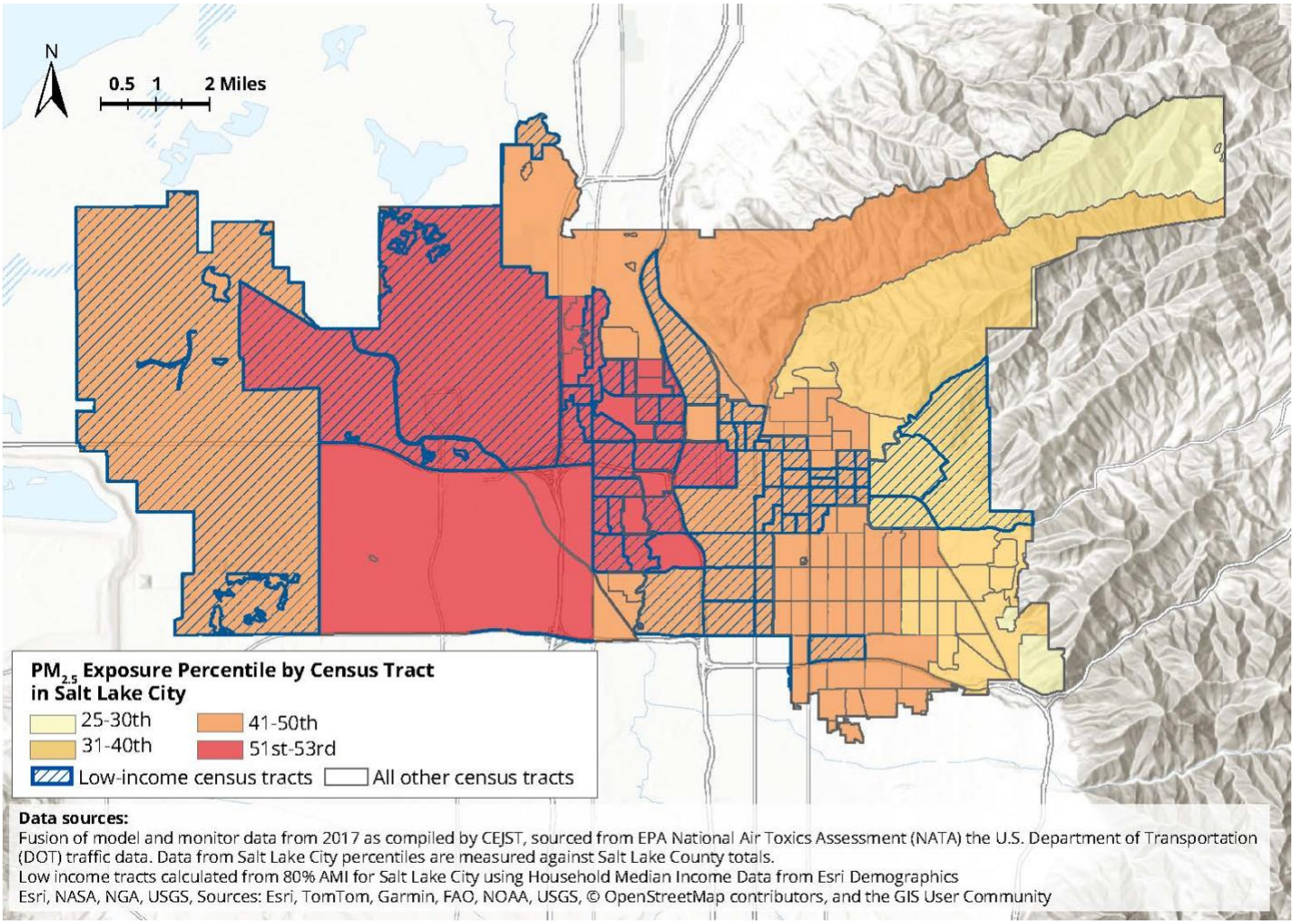


Figure 12. Percentile of $PM_{2.5}$ exposure per census tract compared to other tracts in Salt Lake County.[174]

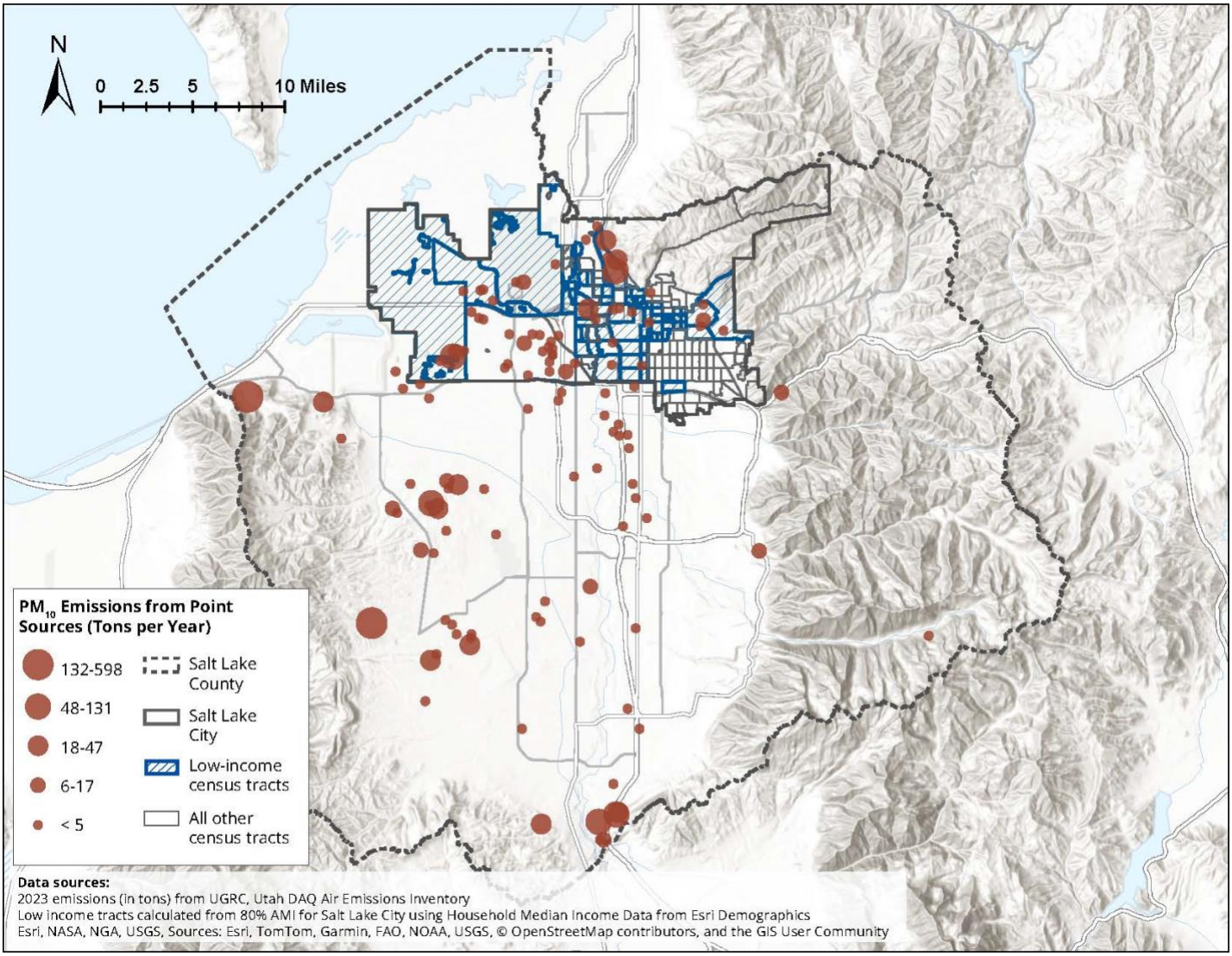


Figure 13. PM_{10} emission point sources in Salt Lake City.[175]

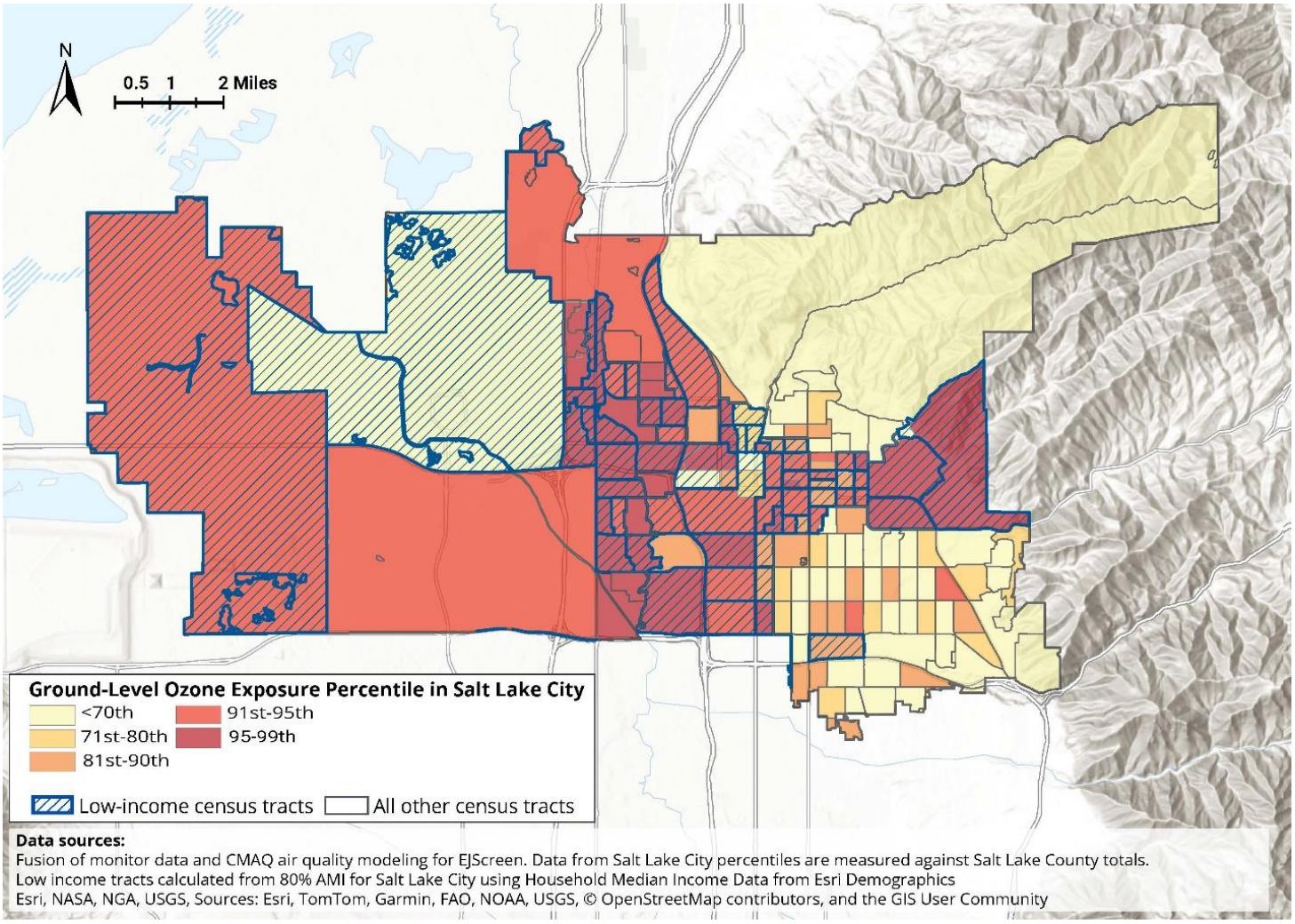


Figure 14. Percentile of ozone exposure per census tract compared to other tracts in Salt Lake County.[176]

Indoor Air Pollution

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Utah, especially Salt Lake County, relies heavily on natural gas for space heating, water heating, and cooking, with 75% of low-income households depending on it.[177] While furnaces and water heaters typically vent outdoors, gas stoves release pollutants like nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, and benzene directly into indoor air.[178] These emissions can worsen respiratory conditions and have been linked to increased cancer risks[179] and childhood asthma[180, 181]—particularly in smaller homes with poor ventilation.[182] Many households lack effective exhaust systems, and even existing hoods often recirculate air

instead of venting it outside.[183] In addition, radon—a naturally occurring radioactive gas—can accumulate indoors without visible signs, posing serious health risks—including lung cancer. Although Utah has the nation's lowest smoking rate, lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer death in the state.[184] Alarmingly, about one-third of Utah homes are at high risk for elevated radon levels, with 37% of Salt Lake City homes with unsafe radon levels.[185]

COMMUNITY CONSIDERATIONS

Low-income households in the Salt Lake City MSA are more vulnerable to indoor air pollution because these homes are usually older with poorly ventilated stoves, limited insulation from the outside air, and outdated appliances.[186] These families often lack resources for maintenance and may use kitchen appliances for extra heating, increasing exposure to harmful pollutants.[187] Low-income communities are especially vulnerable to poor indoor air quality due to higher rates of underlying health conditions and limited healthcare access.[188] Despite the danger that radon represents, public awareness remains low, especially in low-income and rural communities that often lack the resources for testing. While professional radon mitigation can cost between $1,800 and $2,200, many companies do not offer financing options.[189]

Baseline Vulnerability Assessment

While most climate hazards are expected to affect both low-income and more affluent communities in Salt Lake City similarly, low-income neighborhoods face heightened vulnerability due to several compounding factors. The U.S. Climate Vulnerability Index[190] (CVI) ranks Salt Lake City at the 45th percentile nationally, indicating average overall vulnerability. However, the city ranks above the 80th percentile for pollution, followed by socio-economic and health factors (Figure 15).

The Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool[191] from the White House Council on Environmental Quality differs from the CVI in some of its indicators but highlights similar areas of concern—particularly in the categories of health, air pollution, pollution sources, land use, and transportation. For both indices, individual variables exceeding the 80th national percentile include limited access to preventive healthcare (e.g., mammogram and routine doctor visits), elevated levels of nitrogen dioxide and ozone, proximity to National Priority List (NPL)/Superfund sites, brownfields, hazardous waste, risk management plan facilities, and chemical manufacturers, as well as high per capita truck vehicle miles traveled. These factors contribute to increased exposure to harmful air, water, and soil pollution, ultimately reducing public health outcomes for already vulnerable populations.

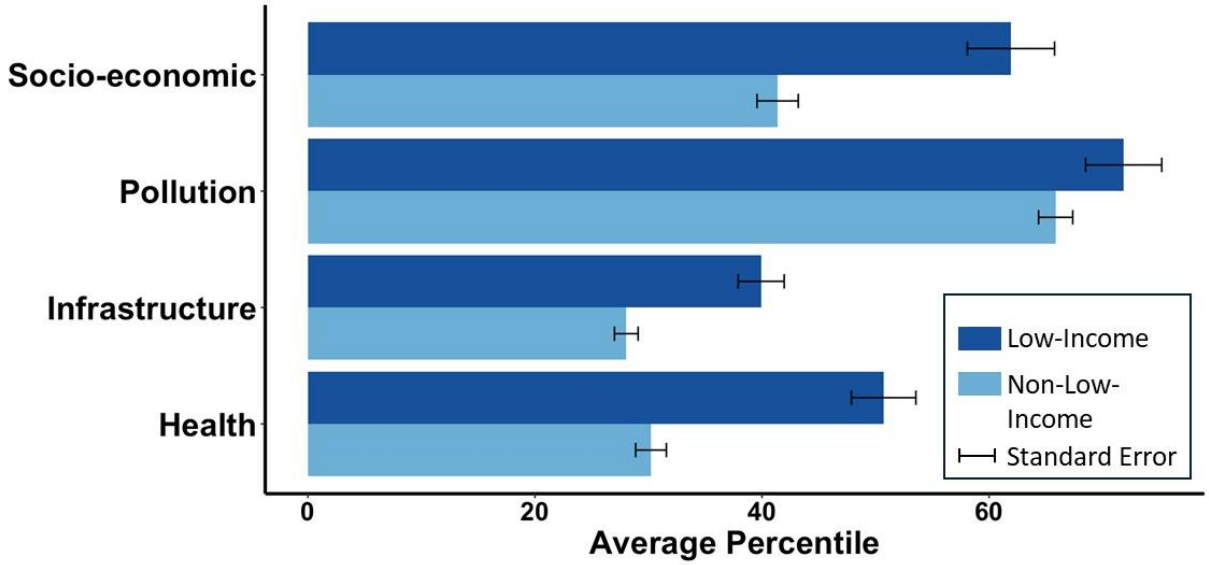


Figure 15. Salt Lake City's Climate Vulnerability Index Rankings. Vulnerabilities across Salt Lake City census tracts as national percentiles for low-income and more affluent communities.

As shown in Table 4, low-income census tracts are more likely to have higher burdens on many key indicators compared to non-low-income tracts. For example, they typically have more impervious surfaces and less vegetation, making them more susceptible to rising temperatures. Additionally, their proximity to pollution sources—such as railroads, highways, warehouses, the airport, and the Great Salt Lake—exposes residents to higher levels of harmful air pollutants like ozone and dust, which contribute to respiratory illnesses. Asthma is already a significant concern, with all of SLC's low-income census tracts ranking above the 80th percentile nationally for adult asthma prevalence. Another area of concern is low life expectancy, with almost half of low-income census tracts ranking above the 80th national percentile. And most low-income census tracts in SLC are also cost-burdened, with 11 low-income census tracts spending more than 30% of their income on housing expenses, with their ability to overcome financial barriers complicated by linguistic isolation and lack of high school education.

Community GHG Inventory

Key Takeaways for Climate Forward SLC

Community greenhouse gas emissions fell 11% from 2009 to 2024, driven primarily by a 30% drop in the carbon intensity of electricity generation as the electric grid shifted toward cleaner energy resources.

Per capita emissions declined 25% from 2009 to 2024, illustrating that local economic and population growth have been partially decoupled from emissions.

Electricity remains the largest contributor to community GHGs at 40% in 2024, followed by natural gas in buildings (29%) and on-road transportation (22%).

Achieving the City's target of an 80% reduction in GHGs by 2040 will hinge on accelerated uptake of decarbonization solutions, including the

continued shift to renewable energy sources for electricity generation coupled with the electrification of buildings and vehicles.

Overview

> *The most common benchmark for community climate planning and goal setting is locally produced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Salt Lake City has been tracking its GHGs for over 15 years and has a goal to reduce emissions from a 2009 baseline by at least 50% by 2030 and 80% by 2040.*

Local GHGs come from a variety of sources, including electricity and natural gas used in buildings and facilities, fuels combusted for on-road transportation and air travel, plus emissions from solid waste as it decomposes in the landfill.

The SLC GHG inventory is measured in metric tons of carbon-dioxide equivalent (MTCO2e) emissions and these have decreased from 5,389,912 MTCO2e in 2009 to 4,808,040 MTCO2e in 2024. This 11% decline is depicted in Figure 16. Nearly all of the emissions reductions are attributable to electricity use where a cleaner electric grid (due to shifts away from coal to natural gas, solar, and wind energy) produced a 30% reduction in electricity sector GHG emissions between 2009 and 2024. More context on electricity and all other sectors in the GHG inventory are included in sections below.

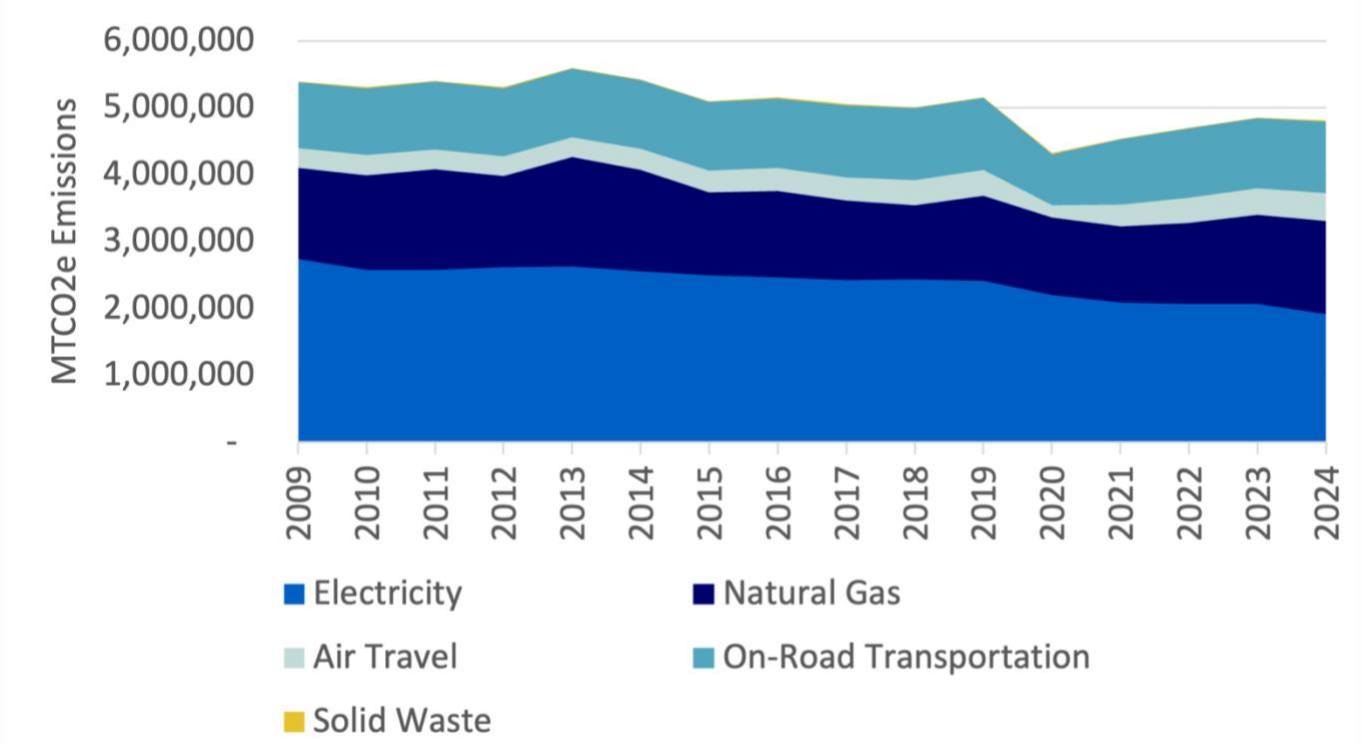


Figure 16. Salt Lake City Community GHG Emissions from 2009-24.

Figure 17 reflects the relative share of GHG emissions for each key sector. Electricity remains the largest contributor at 40% of total GHGs, but this is a decline from 2009 when electricity represented 51% of emissions in the community inventory. Every other sector has grown its relative share of emissions since 2009 with natural gas use in buildings and on-road transportation both increasing their relative share by four percent to 29% and 22% respectively. Future emissions in both of these sectors are inherently tied to the electric grid as the opportunity to retrofit buildings with efficient electric equipment such as heat pumps and the opportunity to transition to electric cars each represents technologically and economically feasible ways to significantly cut GHGs.

Other sectors include air travel, which is estimated based on a proportion of airline trips attributable to the local SLC community, along with solid waste disposal at the landfill. Air travel emissions for the community have gone up an estimated 37% since 2009, whereas solid waste GHGs have declined slightly due to improved recycling and other waste diversion efforts.

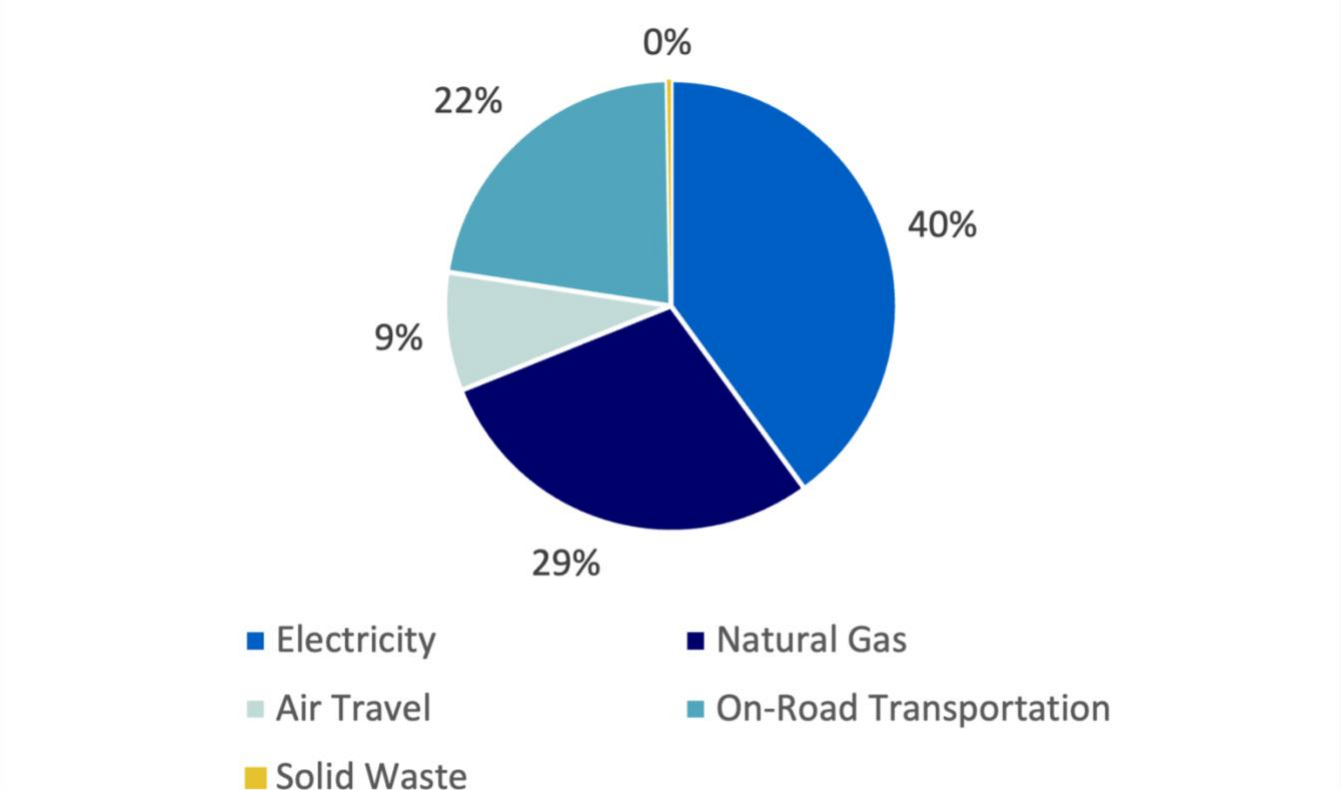


Figure 17. Salt Lake City Community GHG Emissions by sector in 2024.

One key driver of changes in energy use and emissions is population growth. Salt Lake City experienced an estimated growth in local population of 19% from 2009 to 2024. Figure 18 reflects per capita local GHG emissions, which have declined 25% over the past 15 years. This has been a period of notable growth in the built environment and economy within SLC and these emissions reductions illustrate how a community can thrive while still mitigating GHGs.

To achieve SLC's 2040 community GHG target, per capita emissions will need to be reduced by an estimated 81% from their current levels. This target is technically within reach through accelerated deployment of currently available technologies such as renewable energy, beneficial electrification of buildings and vehicles, energy efficiency, and smart transportation that also promotes clean air in the community. Additional details on these positive shifts, along with a goal-achievement emissions trajectory for each sector, are detailed elsewhere in the climate plan.

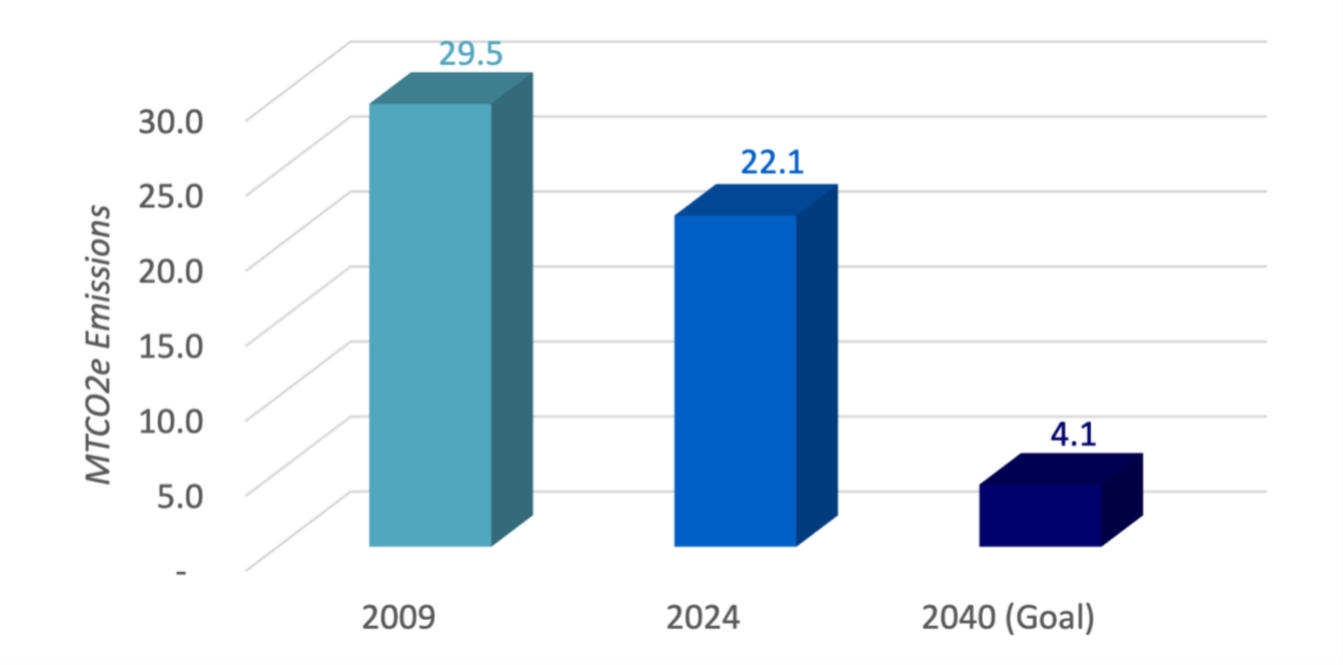


Figure 18. Salt Lake City Community Per Capita GHG Emissions and 2040 Target.

Emissions from Buildings

> *The largest contributor to the SLC community carbon footprint is energy used in buildings and other facilities.*

Electricity and natural gas combined produce 69% of 2024 community GHGs, with electricity making up 58% of this total for buildings. Electricity used by electric vehicles (EVs) and other equipment is part of this category and is represented based on where vehicle and equipment charging took place (e.g., home, work, etc.).

Reductions in electricity emissions represent the most positive story thus far for the community carbon footprint. Figure 19 illustrates how these emissions fell for every building category where electricity is consumed due to a lower-carbon electric grid. Energy efficiency helped reduce emissions and save customers money, but upward pressure on energy use due to population changes and economic growth mitigates these positive effects and led to annual electricity and natural gas use being similar in 2024 to what it was in 2009.

Commercial buildings continue to be the largest consumer of electricity, and producer of related emissions, and represent 66% of the electricity emissions total in 2024. This is

followed by residential energy users and industrial facilities which respectively produced 20% and 14% of GHG emissions from electricity in 2024.

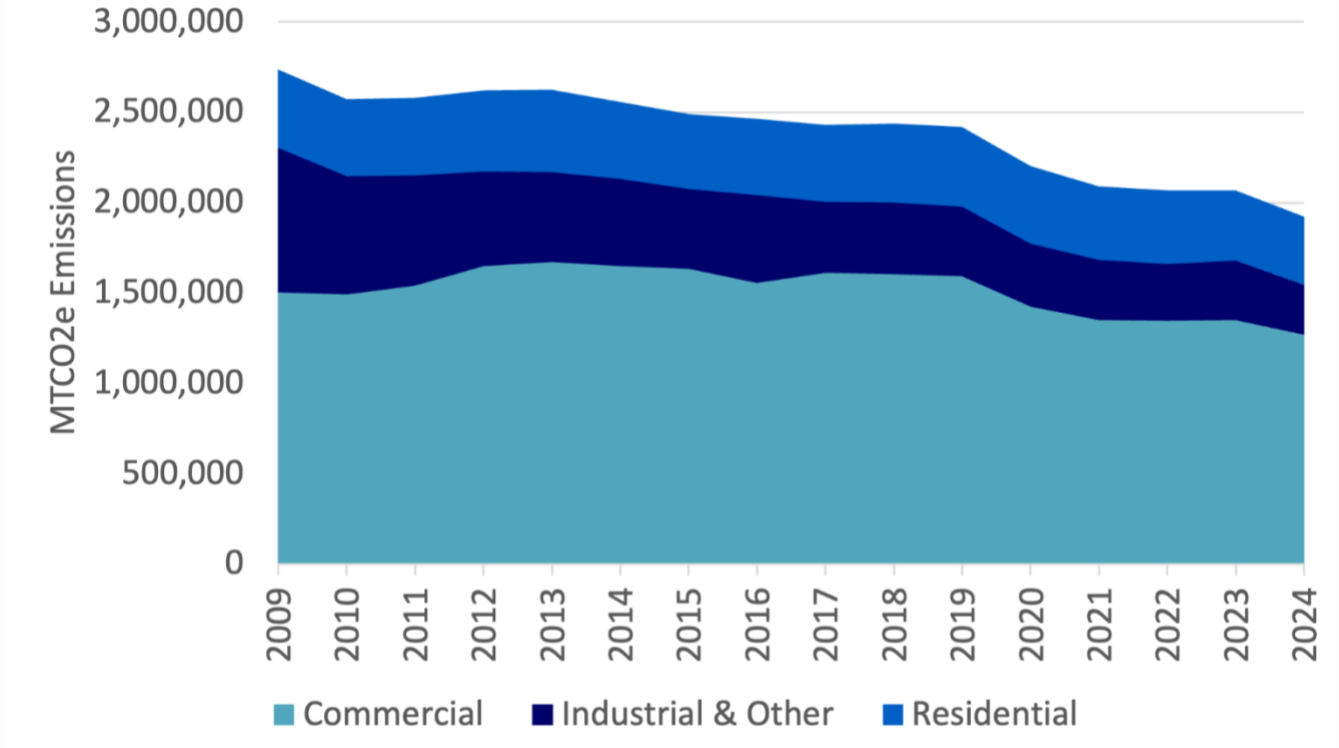


Figure 19. SLC Community Electricity GHG Emissions by Customer Category.

Electricity emissions declined from 2009-24 due to a cleaner electric grid as renewable energy and lower carbon-intensity fuels now make up a larger share of the power mix for Rocky Mountain Power's parent company, PacifiCorp. The shift to cleaner electricity has primarily been driven by improved economics for renewable energy such as wind and solar power, which are now often lower cost to construct and operate than fossil fuel power plants.

PacifiCorp publishes long range forecasts for electricity generation and associated emissions in its Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). The most recent IRP published in 2025 reflects ongoing investment in renewable energy, but there remains a disconnect between planned investments and clean energy outcomes needed to achieve Climate Forward SLC goals. To address this gap, Salt Lake City is partnering with 18 other local governments throughout the state to develop the Utah Renewable Communities (URC) program, also known as the Community Clean Energy Program, which aims for net-100% renewable electricity by 2030. This outcome would accelerate pollution reduction and better align with local goals. A sustained focus on URC, coupled with ongoing participation in state

energy regulatory proceedings, will be foundational to timely pollution reduction and GHG target achievement.

Figure 20 reflects total electricity use from 2009-24 on the left-hand axis and shows that annual electricity use was essentially flat for the community, changing by 0.01% for these bookend years. However, the line graph and right-hand axis illustrate a different story for emissions from the electric grid where the carbon intensity of electricity produced dropped by 30% between 2009 and 2024 for PacifiCorp. The ability of cleaner electricity to drive down overall community GHG emissions is a critically important outcome and supports The City's ongoing investment in the Utah Renewable Communities program and other efforts to expand renewable energy development.

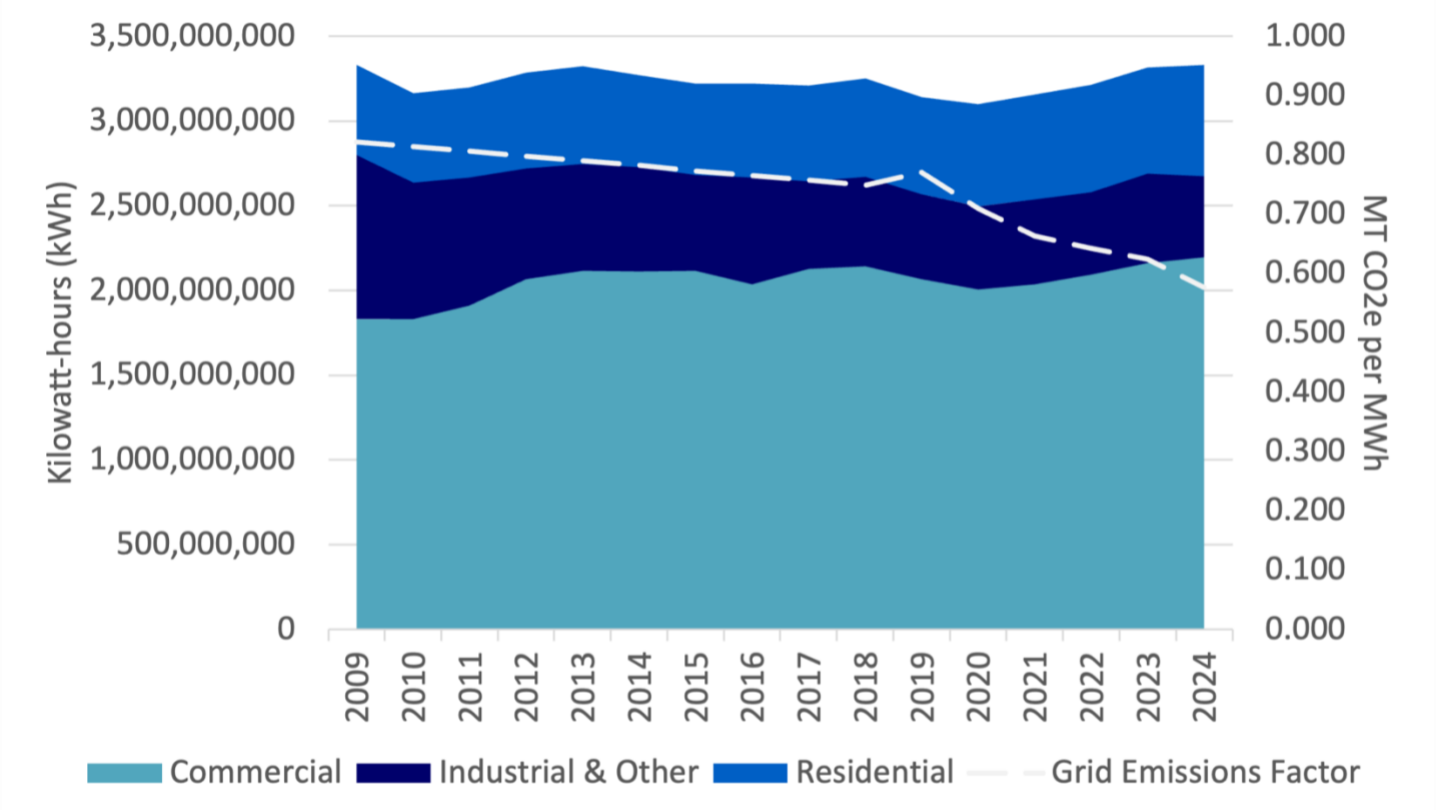


Figure 20. SLC Community Electricity GHG Emissions and Electric Grid Emissions Factor.

It is essential to scrutinize which electricity customer types are utilizing the most energy in order to envision programs and other solutions that move the needle on emissions in the near-term. Figure 21 displays the relative amount of electricity used in 2024 for each customer category and reveals that commercial customers were the biggest user, with

roughly two-thirds of all electricity use in Salt Lake City, followed by residential (20%) and then industrial and other customers (14%).

This breakdown illustrates that efficient energy use in both homes and non-residential properties can drive down GHG emissions. As the electric grid continues to become cleaner, encouraging electrification within all these customer segments will also be an important strategy to shift away from the onsite combustion of fossil fuels.

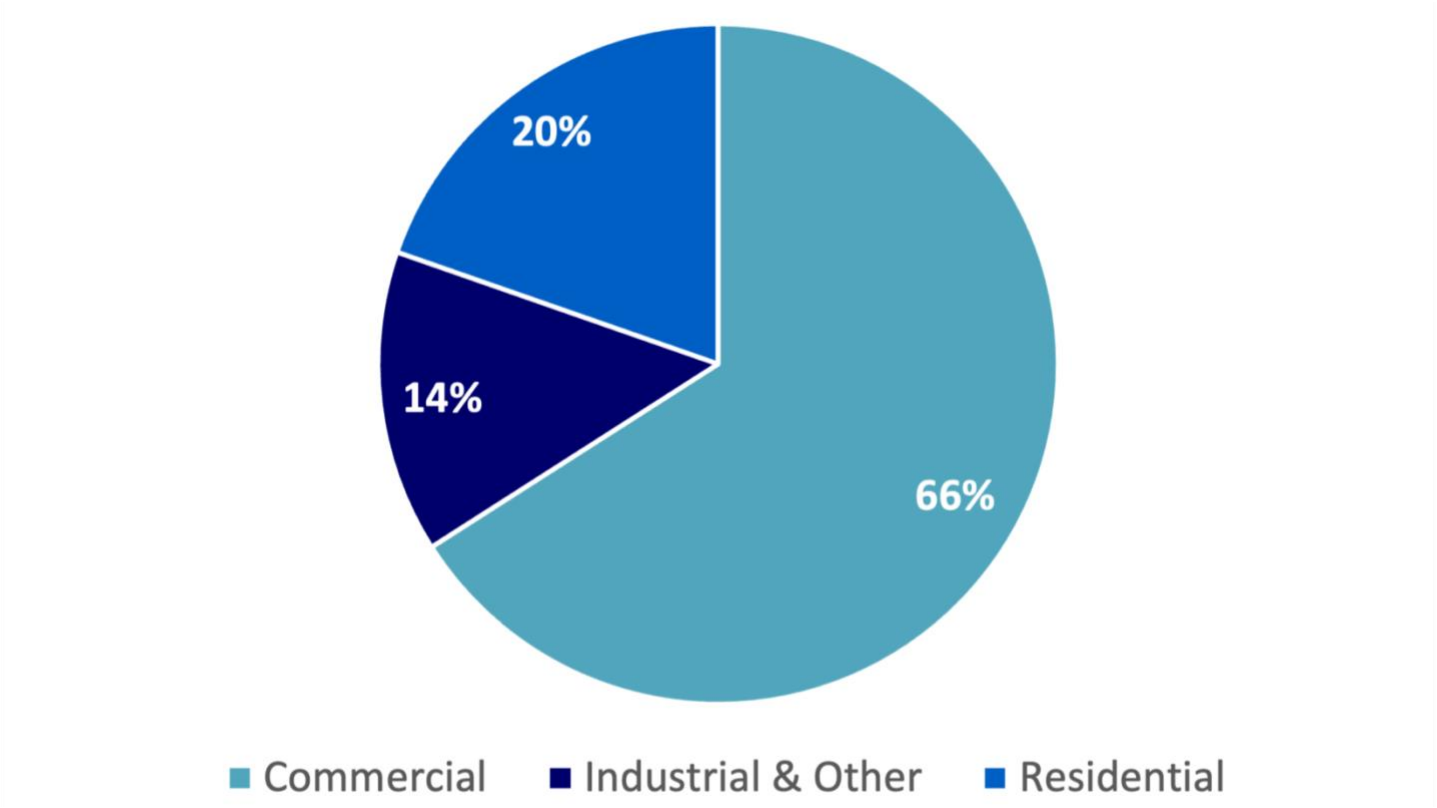


Figure 21. SLC Electricity Use in 2024 by Customer Category.

A notably positive story related to electricity use is the reduction in energy consumed per residential customer. Figure 22 depicts a drop in electricity use per household of 5% between 2009 and 2024. This reduction can be attributed to improved energy efficiency, likely including denser residential development which tends to reduce energy use and decrease utility bills for households.

Electricity use per household in the future may trend upwards as efficient electric technologies such as heat pumps and electric vehicles gain market share. However, this will be a positive outcome for GHGs and local air quality as ongoing electrification will reduce emissions relative to directly burning fossil fuels.

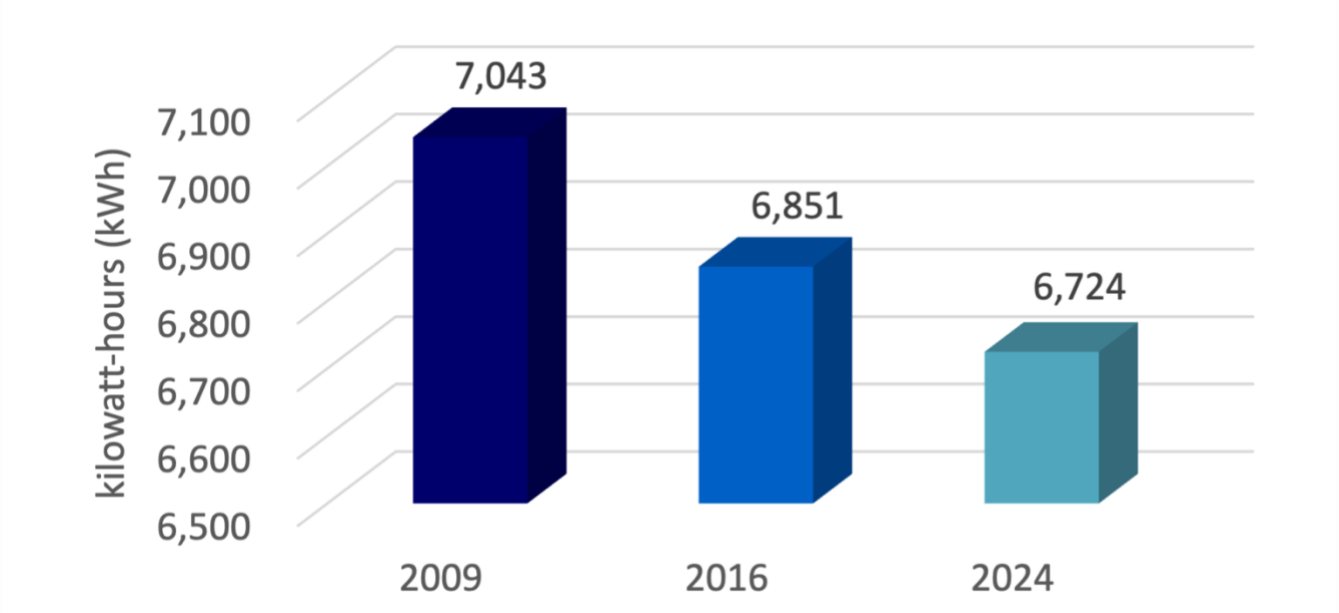


Figure 22. SLC Electricity Use Per Residential Customer.

Natural gas combusted in buildings and facilities, plus to a lesser degree within vehicles, is another large contributor to SLC community GHGs. These emissions increased slightly between 2009 and 2024, rising by roughly 2%.

Figure 23 reflects a trendline for GHG emissions by customer type and, as noted in the Overview section, natural gas now represents 29% of total community GHGs. Annual customer counts are not provided by the natural gas utility, so per customer averages are not available.

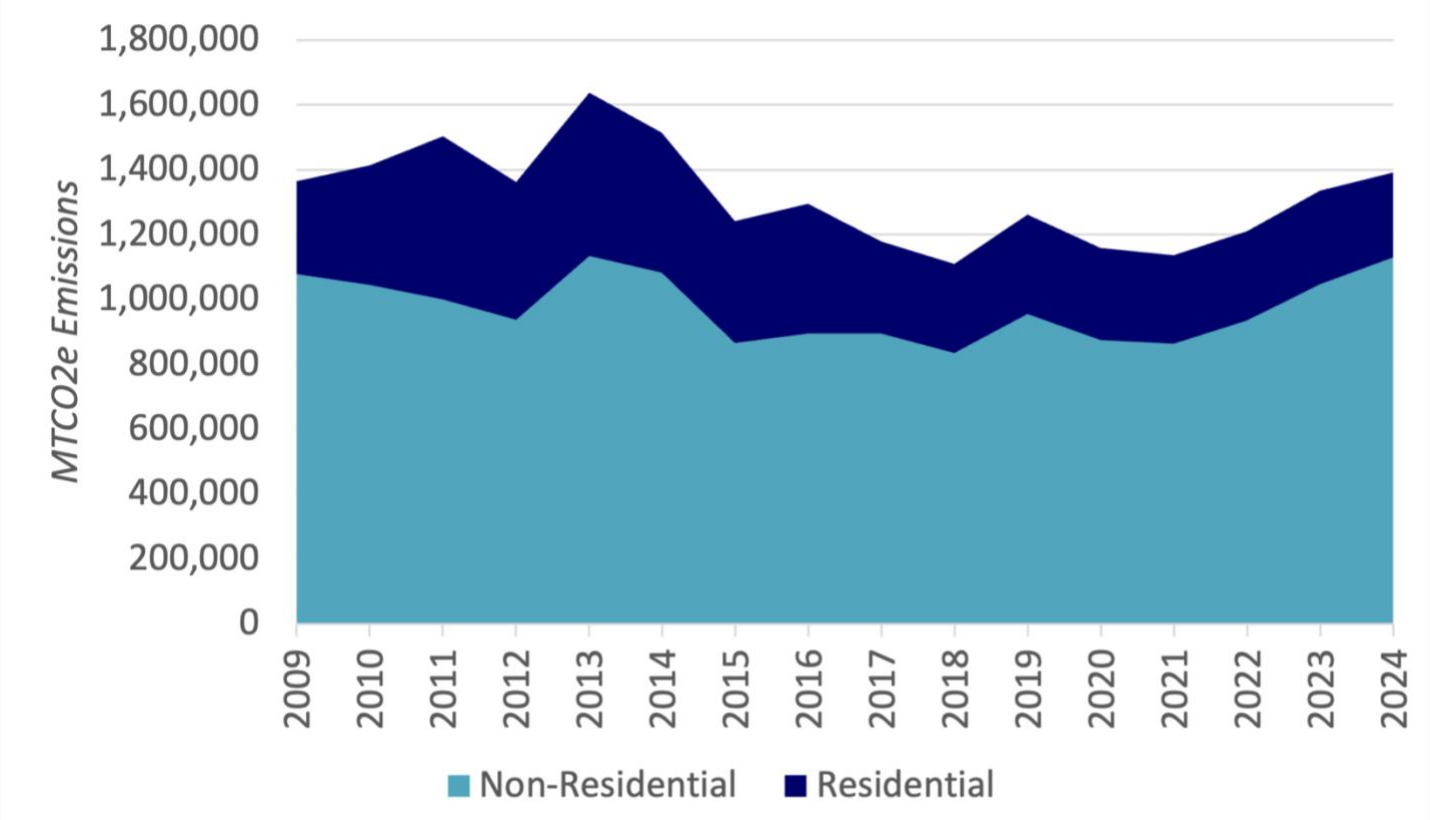


Figure 23. SLC Community Natural Gas GHG Emissions by Customer Category.

Non-residential customers utilized 81% of natural gas consumed within Salt Lake City in 2024. Figure 24 reflects the breakdown by customer type and, similar to electricity use, demonstrates that properties other than homes are important to engage with solutions. Additionally, the total use of natural gas in non-residential properties has experienced an upward trend the past seven years, whereas residential properties have a flatter annual usage pattern.

Natural gas use is strongly influenced by weather, with colder winters leading to more gas use for space heating, so recent trends will be important to scrutinize going forward to better understand the impact of outdoor temperatures relative to other factors such as new development that determine usage.

Reducing natural gas emissions through energy efficiency, such as weatherization for homes and other buildings, along with beneficial electrification that shifts energy use to the electric grid will be key to mitigating pollution impacts and achieving an 80% community-wide reduction of GHGs by 2040.

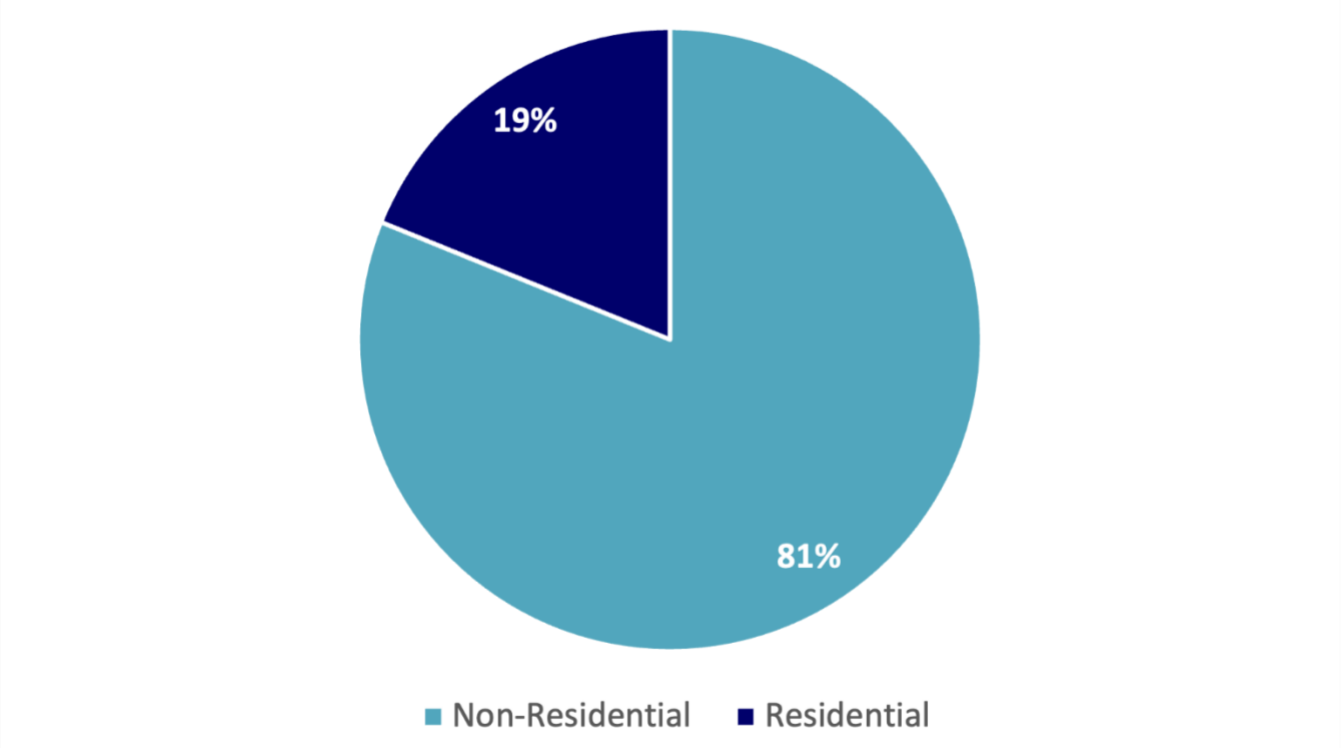


Figure 24. SLC Natural Gas Use in 2024 by Customer Category.

Emissions from Transportation

> *On-road transportation contributed 22% of overall GHGs to the community footprint in 2024.*

This represents a relative increase from 2009 when on-road transportation was 18% of the overall emissions inventory. As a stand-alone category, on-road transportation emissions increased 10% from 2009 to 2024 and now produce over one million MTCO2e per year.

Figure 25 depicts the trend in estimated emissions, including a temporary fall during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 when vehicle miles travelled (VMT) fell across the entire U.S. GHG emissions were estimated utilizing Google Environmental Insights Explorer (EIE). Google EIE data was not available for 2009-17, so this information was backcasted based on local population trends. Similarly, 2024 data have been estimated based on population while awaiting the latest annual release from Google EIE.

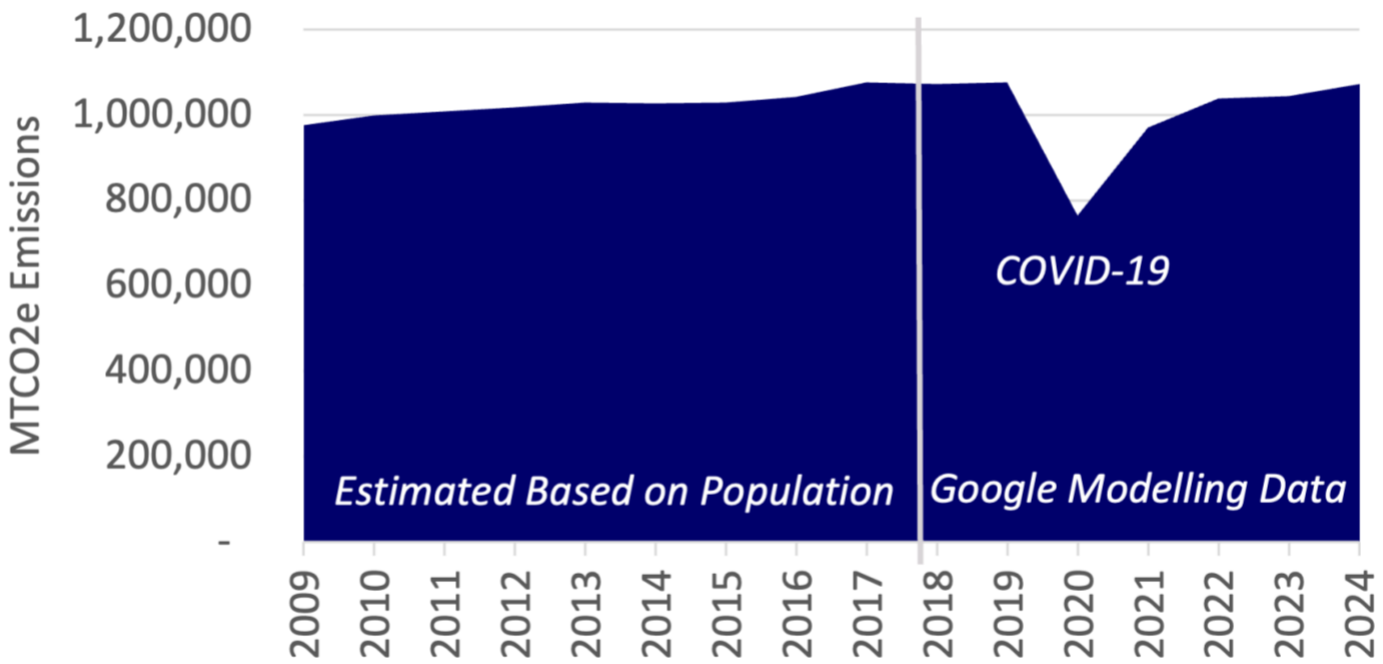


Figure 25. SLC Community On-Road GHG Emissions.

Per capita on-road GHG emissions are experiencing a declining trend locally, falling by an estimated 8% between 2009 and 2024. Further reductions are needed to meet the 2040 emissions goal with primary drivers being smart mobility and the electrification of transportation. These positive shifts will not only reduce GHGs but also improve local air quality and reduce vehicle operating costs.

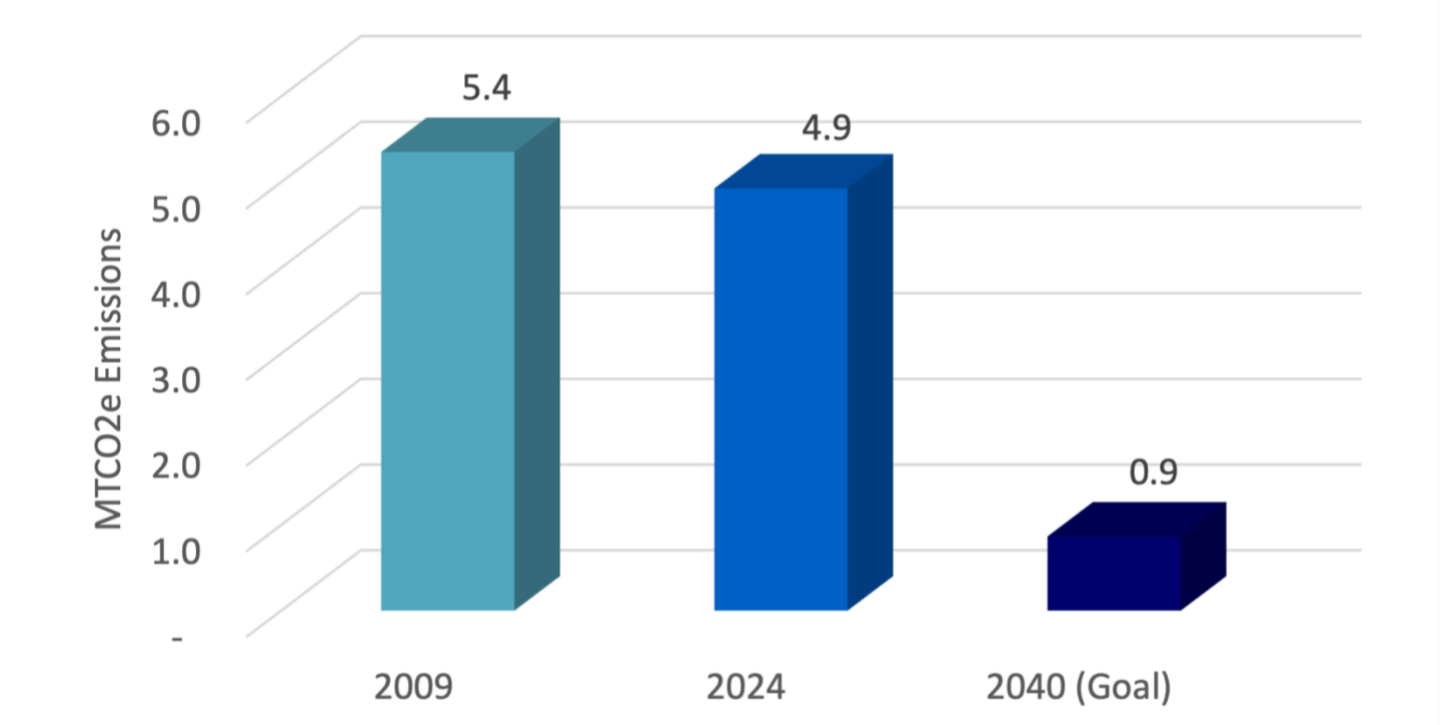


Figure 26. SLC Per Capita On-Road GHG Emissions.

Community air travel is another important aspect of transportation-related emissions and represents 9% of overall 2024 GHGs for Salt Lake City. These emissions have increased along with a growing population, plus more economic activity, and produced an estimated 408,558 MTCO2e in the latest year. The GHG footprint methodology adjusts total enplanements at Salt Lake City International Airport to reflect a locally attributable share of emissions for SLC residents. Similar to on-road transportation, GHGs from this category slowed notably during COVID-19 as illustrated in Figure 27, but have since rebounded to their largest figure to-date.

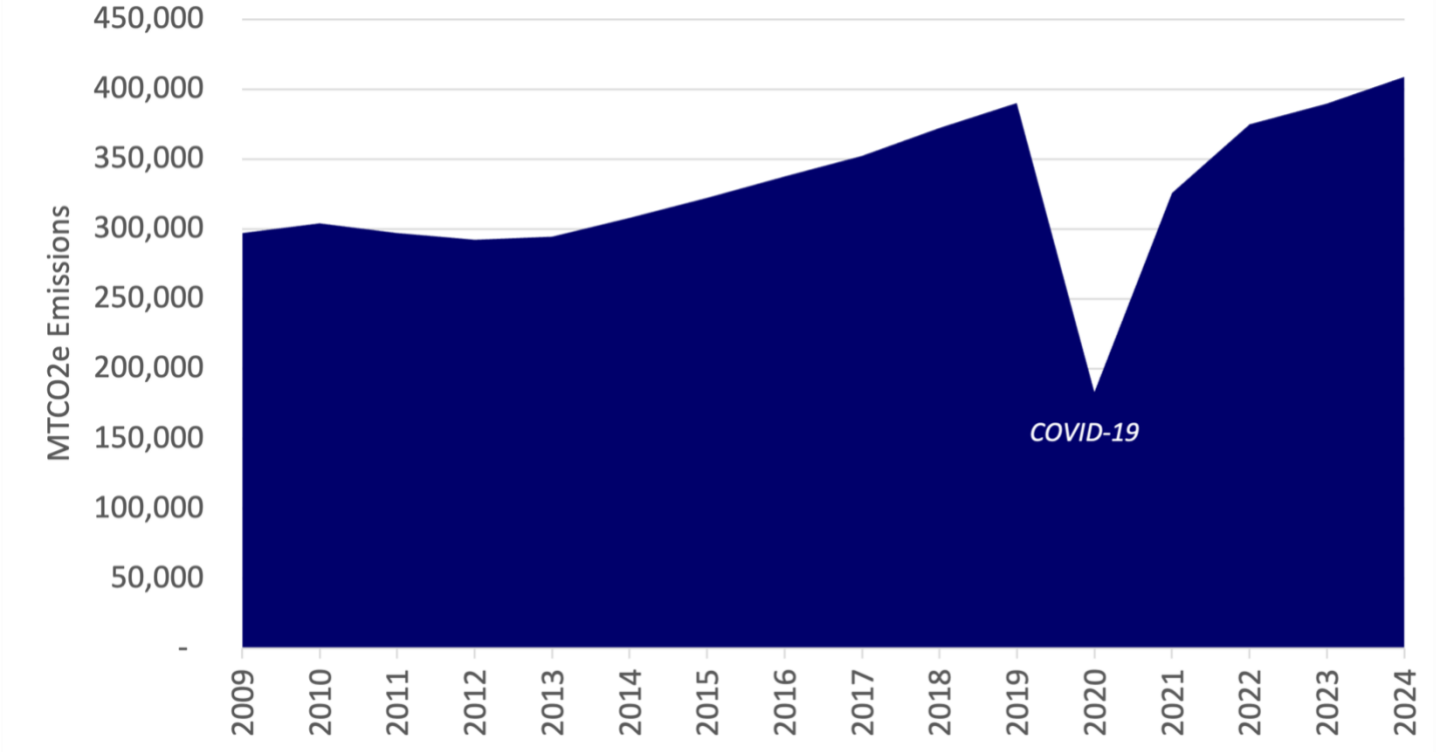


Figure 27. SLC Community Air Travel GHG Emissions.

Emissions from Solid Waste

> *Solid waste is the smallest category within the framework of how SLC calculates its community GHG emissions.*[192]

In 2024, an estimated 13,586 MTCO2e were created from decomposing waste produced by the community and disposed of at the landfill.

Figure 28 illustrates that emissions from residential waste have fallen by an estimated 33% from 2009-24 while waste-related emissions produced by commercial and other properties have increased during this time. In 2011, the City adopted a zero-waste resolution with a goal to divert waste from the landfill for preferable uses such as recycling, composting, biodigestion, and materials reuse. To support this goal, a waste characterization study is currently being conducted by the SLC Waste and Recycling Division. Preliminary results suggest numerous opportunities and strategies to increase diversion of organic and recyclable materials, which could lead to further reductions in emissions.

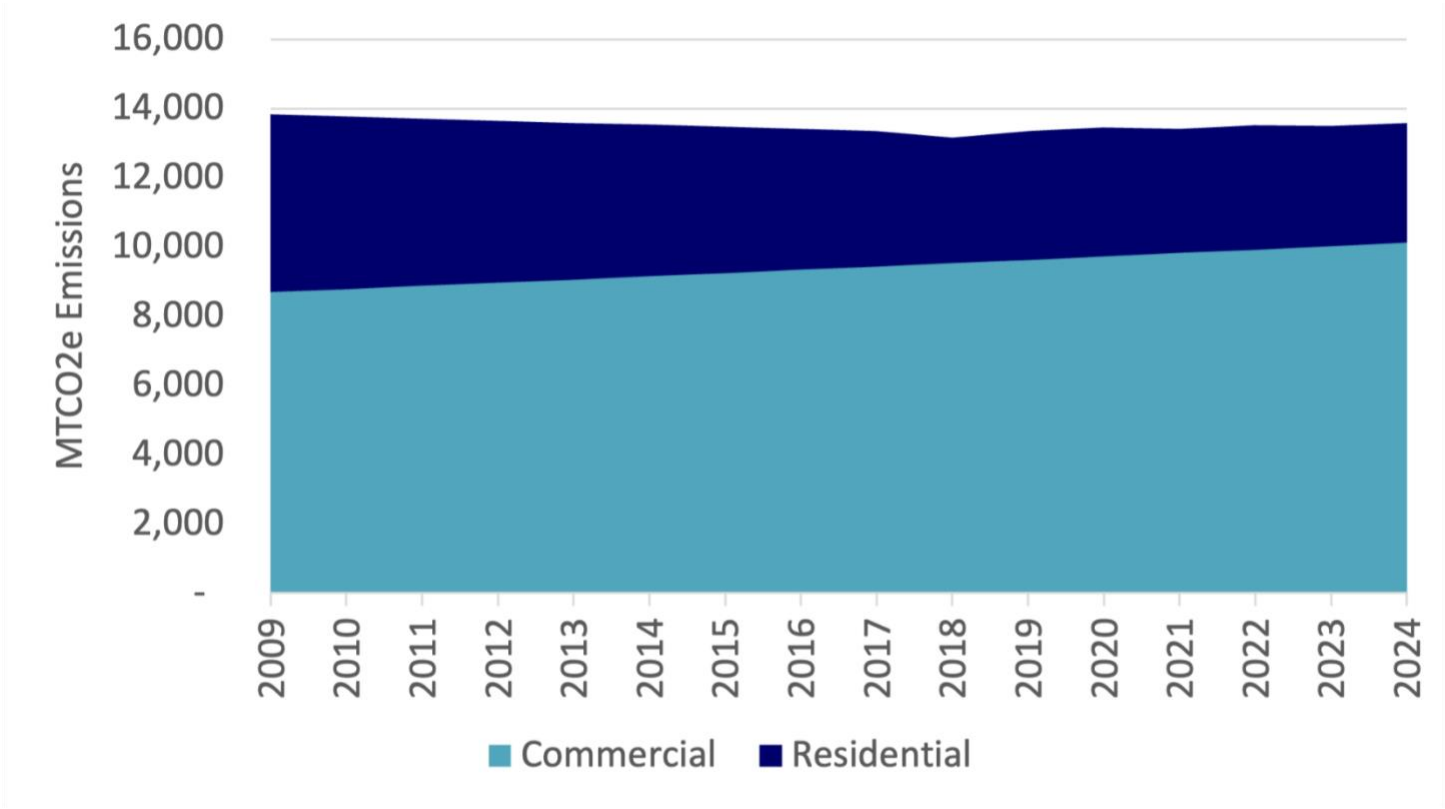
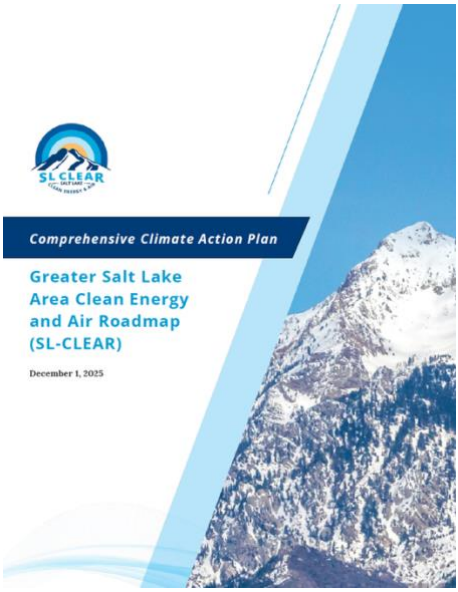


Figure 28. SLC Community Solid Waste GHG Emissions.

Nexus to Regional Climate Planning

> *SLC leveraged grant funding from the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grants program to conduct research and engagement from 2023-25. This led to the publication of a priority climate action plan (PCAP) and comprehensive climate action plan (CCAP) for the Salt Lake City metro area, inclusive of Salt Lake County and Tooele County.*



These plans, collectively titled the Greater Salt Lake Area Clean Energy and Air Roadmap (SL-CLEAR), detail regional strategies for reducing GHG emissions. See more at the SL-CLEAR website.

The City was able to build off lessons learned from the SL-CLEAR effort, including its community and stakeholder engagement, to inform creation of a local climate plan. SLC will continue to engage with SL-CLEAR partners and harness the potential of regional collaboration and solutions as it strives to reduce emissions and deliver community benefits.

Public Input

Key Takeaways for Climate Forward SLC

City staff conducted robust community engagement to inform the climate plan update, including a public survey, business survey, and intercept surveys.

Survey respondents noted drought and lack of water as the top climate concern, followed by air pollution, more wildfires and smoky days, and extreme heat.

Respondents ranked reducing air pollution, shifting to clean energy, and increasing trees and green space as their top priorities for city action.

Respondents expressed the most interest in city actions that reduce climate pollution and that have multiple benefits.

Most business survey respondents indicated considerable concern around climate change's impact on their businesses, particularly employee health and safety, supply chain disruptions, and property and infrastructure damage due to extreme weather.

Community Engagement Process

To inform the SLC Climate Action Plan update, city staff conducted a robust community engagement process. This process included an online public survey, which received over 700 responses, an intercept survey of over 200 people, and a business engagement survey. In addition, City staff also attended community events where they engaged over 400 attendees using a dot board and other interactive activities.

This section also incorporates feedback collected through other recent climate-related engagement efforts. These additional data sources were analyzed to provide broader context and enrich the insights gained from the Climate Forward SLC Survey. The additional data sources include:

- Online survey for the SL-CLEAR Priority Climate Action Plan.[193] Conducted in 2024. Received over 900 responses from residents across the Salt Lake Metropolitan Statistical Area.
- Community Electrified Transportation Study survey.[194] Conducted in 2023. Received over 800 responses primarily from Salt Lake City residents.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES OVERVIEW

The Climate Forward SLC Survey, open from July 25 to November 3, 2025, received 721 responses.

During the same period, City staff conducted 214 intercept surveys – abbreviated, in-person versions of the online survey – at a variety of locations, such as community centers, parks, and grocery stores.

City staff also participated in over a dozen community events, using interactive tabling activities to engage with attendees. The primary activity was a dot board, where participants could vote on which climate solutions the City should prioritize or deprioritize. A spin-the-wheel game tested attendees' knowledge of climate issues in a fun and engaging way. More importantly, these activities served as conversation starters, helping

staff gather informal feedback and share information about the City's ongoing climate initiatives.

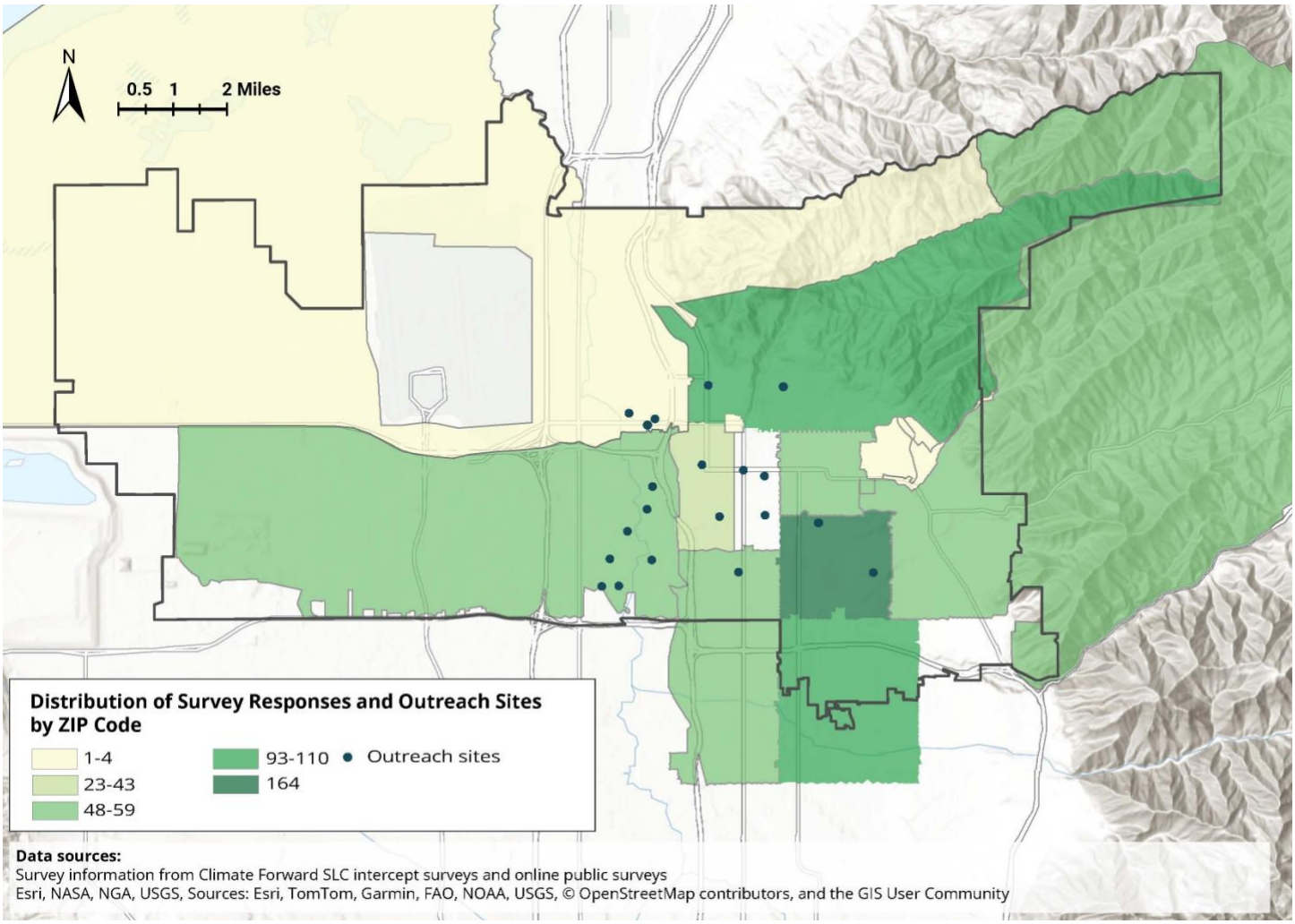


Figure 29. Distribution of online and intercept survey responses and locations of tabling events and intercept surveys.

CLIMATE CHANGE PERCEPTIONS

Respondents generally felt informed about climate change and its impacts.

- Over 33% of online survey respondents indicated that they know a lot, 45% that they know a fair amount, and 17% that they know some but not a lot.
- Intercept respondents were slightly less well-informed about climate change, 21% indicating that they know a lot, 43% that they know a fair amount, and 26% that they know some but not a lot.

Respondents are most concerned about drought and lack of water, air pollution and its impacts, more wildfires and smoky days, and extreme heat.

- Over 88% of online survey respondents indicated that they were concerned about drought and lack of water, 85% about air pollution and its impacts, 75% about more wildfires and smoky days, and 69% about extreme heat.
- Intercept survey respondents shared similar concerns, with 85% expressing concern about air pollution, 84% about drought, 80% about extreme heat, and 71% about wildfires.

In terms of City priorities, respondents ranked reducing air pollution, shifting to clean, renewable energy, and increasing trees and green space as their top priorities.

- 88% of online survey respondents ranked reducing air pollution as very important, and another 10% as somewhat important.
- 72% ranked shifting to clean, renewable energy as very important and 20% as somewhat important.
- 69% ranked increasing trees and green space as very important and 27% as somewhat important.
- Reducing crime and improving job opportunities were not ranked as highly as other priorities, such as improving community health and lowering the cost of living.

Respondents expressed the most interest in city actions that reduce climate pollution and in actions that provide multiple other benefits.

- 59% of online survey respondents indicated that actions that reduce climate pollution were very important.
- 44% of respondents indicated that actions that have multiple benefits (for example, reducing pollution, creating jobs, and saving money) were very important.

In both the online and intercept surveys when asked to share other climate priorities, respondents touched on the need to reduce car usage, improve air quality, and support the health of the Great Salt Lake.

- Respondents most frequently emphasized the need to reduce car usage in Salt Lake City, citing concerns about pollution, safety, and urban quality, and called for improvements in alternative transportation.
- Air quality and the health of the Great Salt Lake were recurring priorities, with calls for aggressive action against polluting projects, reducing car/truck traffic, and restoring lake water levels by buying back water rights and opposing diversions.

- Respondents shared a desire for more equitable climate action, particularly for less affluent areas.

> *"[I'm most concerned about the] compounded affect [sic] of lack of water in the Great Salt Lake with pollution." - Online Survey Respondent*
>
> *"Quantify and monetize how climate change impacts cost Salt Lake City residents in health care, economic and tax burdens, and quality of life. Advocate for fossil fuels use reduction at the state legislature, Rocky Mountain Power, and the Public Service Commission." - Online Survey Respondent*

PUBLIC PERCEPTION ON CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

Over 40% of online survey respondents reported that they have an electric lawnmower or other garden equipment and were least familiar with heat pumps.

- Intercept survey respondents showed similar levels of familiarity but were slightly more likely to have an electric lawnmower and heat pumps.

When asked about climate solutions, some residents expressed concerns with solutions that benefit landlords rather than renters. They expressed interest in solutions that can directly support and empower renters to make changes, such as plug-in solar and home energy efficiency kits.

Technology	1 – I Have	2 - I want to get	3 – I've heard about it	4 – I don't know what that is
Solar panels	22%	47.3%	30.4%	0.3%
Electric car	19.5%	43.6%	36.2%	0.7%
Electric bike	25.4%	34.8%	39.1%	0.7%
Electric lawnmower/ garden equipment	43.6%	20.1%	34.6%	1.7%
Heat pump	14%	31.4%	35.6%	18.9%
Induction cooktop	19.8%	29.5%	45.2%	7.6%

Table 5. Online Survey: Respondent Familiarity with Technologies.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Respondents similarly demonstrated high levels of familiarity and positive attitudes towards solar panels.

- Approximately 47% of online survey respondents indicated that they would like to get a solar panel and 22% of respondents indicated that they already have solar panels.
- Feedback from the dot board activity also showed overall support for renewable energy and residential solar panels.
- Over 90% of respondents of the SL-CLEAR survey indicated that they felt positively about solar panels.
- Cost and practicality were the main barriers to adoption, with 42% and 23% of respondents of the SL-CLEAR survey respectively raising these concerns.

City staff also heard interest in plug-in solar technology, particularly from renters who are interested in implementing climate solutions but feel like they have limited options.

CLEAN TRANSPORTATION

Active Mobility

When asked about their priorities for clean transportation, two clear top priorities emerged: providing more, better, and lower-cost transit and making it easier and safer to bike and walk.

- Seventy-six percent of respondents ranked "Provide more, better, and low-cost transit" as a priority, and 72.5% ranked "Make it easier and safer to bike and walk" as a priority.
- This was overwhelmingly prioritized in dot board activities.
- Other potential priorities, such as making electric vehicles less expensive, ranked significantly lower, with 18.7% identifying "make electric vehicles less expensive" as a priority and 14.1% identifying "provide more places to charge electric vehicles as priority."
- While intercept surveys did not explicitly ask about clean transportation, many respondents shared that better public transit and bike lanes were priorities.

> *"Bike safety is my number one priority. Streets are crowded and uncomfortable to ride on. I want more wide sidewalks which accommodate*

> *pedestrians and bikes comfortably and separate from cars." - Online Survey Respondent*
>
> *"I think a large part of the change to shift to greater public transit and biking is a culture shift from the convenience of cars. Part of this is increasing convenience of biking and transit and part of this is reducing the ease of driving (higher parking costs) and part of this is culture shift through advertisements, etc." - Online Survey Respondent*

Electric Vehicles

Electric vehicles ranked lower than active mobility and transit as City transportation priorities, though the outsized impact of vehicle emissions on the high-ranking priority of improving air quality may not be as clear to respondents. Respondents indicated that they already have (19.5%) or plan to get (43%) an electric vehicle, indicating that they view the technology favorably but is a lower priority for City action compared to active mobility and transit.

In the 2024 SL-CLEAR PCAP survey, respondents demonstrated high levels of familiarity and positive attitudes towards electric vehicles.

- Over 75% of respondents indicated that they felt positively or very positively about electric vehicles.
- The primary barrier to electric vehicle adoption was the cost. Over 38% of respondents indicated that they were too expensive.
- Practicality and a lack of confidence in EV's performance were also barriers.

In the Community Electrified Transportation Study, respondents indicated a high level of interest in electric vehicles.

- Over half indicated that they would consider getting a hybrid or fully electric vehicle for their next vehicle, and over a quarter indicated that they already had an electric vehicle.
- The upfront purchase price was again the most significant barrier to purchasing an EV.

When asked what information would help make a decision about getting an EV, Community Electrified Transportation Survey respondents highlighted information on home charging installation and requirements and how to apply for incentives and rebates.

When asked about specific City programs, respondents were generally supportive:

- 46% of respondents were interested in a program that allows you to install a charger in the right-of-way.
- 78% of respondents shared that it was important for the City to incentivize the cleanest vehicles through initiatives such as SLC's Green Vehicle Parking Permits or free EV charging stations.
- Respondents strongly supported City investment in public EV charging stations at parks, libraries, community centers, and other public spaces.

> *"Electric vehicle charging incentives need to be available for multi-family housing and not just single-family homes." - Online Survey Respondent*
>
> *"I commute to the city for work but live in Layton so working with UTA to help lower the commute time with public transportation would be helpful. I drive mostly because it takes half the time that taking public transportation." - Online Survey Respondent*

E-Bikes

Respondents also demonstrated high levels of familiarity and positive attitudes towards electric bikes.

- Over 75% of online survey respondents indicated that they felt positively or very positively about electric bikes.
- The main barrier to e-bike adoption was safety concerns, followed by cost. Over 24% shared that they had concerns about safety.

Similarly, in the Community Electrified Transportation Study and SL-CLEAR PCAP survey, respondents indicated that the cost, lack of safe storage, and insufficient bike lanes and infrastructure are key barriers to using e-bikes as a primary mode of transportation.

BUILDINGS

Online survey respondents were asked about home electrification and energy efficiency solutions.

Respondents ranked "making it easier to insulate my home and save money" and "helping switch to efficient electric appliances that pollute less" as their top priorities, although other priorities received similarly high rankings

- Over 66% indicated that "making it easier to insulate [their] homes and save money" was a priority, and 61.4% shared that "helping switch to efficient electric appliances that pollute less" was a priority.
- Helping improve indoor air quality and providing incentives to landlords were ranked as a priority by 57% of respondents.

Respondents are unfamiliar but interested in heat pumps.

- Nearly 20% of respondents shared that they were completely unfamiliar with heat pumps.
- Over 30% shared that they would like to get heat pumps and 14% of respondents noted that they already have heat pumps.
- A similar pattern was seen for induction cooktops.

This is consistent with the SL-CLEAR survey, which found that almost half of respondents are very or somewhat unfamiliar with heat pumps. However, almost 60% of respondents had a positive or somewhat positive attitude toward heat pumps. Cost and lack of knowledge were the primary barriers. Respondents to the SL-CLEAR survey also noted broad support (over 75% support or strongly support) for financial incentives for residents, businesses, local governments, schools & universities to improve energy efficiency and use less pollution technologies.

Dot survey responses showed stronger support for efforts that help people use less energy and save money on utility bills. Home electrification and home insulation were noted as lower priorities than helping people use less energy, indicating a potential gap in understanding on the impacts of different residential solutions.

> *"I feel like existing mom and pop landlords should be incentivized but new and especially corporate landlords of larger, newer buildings should be required to meet more clean energy standards." - Online Survey Respondent*
>
> *"I live in an HOA, and providing incentives for HOA's to install solar and switch to green practices would be huge, allowing larger plots of land for hundreds of homeowners to make swaps." - Online Survey Respondent*

CLIMATE RESILIENCY & ADAPTATION

When asked about their priorities for heat mitigation, online survey respondents identified increasing the number of streets in their neighborhoods (59.2%) and

improving and/or increasing the water-wise green areas in their neighborhoods as priorities (49.8%).

A lower percentage of online survey respondents identified incentivizing energy-efficient home cooling systems (34.5%), using cool reflective surfaces (27.3%), and adding more shade structures, splash pads, and other cooling features in City projects (23.7%) as priorities.

This is consistent with the feedback from the dot surveys. Trees and waterwise greenspaces were noted as top priorities and other cooling efforts such as shade, splash pads, and cool reflective surfaces were noted as lower priority.

> *"Heat and poverty are intertwined, and solutions should focus on the most vulnerable to both."*
>
> *"I love how much SLC prioritizes its urban forest and would not want that to decrease. I want to see more diverse strategies to address this issue, especially for areas where it has been challenging to recruit residents to water new street trees." - Online Survey Respondent*
>
> *"[I'd like to see] better coordination with utilities to provide free/accessible energy audits and battery systems for homes for resilience and energy efficiency" - Online Survey Respondent*

SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

Key survey demographics are summarized below. Appendix B includes detailed survey demographics data.

- **60% of online survey respondents reported that they are homeowners, and 33% were renters.** Intercept survey respondents were more likely to be renters (44% being renters).
- Online survey respondents represent a wide variety of ages, with over half falling in the 22-50 range.
- Online survey respondents also represented a variety of income levels but tended towards middle- and high-income.
- **Online survey respondents did not fully represent the racial and ethnic diversity of Salt Lake City, as they were more likely to be white.**

BUSINESS SURVEY OVERVIEW

In addition to the online and intercept surveys, city staff conducted an online survey of local businesses. There were 54 business representatives that completed the survey.

The businesses were diverse in size and focus areas.

- Professional services, manufacturing, and retail were the most common focus areas.
- Finance and health care were less common focus areas.
- Over three-quarters of respondents indicated that their business or organization employs 50 or fewer people. Only 7% of respondents indicated that their business employs more than 500 people.
- Over 60% of respondents indicated that their business or organization leases its workspace.

Most respondents indicated considerable concern around climate change's impact on their businesses, with 46.3% of respondents sharing that they were "Extremely Concerned" and 13% indicating that they were "Very Concerned."

- Respondents were most concerned **about employee health and safety, supply chain disruptions, and property and infrastructure damage due to extreme weather**.
- Respondents were less concerned about regulatory changes and reduced demand for their products and services.
- Over 80% of respondents shared that they agreed or strongly agreed with the statement "Taking action of climate change is important for the long-term health of our economy."

When asked what motivates or would motivate your business/organization to take climate action, respondents were mostly likely to select environmental or social responsibility (64.8%).

- Employee values (37%), cost savings (33.3%), and employee health (27.8%) were also top motivators.
- Only four respondents indicated that climate action is not a priority for their organization.
- Half of respondents shared that their business/organization either currently has formal sustainability goals and/or a climate plan or is developing one.

Specific climate actions businesses were most interested in pursuing or are working on implementing include measures to reduce waste, water conservation strategies, and energy efficiency improvements.

- Over 59% of respondents have completed or are working on implementing measures to reduce waste, and an additional 22.22% are interested but have not started.
- Over 42% have completed or are working on implementing water conservation measures, and 38.89% are interested but have not started.
- Over 40% have completed or are working on energy efficiency improvements, and 31.48% are interested but have not started.
- Interestingly, only 7% have completed or are working on measuring and tracking the carbon footprint of their business, but 44% were interested.

Climate Action	Interested but not started	Completed or in progress	Unsure	Not interested
Measures to reduce waste	22.2%	59.3%	13%	5.6%
Installing employee EV chargers	27.8%	18.5%	22.2%	31.5%
Fleet and equipment electrification	25.9%	25.9%	22.2%	25.9%
Implementing water conservation measures	38.9%	42.6%	13%	5.6%
Installation of renewable energy systems	35.2%	25.9%	22.2%	16.7%
Switching to low-carbon materials/supplies	29.7%	33.3%	22.2%	14.8%
Electrification of heating and cooling systems	27.8%	33.3%	18.5%	20.4%
Measuring and tracking carbon footprint of our business	44.4%	7.4%	25.9%	22.2%
Enrolling in grid-supplied renewable electricity program	27.8%	22.2%	22.2%	27.8%
Initiatives to encourage employees to ride transit, bikes, or walk to work	22.2%	33.3%	24.1%	20.4%

Climate Action	Interested but not started	Completed or in progress	Unsure	Not interested
Making infrastructure or property more resilient to extreme weather effects	31.5%	27.8%	22.2%	18.5%
Energy efficiency improvements (audits, building envelope enhancements, lighting retrofits, enhanced controls, etc)	31.5%	40.7%	14.8%	13%

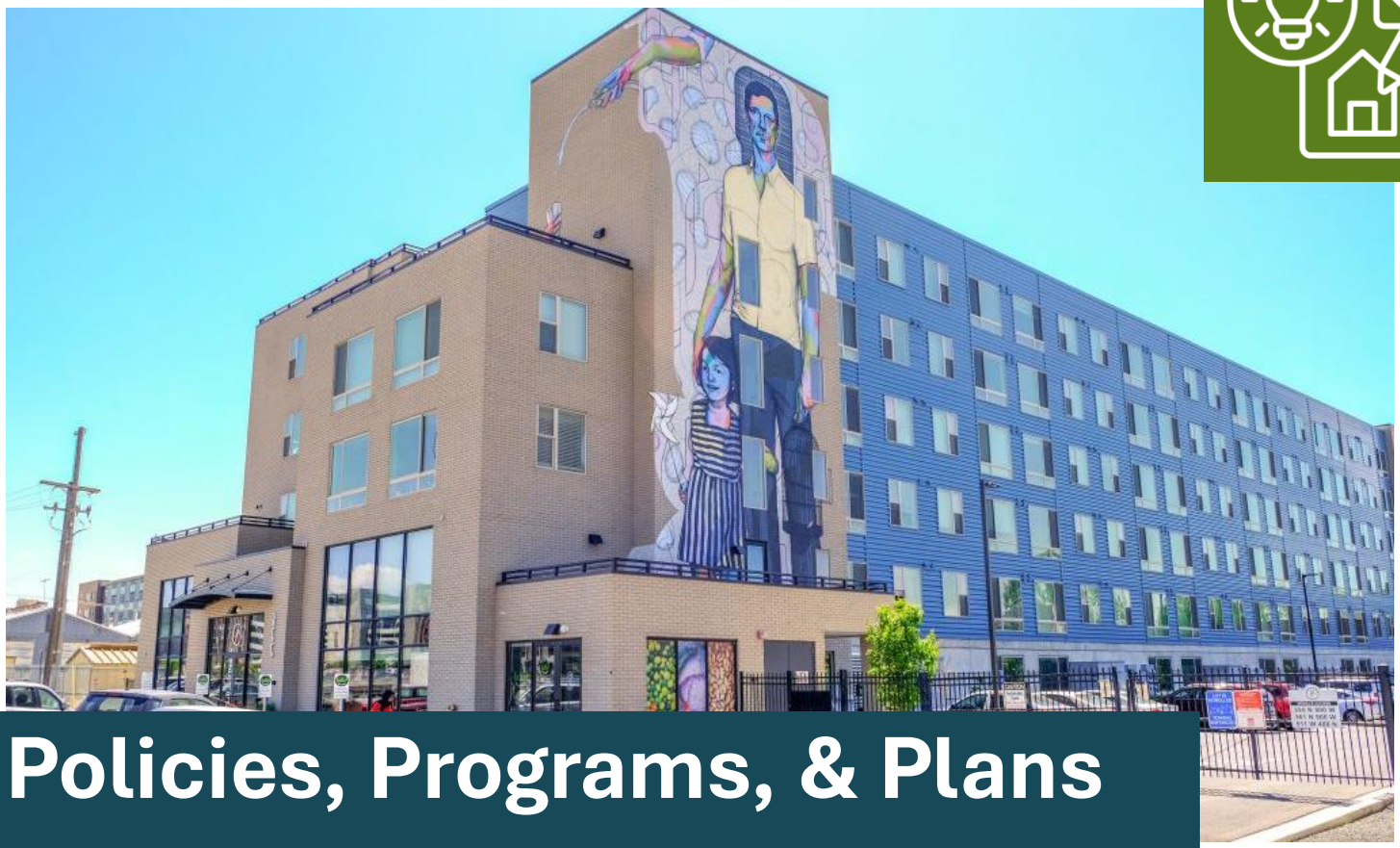
Table 6. Online Survey: Business Interest in Climate Actions.

Over 60% of respondents highlighted lack of funding or financial incentives as the biggest barrier.

- Competing business priorities, limited staff capacity or expertise, difficulty measuring emissions, and uncertainty about regulations or policies also emerged as barriers.

Two-thirds of respondents highlighted that access to funding or grants would help advance climate initiatives in their business.

- Respondents also identified policy clarity or regulatory guidance, case studies or best practices, tools for emissions tracking and reporting, and technical assistance or consulting as valuable forms of support.



Policies, Programs, & Plans with Climate Reference

Key Takeaways for Climate Forward SLC

The City has adopted multiple plans and implemented many programs and initiatives that support climate priorities.

Climate Forward SLC aligns with the Guiding Principles of *Plan Salt Lake*, particularly Guiding Principle #5: Air Quality.

Connect SLC* and *Housing SLC include several strategies that reduce the climate impact of the transportation and buildings sectors. *Climate Forward SLC* will consider how to assess the climate impact of these strategies and identify any gaps or opportunities to enhance climate action in these sectors.

Several plans address green spaces and climate resiliency. *Climate Forward SLC* will evaluate the need for additional strategies to reduce heat-island effect and mitigate extreme heat.

Policies and Projects Relevant to Climate Action

Salt Lake City has long prioritized policies and initiatives that protect and enhance the environment. Climate Forward SLC will build upon this legacy and the adopted City policies, programs and projects that overlap with and help advance the City's climate priorities.

This section provides a summary of the adopted policies (plans, resolutions, and ordinances) relevant for each climate sector and describes how the strategies and actions from these plans will inform the Climate Forward SLC plan. In addition, this section highlights key projects under each climate sector and the climate benefits of these projects. A complete list of relevant projects is included in Appendix B: In-Progress and Completed Projects.

Plan Salt Lake

Plan Salt Lake, adopted in 2015, established a citywide vision for growth, sustainability, and livability through 2040. The plan is governed by ten guiding principles. Under each principle, the plan identified 2040 targets and key initiatives the City will undertake to achieve the targets.

Climate action overlaps with many of the guiding principles in Plan Salt Lake but has the most direct connection with **Guiding Principle #5: Air Quality.** This principle calls for a reduction in emissions and citywide energy consumption by 2040. To achieve this target, the plan lists initiatives such as supporting renewable energy, encouraging energy efficiency, increasing transportation mode-share, minimizing the impact of car emissions, and incorporating climate adaptation strategies into city plans. The strategies in Climate Forward SLC will directly deal with the initiatives listed under this guiding principle.

Other relevant Guiding Principles include:

- **Guiding Principle #1:** Neighborhoods that provide a safe environment, opportunity for social interaction, and services needed for the wellbeing of the community therein.
- **Guiding Principle #4:** A transportation and mobility network that is safe, accessible, reliable, affordable, and sustainable, providing real choices and connecting people with places.
- **Guiding Principle #6:** Minimize our impact on the natural environment.
- **Guiding Principle #7:** Protecting the natural environment while providing access and opportunities to recreate and enjoy nature.
- **Guiding Principle #8:** A beautiful city that is people focused.

Climate Forward SLC will be guided by these principles and help to implement Plan Salt Lake's vision of a green, inclusive, and economically vibrant city.

Energy

Electricity is the largest contributor to the City's community greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) (estimated at 40% of total GHGs in 2024). Transitioning to renewable energy is critical to meet the City's climate goals.

The City has adopted two joint resolutions establishing targets for transitioning to renewable energy. In addition, the City has undertaken several renewable energy projects and programs impacting municipal operations and the community. Utah Renewable Communities (URC) program (described below) is the most significant effort in this sector and is aimed at achieving net-100% renewable energy by 2030 for Salt Lake City and 18 other communities across the state.

ADOPTED PLANS & POLICIES

2016 Joint Resolution Renewable Energy and Carbon Emission Reduction Goals

In 2016, the Mayor and City Council adopted a joint resolution establishing renewable energy goals and carbon emission reductions for Salt Lake City:

1. **Renewable Energy:** Salt Lake City will transition to 100% renewable energy for its community and municipal operations by 2032. By 2020, municipal operations will transition to 50% renewable energy.
2. **Community Carbon Emission Reductions:** Salt Lake City will ensure the reduction of community greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2040 including a reduction of at least 50% by 2030. These reductions will be relative to the 2009 baseline emissions inventory.

2019 Joint Resolution Moving the Community Renewable Energy Goal to 2030

Mayor and City Council adopted a joint resolution moving the goal of achieving net-100% clean electricity for the community from 2032 to 2030.

CURRENT PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

The City has carried out numerous renewable energy projects (see Appendix B: In-Progress and Completed Projects for a complete list). The two initiatives outlined below are highlighted for their significant impact and critical role in achieving the City's emission reduction targets.

Utah Renewable Communities

Utah Renewable Communities (URC) is the most critical effort and essential to achieving the SLC's renewable energy and emission reduction goals. URC is a coalition of 19 cities, counties, and towns that are working with Rocky Mountain Power to offer net-100% renewable energy to customers in the participating communities.

As of March 2026, the program was approved by the Public Service Commission (PSC). Communities are now working to solidify their participation in the program by passing participation ordinances. Eligible communities that adopt the ordinance to join the program will automatically enroll all of their Rocky Mountain Power customers, giving them a new clean energy line item on their electricity bill which directly funds local utility-scale renewable energy. Customers will then have the choice to opt-out anytime. With the PSC decision, URC is also able to proceed with the procurement of new renewable energy resources. The program ultimately aims to bring online about 500 MW of clean energy over the coming years, based on current participating customer projections. This amount of clean energy, which would occur over several different resource procurements, would result in an estimated reduction of 1 million metric tons of carbon dioxide pollution annually, and 1,000 pounds of criteria pollution annually, based on estimates using EPA's

AVoided Emissions and geneRation Tool (AVERT) model. The program is expected to launch in 2027.

Elektron Solar

Salt Lake City and five other large customers catalyzed development of an 80-megawatt solar PV project in Tooele County, Utah. The City committed to purchasing roughly half the energy produced by the solar farm, which is approximately 80% of the City's municipal electricity needs. With this project, the City was able to meet the goal established in the 2016 joint resolution of 50% renewable energy for municipal operations by 2020.

In its first 12 months, the Elektron Solar project saved an estimated $1.5 million on City electricity bills, reduced regional carbon pollution by over 120,000 metric tons, and avoided more than 2,500 pounds of criteria air pollution along the Wasatch Front. The Salt Lake City Airport was also able to offset its electricity emissions through this project, including all of its energy consumption emissions as well as emissions from the electricity used by electric ground support equipment and aircraft power support.

CONNECTION TO CLIMATE FORWARD SLC

Both joint resolutions are foundational to the City's climate goals. URC will continue to be a priority for the City as it is a key project to meet SLC's climate goals.

Climate Forward SLC will assess other programs and efforts needed to ensure the success of URC, encourage further deployment of renewable energy in the community, and consider opportunities for renewable energy generation at municipal facilities. Other priority areas of work like electrification of buildings and transportation will help leverage the environmental and economic benefits of the community's renewable energy while reducing emissions in those sectors.

Transportation

On-road transportation accounts for 22% of the community's GHG emissions and is a significant source of air pollution in the SLC region. Solutions to reduce emissions from this sector can be grouped into two main categories:

1. Solutions to reduce vehicle miles travelled (VMT); and
2. Vehicle electrification and efficiency.

The City has long invested in transit and active mobility solutions. SLC's newly adopted transportation master plan, Connect SLC, established the City's commitment to transit and active mobility. The City has also adopted a resolution elevating electrified transportation as a key climate strategy and has undertaken several efforts to advance electrified transportation in the community and in its municipal fleet.

ADOPTED PLANS & POLICIES

Connect SLC

Connect SLC, adopted in 2024, sets a 20-year vision for transportation in Salt Lake City and establishes goals to improve health and safety, expand access to opportunities, and improve air quality. The plan considers streets a shared space that need to safely and reliably accommodate pedestrians, transit, and bikes in addition to vehicles.

To achieve this vision, the plan identifies eight "key moves" to create an equitable transportation system that meets the community's diverse needs. The key moves and actions relevant to Climate Forward SLC are primarily related to improving access to active mobility and transit:

- **Great Networks for Active Mobility**
  - Pedestrian Safety & Connectivity
  - Low-Stress Bicycling & Micromobility
  - Active Public Spaces
- **Transit Friendly Neighborhoods**
  - Make Transit Convenient and Reliable
  - Nurture Inclusive and Welcoming Transit Spaces
  - Enhance the Urban Context to Make Transit an Attractive Option
- **Low-Emissions Mobility Options**
  - Build Awareness and Use of Transportation Options
  - Manage Existing Parking Supply
  - Communicate a Unified Parking Strategy and Brand
- **Develop Curb Management Strategy**

Pedestrian & Bicycle Plan

This plan was adopted in 2015 and provides a guiding framework, recommendations, and policies for the development and improvement of pedestrian and bicycle facilities along with education, encouragement, and enforcement programs.

Connect SLC builds on the recommendations of this plan, so Climate Forward SLC will prioritize alignment with Connect SLC.

Transit Master Plan

Adopted in 2017, this plan provides a blueprint for public transportation in Salt Lake City. Connect SLC builds on the recommendations of this plan, so Climate Forward SLC will prioritize alignment with Connect SLC.

2021 Joint Electrified Transportation Resolution

In 2021, the Mayor and City Council passed the joint Electrified Transportation Resolution establishing a commitment to incorporate and promote electrified transportation as an important solution in reducing carbon emissions and pollutants that impact air quality. The Resolution established priorities for advancing electrified transit and electrifying smart mobility and personal vehicles, including electrification goals for municipal fleet vehicles.

Housing and Transit Reinvestment Zone Policy

The Community Redevelopment Agency policy provides financial incentives to developers for locating housing development within proximity to public transit.

CURRENT PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

Key projects and initiatives related to clean transportation are described below. Appendix B: In-Progress and Completed Projects provides a complete list of ongoing and completed projects.

Transit

Salt Lake City's Transportation Division has a unique partnership with the Utah Transit Authority (UTA) to expand and improve public transit access across the city, focusing on service enhancements, capital upgrades, and transit pass programs.

Salt Lake City is the only municipality in the UTA service area that maintains an interlocal agreement with the agency to pay for increased service within city limits. This means that UTA buses run more often and at longer hours in Salt Lake City. These upgraded bus lines are known as GO Routes. This agreement has also allowed the relationship between UTA and the City to continue to expand transit passes and other programs.

In 2021, the City started offering free transit passes to students and one guardian, as well as faculty and staff of the Salt Lake City School District. SLC residents can also purchase discounted transit passes, called the Hive Pass, which offers comprehensive access to UTA services—including FrontRunner, TRAX, the S-Line, UTA On Demand, and all bus routes—along with a GREENbike membership. Additionally, the City works with qualified social service agencies to support the transportation needs of low-income residents through the Human Service Fare Program. The program provides 6,900 daily and 2,700 monthly passes every year to service providers like Volunteers of America and The Other Side Village.

The City is also investing heavily in transit infrastructure and service quality. More than 250 bus stops have been upgraded or newly constructed in recent years, with 71 improvements completed in 2024 alone, adding accessibility features and amenities such as shelters and benches. Several upgraded routes also now feature bus islands, which allow for faster boarding and alighting to facilitate better service.

The City and UTA have partnered to provide UTA On Demand service on the Westside. A rideshare-like service, On Demand allows riders to access the UTA system by hailing a van with an app for the price of UTA fare. This type of service allows riders in areas where traditional transit service is difficult to implement to reach a wide range of destinations.

Active Transportation

The City's Complete Streets Ordinance requires streets to be designed, operated, and maintained for all modes of traffic, including people walking and biking as well as for travelers of all ages and abilities. Since adopting this ordinance in 2010, the City has invested in several projects that support and encourage active transportation in new or reconstructed streets.

As of 2025, the City's Division of Transportation had installed over 291 miles of bicycle lanes. Additionally, programs like the 20 Mile Per Hour Local Streets Initiative and the citywide campaign of creating and improving crosswalks continue to make bicycle and pedestrian travel safer and less stressful. Some of the key projects include the 400 South Viaduct Trail, 300 West Bikeway, 9 Line Trail, and Neighborhood Byways (project details are included in Appendix B).

Shared micromobility programs, such as bike shares and scooter systems, are important strategies to help reduce vehicle trips. The City supports one bike share program (GREENbike) through the provision of direct funding. It also manages a shared e-scooter program through a contract for services with two providers. The contractual agreements allow the City to provide policy and program direction aimed at enhancing the positive

impacts of shared micromobility. In 2025, there were nearly 1 million trips on shared e-scooters and over 78,000 trips on GREENbike. The City is seeking to expand the program by better integrating shared mobility with transit and making shared micromobility more reliable, accessible, safe, and affordable.

Municipal Fleet Electrification

In 2024, the City completed the Fleet Charging Infrastructure Study. The study provides detailed analyses of opportunities to electrify the City's municipal vehicle fleet, including department-by-department assessment of EV charging infrastructure needs and costs.

As of December 2025, City operations included 481 alternative-fueled vehicles, 69 of which were all-electric. The Airport has nearly 600 alternative-fueled vehicles, including over 460 electric ground support equipment, 45 fully-electric vehicles and 87 electric off-highway vehicles, such as carts and lifts.

In FY25, the Public Services Department received funding from the Capital Improvement Program to install charging infrastructure at the Public Safety Building. The Departments of Sustainability and Public Services continue to work together to identify strategies and funding opportunities to electrify the rest of the municipal fleet and build charging infrastructure.

Community Transportation Electrification

In 2025, the Community Electrified Transportation Study was completed. The Study evaluated opportunities to support electrified transportation, including household personal vehicles, transit, and innovative mobility options such as rideshare and carshare. The study documented 19 priority opportunities across four categories for electrified transportation.

The City will continue to implement the recommendations of the study, including expanding charging infrastructure on public property, updating EV-readiness ordinances requiring the installation of charging infrastructure on private property, establishing fees for City-owned chargers, and outreach and education efforts.

CONNECTION TO CLIMATE FORWARD SLC

Reducing emissions from the transportation sector requires coordination across numerous City divisions and departments. The Planning and Transportation Divisions are prioritizing walkable dense development and are building infrastructure for transit, biking, and walking—efforts vital for reducing pollution. While the Sustainability Department often leads vehicle electrification efforts, success depends on strong collaboration with Fleet

Management, Facilities, Planning, and other departments. The transportation strategies in Climate Forward SLC must be carefully evaluated to ensure alignment with goals and priorities from other adopted policies.

As Climate Forward SLC considers active mobility and transit solutions, it will identify potential gaps in the existing policies that could be addressed to support the City's climate goals. The plan will also consider tracking the climate impact and other benefits of these existing policies using indicators such as VMT reductions, transit ridership, and other relevant metrics.

When considering vehicle electrification efforts, Climate Forward SLC will identify the strategies needed to implement recommendations of the recently completed Fleet Charging Infrastructure and Community Electrified Transportation studies and achieve the goals of the 2021 joint Electrified Transportation Resolution.

Buildings

Electricity used in buildings is the largest contributor to SLC's community carbon footprint and is addressed separately in the Energy Sector. Natural gas combustion, the second largest source of building emissions, contributes 29% of community GHG emissions, with non-residential customers accounting for 81% of natural gas consumption. Reducing natural gas emissions through energy efficiency, such as weatherization for homes and commercial buildings, along with beneficial electrification that shifts energy use to the electric grid will be key to achieving the City's climate goals.

The City has adopted multiple policies and currently works on several projects aimed at expanding building electrification and improving energy efficiency.

ADOPTED PLANS & POLICIES

Housing SLC: 2023-2027

Adopted in 2023, the Housing SLC plan guides the City's housing-related efforts with a goal of making housing in Salt Lake City more available and attainable to people of all incomes. The primary goals are to:

1. Make progress toward closing the housing gap of 5,500 units of deeply affordable housing and increase the supply of housing at all levels of affordability;
2. Increase housing stability throughout the City; and
3. Increase opportunities for homeownership and other wealth and equity building opportunities.

The plan emphasizes several strategies that promote higher density developments and developments near major transit corridors, commercial hubs, and employment centers, which contribute to climate benefits such as improved energy efficiency and decreased reliance on personal vehicles.

Thriving in Place

This plan, adopted in 2023, identifies priority actions the City can take to prevent gentrification and displacement in our communities. The strategies focus on balancing growth and investment in new housing with the preservation of existing housing, tenant protections, and a focus on development that benefits all residents.

Although many of the priorities in Thriving in Place do not overlap with Climate Forward SLC, improving affordability—including through reduced utility costs and improved transit and walkability—will also be central to the actions considered in Climate Forward SLC.

2021 Community Reinvestment Agency Sustainable Development Policy

Adopted in 2021, the Policy requires all new construction projects (commercial and residential) receiving Community Reinvestment Agency (CRA) financing be designed and built to be highly efficient and to operate without on-site fossil fuel combustion. This policy also applies to rehabilitation projects receiving $200k or more of CRA funding. As of 2026, the CRA is updating this policy to increase compliance pathways for diverse project types and sustainability measures. The CRA hopes to expand the Policy's effectiveness and climate impact.

CURRENT PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

Key projects related to clean buildings are described below. Appendix B: In-Progress and Completed Projects includes a complete list of ongoing and completed projects.

Elevate Buildings

SLC's commercial building benchmarking ordinance, Elevate Buildings, was enacted in 2017 to reduce energy waste, support economic development, and improve air quality. Buildings over 25,000 square feet are required to report their energy and natural gas usage annually. This information helps building owners and facility managers better understand

their building's energy performance and opportunities to improve building energy efficiency. Less efficient buildings are able to access incentives and programs to help improve energy efficiency. An average of over 250 large commercial properties report to the Sustainability Department each year, with opportunity for even greater participation moving forward. Approximately half of reporting properties receive an ENERGY STAR score that designates them as above-average performers, and 30% of reporting properties receive an ENERGY STAR score of 75, making them eligible for ENERGY STAR certification. An analysis of reporting properties demonstrated that from 2019-2022, five out of seven property types saw a decrease in annual electricity consumption. That same analysis also indicated an increase in natural gas consumption in four out of seven property types, indicating opportunity for enhanced efficiency measures among the reporting properties.

Energy Management Steering Committee

In 2013, the Mayor issued an executive order creating a multi-departmental energy management steering committee tasked with developing Energy Management Plans and tracking results. The updated Comprehensive Sustainability Policy (described in the Resiliency Section) formalized this committee into the City's administrative policy framework.

The committee continues to meet to identify opportunities to improve energy efficiency in City facilities. Since the Committee began planning activities, the Airport has completed 36 projects, Public Services has completed 32 projects, and Public Utilities has completed 15 projects with an additional 24 in progress or in the planning stages.

CONNECTION TO CLIMATE FORWARD SLC

Denser housing provides multiple climate benefits, such as increased energy efficiency and reduced resource consumption. Additionally, new housing developments can decrease reliance on personal vehicles when located near transit, amenities, and walkable neighborhoods.

Climate Forward SLC will assess strategies to incorporate energy efficiency standards and electrification in new housing developments. Programs and opportunities to help existing homes improve energy efficiency and electrify appliances will also be considered.

Affordability is a key consideration of the City's housing plans. Climate planning is strongly interconnected with affordability. For instance, energy efficiency and electrification reduce electricity bills. The URC program includes a low-income customer option that makes it free to participate for those who qualify. Climate Forward SLC will evaluate existing and new opportunities to contribute to affordability while addressing climate impacts.

Non-residential buildings account for the majority of the electricity and natural gas consumption in SLC. Climate Forward SLC will evaluate opportunities to expand engagement with commercial building stakeholders, enhancing existing programs such as Elevate Buildings, and develop new initiatives that can deliver benefit to commercial building owners and tenants. Climate Forward SLC will also consider new goals or projects for municipal buildings.

Climate Resiliency and Adaptation

Climate resiliency refers to the strategies needed to prepare for, adapt to, and recover from the impacts of climate change such as more frequent and extreme flooding; declining air quality due to the drying Great Salt Lake, wildfires, and the other challenges described in the *Climate Hazards and Vulnerabilities Assessment* section of this report. Examples of climate resiliency solutions include: heat mitigation; water conservation; wildfire prevention; and ensuring access to shelter, heating and cooling, and food to help the community withstand climate-related risks and emergencies.

The City has adopted several policies and is working on several initiatives that support and advance climate resiliency efforts.

ADOPTED PLANS & POLICIES

Green Spaces & Sustainable Infrastructure

Urban Forest Action Plan

Adopted in 2022, this plan makes recommendations to preserve and expand the urban forest in Salt Lake City. Some of the strategies include actions to support urban forest and public infrastructure, maximizing the urban forest's "Return on Investment" (ROI), equitably distributing the benefits, and planning and designing infrastructure in the public interest.

All of the recommendations in this plan align with climate resiliency solutions. Some of the relevant strategies include:

- Develop communication campaign about the importance of the urban forest
- Incorporate public health outcomes into urban forest planting and preservation strategies
- Plan for equitable urban forest expansion in neighborhoods and business districts
- Rethink the right-of-way to allocate more space for trees and pedestrians

Reimagine Nature Public Lands Master Plan

Adopted in 2022, the Reimagine Nature Public Lands Mater Plan (Reimagine Nature) establishes a framework for City investment and management of parks, trails, natural lands, urban forestry, and golf courses. The goals of the plan are:

1. Sustain: Environmental Health and Sustainability
2. Connect: Accessible and Connected Green Spaces
3. Welcome: Active, Authentic and Inclusive Places
4. Protect: A Commitment to Stewardship
5. Grow: Expand our Public Lands System

The strategies and actions under each of the plan's goals will help improve the City's climate resiliency. In addition, the plan specifically highlighted the need to "position Public Lands to increase the ambition of SLC's climate resiliency goals, including creation of a climate resiliency plan."

Comprehensive Sustainability Policy

Updated in December 2023, the Comprehensive Sustainability Policy is an administrative policy which guides Salt Lake City's municipal infrastructure development to promote sound environmental practices, energy efficiency, and waste minimization. The 2023 update included a requirement that the City evaluate, implement, and seek third-party certification for large capital projects. This helps ensure large projects incorporate sustainability best practices in the design, construction, and maintenance phases. The policy established certification thresholds at $2 million for parks and outdoor projects, 10,000 square feet for the new construction or remodeling of City buildings, $10 million and above for Transportation projects, $50 million for Public Utilities projects, and $25 million for Airport infrastructure projects. The approved certification pathways include Envision Rating System, LEED, and SITES, though others may be requested. These certification pathways will help implement more sustainable and resilient projects and will help improve interdepartmental collaboration.

Water Conservation

Water Conservation Plan

The 2025 Water Conservation Plan is required under the State of Utah Conservation Plan Act (Section 73-10-32). The plan was adopted by City Council in December 2025. Analysis for the plan concluded that, without additional conservation efforts, future demand will outpace future supply by 14 percent by 2060, primarily due to anticipated population growth. Water conservation efforts to date have been successful and per capita water

demand has decreased since 2020. The plan aims to build on the already robust conservation programs and identifies future efforts needed to meet conservation goals.

Growing Water Smart

This is an effort that merges water planning and land use planning in Salt Lake City. This plan is mandated by State Code (Section 73-10-36), which requires a local plan to "provide for the efficient and economical use, conservation and production of the supply of water." The plan will analyze the impacts of current and future development on water demand and supply and identify opportunities and strategies to reduce water consumption. This is an ongoing effort.

Water Shortage Contingency Plan

This plan serves as a guide to monitor, measure, mitigate, and respond to water supply shortages or disruptions, which can be caused by climate change, regular climate variability, contamination, unanticipated surges in demand, or system disruptions. The plan defines water shortage triggers and stages and identifies actions necessary for different water shortage stages.

Water Supply and Demand Plan

This plan is an examination of water demands expected in the service territory and the existing and future water supplies available to meet these demands. This plan takes into consideration land use changes, population growth, conservation, drought and climate change to evaluate adequacy of water sources to meet projected demands on an annual basis as well as a peak demand evaluation.

Watershed Management Plan

The watershed management plan provides policy, program, and ordinance recommendations to promote watershed resiliency and protect Salt Lake City's water sources. Climate change, human impacts, and wildfire are key considerations of this plan.

Landscaping Code Updates

In 2024, Salt Lake City updated its landscaping and buffer standards to save water, protect and plant more trees, reduce urban heat island effects, and protect water quality.

CURRENT PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

Urban Tree Canopy

The Salt Lake City Urban Forestry Division strives to plant 1,000 new trees each year to maintain a healthy thriving urban forest. As of 2025, over 5,000 new trees have been planted on the Westside of SLC since 2020.

Wildland Urban Interface Fire Code

The City is working on an update to the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Code to meet new state requirements. The updated fire code will apply to properties close to natural vegetation and will include requirements related to the construction of new buildings, additions to existing buildings, building materials, and landscaping.

Downtown Beautification Initiative

Salt Lake City is advancing the Downtown Beautification Initiative to expand tree canopy, green infrastructure, and high-quality public space in the city's most urban neighborhoods. These improvements focus on creating shaded, comfortable routes for walking, biking, and transit while improving air quality, reducing urban heat, and enhancing the experience of downtown streets and public spaces.

Early efforts focus on building on the success of the 9-Line Trail, improving key civic spaces through the Civic Center project along 200 East, and advancing design and engagement for improvements along 500 West. Over time, these projects will help connect neighborhoods, cultural destinations, and civic spaces while strengthening environmental resilience and livability in Salt Lake City's urban core.

The City is incrementally advancing the initiative through funding from the Capital Improvement Program, grants, and philanthropic partnerships.

Water Conservation Efforts

The Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities offers over 60 water conservation programs, practices, and measures. These efforts implement water conservation strategies in the following categories: outreach, economic, utility, law & policy, and research and metrics programs. A complete list of programs is included in the 2025 Water Conservation Plan.

CONNECTION TO CLIMATE FORWARD SLC

Providing green spaces and preserving the natural environment are critical for climate resiliency, heat mitigation, and the management of stormwater during extreme weather. Climate Forward SLC will evaluate whether new policies are needed to mitigate extreme heat and weather, such as infrastructure (cool roofs, cool pavements, permeable surfaces), access to cool spaces (in residences or cooling centers), or continued research (urban heat mapping).

Climate Forward SLC will also evaluate opportunities to align water conservation practices with heat mitigation and green space priorities. For example, preservation of natural

spaces and trees with the greatest heat mitigation benefit should be prioritized when implementing water use restrictions.

Reimagine Nature specifically highlighted the need to "position Public Lands to increase the ambition of SLC's climate resiliency goals, including creation of a climate resiliency plan." Climate Forward SLC will consider resiliency goals to inform a City climate resiliency plan. Through Climate Forward SLC, staff aims to improve interdepartmental coordination; define roles and responsibilities of different departments; and identify gaps in resiliency-related efforts.

Food Systems

Food access and affordability are key components of a livable and resilient city. Food-focused policies and programs in the City aim to support and sustain a resilient and accessible local food system through collaboration, planning, and resource development. Current initiatives and partnerships address three key areas: food production, healthy food access, and food waste.

Climate change is increasingly compromising the stability of the local food system, from declining agricultural productivity to food access disruptions during extreme weather events. By strengthening local food system resilience, the City can help ensure that residents have reliable access to affordable, nutritious, and culturally relevant food.

Globally, the food system accounts for roughly one-third of greenhouse gas emissions. However, this impact is not reflected in the City's GHG emissions inventory as the food system is typically accounted for in consumption-based emissions, which include upstream impacts from food consumption and activities related to purchasing and use of material goods. Consumption-based emissions are excluded from the City's community GHG emission inventory because calculating their impacts is extremely complex and they occur primarily outside city boundaries.

Despite this exclusion, consumption-based emissions still represent a significant climate concern, and the food system is a major contributor. Supporting sustainable food systems is therefore important for both reducing emissions and as a climate adaptation strategy.

ADOPTED PLANS & POLICIES

Salt Lake City has not adopted any specific resolutions, plans, or policies related to the food system. However, ensuring affordable and fair access to healthy food and supporting urban agriculture activities consistently appear as strategies in adopted city plans and are frequently identified as top priorities in resident engagement efforts. Examples include Plan Salt Lake's guiding principles for Growth, Parks & Recreation, and Equity; Housing SLC's focus on affordability; and multiple recommendations in the Urban Forestry Action Plan.

Signatory to the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration

In 2021, the City became one of only five other cities in the U.S. to sign the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration, a commitment of local authorities to develop sustainable food policies, improve coordination across sectors, and urge national governments to prioritize food and agriculture in the global response to climate change.

CURRENT PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

Key City-led projects related to food are described below. Appendix B: In-Progress and Completed Projects includes a complete list of ongoing and completed projects.

SLC Food Microgrant Program

The ongoing SLC Food Microgrant Program provides funding to residents and community organizations to support food production and improve food accessibility in SLC. The program started in 2023, in its first three years, has awarded grants to 203 residents and 35 community groups.

Community Food Assessment

In 2012, the City conducted a comprehensive evaluation of local and regional food dynamics with quantitative and qualitative details about food within a 250-mile range of SLC. This assessment is currently being updated and will incorporate results of a recent resident survey, an inventory of internal policies and initiatives that impact the local food system, and an analysis of external food system sectors (food production, processing and distribution, food access, and food waste). The study will identify gaps, opportunities, and priorities for action towards improving local food system resilience and addressing disparities.

Urban Agriculture

Salt Lake City supports urban agriculture activities through policies, partnerships, land access, and funding. The Green City Growers Program, a collaboration between SLC Public Lands and Wasatch Community Gardens, develops and manages community gardens on City-owned land, currently supporting 11 garden sites. An additional 7 community garden and orchard sites are managed by the City or with other community partners. The Urban Farming Program identifies underutilized City-owned parcels suitable to urban agriculture uses and leases the parcels to local growers. Since 2015, five parcels have been leased with one active site currently co-managed by Wasatch Community Gardens and the International Rescue Committee's New Roots Program. Additional urban agriculture initiatives include the Sustainable Code Revision Project: Urban Agricultural Updates, the Urban Vegetable Garden Water Rate Adjustment Program, and the SLC Public Library's Seed Library Program.

CONNECTION TO CLIMATE FORWARD SLC

Healthy food access is foundational to individual and community health and urban agriculture provides social, environmental, and economic benefits to local communities. Climate Forward SLC will evaluate opportunities to support local growers and increase the availability and accessibility of affordable, healthy foods that also address and respond to climate changes. The plan will also consider goals to build a more resilient local food system, such as improved collaboration between City departments and community-based organizations, and other planning and policy actions.

Waste

Solid waste is the smallest category in the City's emission inventory, but waste management is an important operational priority for the City and it provides wide-ranging benefits such as preventing pollution, preserving and conserving natural resources, and reducing the carbon footprint associated with the consumption of goods. As previously noted, consumption emissions are not included in the City's community GHG emission inventory due to their complexity and external origins. However, consumption emissions still represent a significant climate concern and waste reduction is a key strategy for addressing these emissions. Therefore, despite its relatively

small contribution to the GHG community inventory, waste management remains an important climate strategy for the City.

ADOPTED PLANS & POLICIES

2011 Joint Resolution Zero Waste Goal

In 2011, the Mayor and City Council adopted a joint resolution establishing waste reduction and diversion goals for Salt Lake City. The resolution adopted a goal to recycle 50% of waste by 2015, 70% of waste by 2025, and eliminate waste by 2040.

The City currently diverts 36% of waste generated, so additional efforts are needed to meet the goals of this resolution.

CURRENT PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

Waste Reduction, Diversion, and Recycling Study

The study will provide an analysis of various waste and recycling streams, including residential, commercial, self-haul, construction debris, organics, and glass; and identify opportunities to improve organic and recyclable material diversion.

Curbside Services

Salt Lake City collects garbage, recycling, and compost from roughly 42,000 customers each week. Most of these are single-family, duplex, and triplex residences, though there are some small business customers. Residential customers are charged one flat fee, based on the size of their garbage can, for all garbage, recycling, composting, and extra services. Offering different size garbage containers encourages waste diversion, as does offering recycling and composting to all residents.

In 2025, 3.8 million containers were emptied and 66,075 tons of waste was collected. Of that, 9,266 tons was recycled and 14,855 tons was composted.

Voluntary Curbside Glass Recycling and Drop-off Glass Recycling Program

The City partners with a contractor to offer voluntary curbside glass recycling for a small additional monthly fee. It also offers free community drop-off glass recycling dumpsters. In 2025, 1,406 tons of glass was recycled through these programs.

Call 2 Haul

Provides collection services for large bulky items that don't fit or belong in weekly curbside containers, like old furniture, mattresses, appliances, refrigerators, tires, electronic waste,

and bulky green waste. Collected materials are diverted, where possible, for recycling and composting.

Recycling Education and Outreach

Education, training, and enforcement efforts to improve waste diversion and recycling behaviors. Efforts include residential and non-residential customers, plus internal city departments. Salt Lake City was awarded an EPA Recycling Education and Outreach grant in 2023 to support residential outreach and engagement and is revisiting the prior Master Recycler Program efforts to determine if/how to reimagine and relaunch a similar program.

CONNECTION TO CLIMATE FORWARD SLC

Several programs are in place to support the guiding policy of zero waste by 2040. Climate Forward SLC will evaluate whether new programs or updates to existing programs are needed to achieve the goals of the 2011 resolution. This includes strategies to implement the recommendations of the Waste Reduction, Diversion, and Recycling Study; identify opportunities to improve access to recycling in business and multi-family properties; and improve landfill gas capture and reuse operations.

Appendix A: Survey Summaries

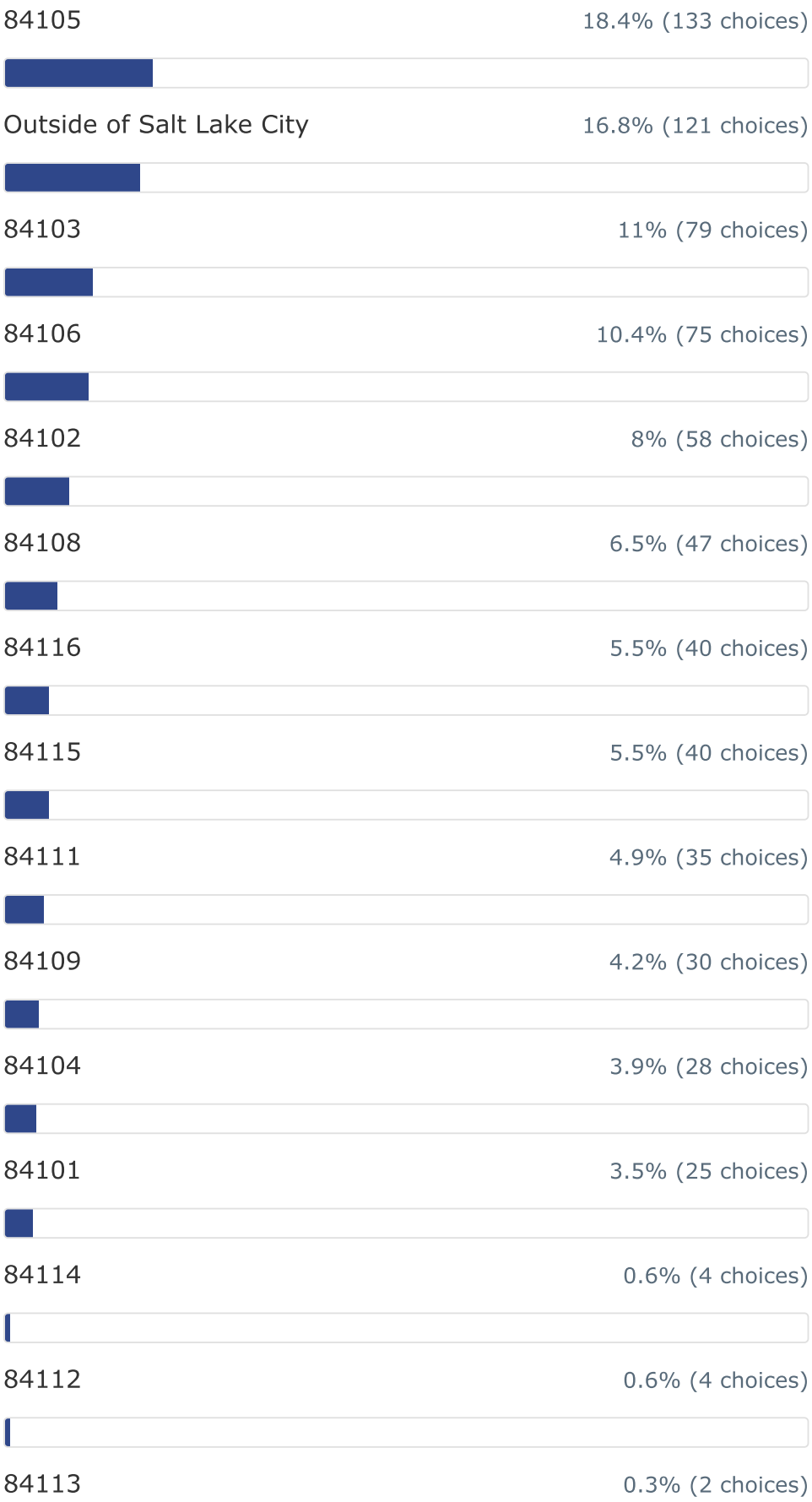
Note that the following survey summaries are not accessible. Salt Lake City Corporation is committed to making this report content accessible. To request an accessible version of the survey summaries, please contact the Department of Sustainability at slcgreen@slc.gov.

Climate Forward SLC - Online Public Survey Summary

In developing the Salt Lake City Climate Action Plan, city staff conducted a robust community engagement process. This process included an online survey which received over 700 responses, the results of which are included below.

What is your zip code?

721/721 - Multiple choice - choose one - required



84180 0% (0 choices)

How well-informed do you feel about climate change and its impacts in our area?

713/721 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

I know a fair amount 45.5% (328 choices)

I know a lot about it 33.7% (243 choices)

I know some, but not a lot 17.2% (124 choices)

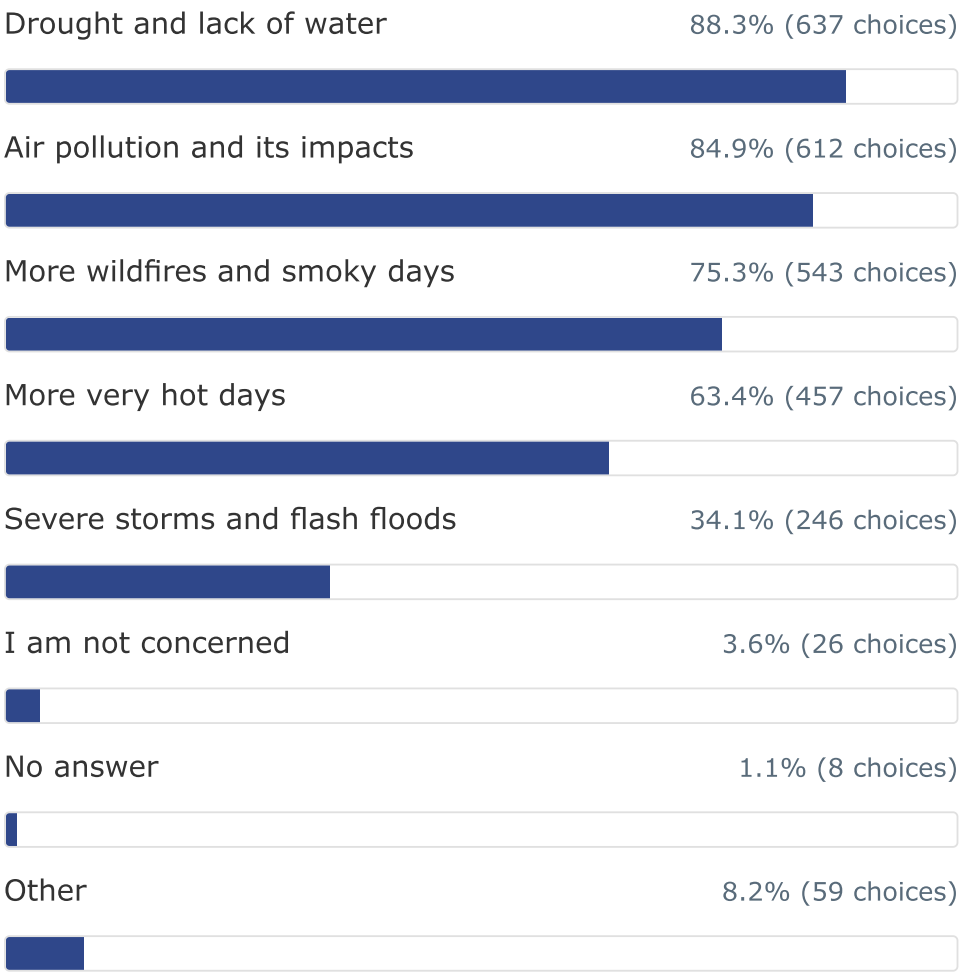
I don't know that much about it 1.7% (12 choices)

No answer 1.1% (8 choices)

I don’t think climate change is happening 0.8% (6 choices)

What climate change impacts are you most concerned about?

713/721 - Multiple choice - choose many - required



There are many priorities that the city is working on. Rate the following on how important they are to you personally.

713/721 - Matrix - required

	1 - Not important	2 - Somewhat important	3 - Very important
Lowering the cost of living	7.15%	38.99%	53.86%
Increasing trees and green space	3.79%	27.35%	68.86%
Reducing crime	22.02%	47.27%	30.72%
Shifting to clean renewable energy	8.13%	19.78%	72.09%
Increasing job opportunities	12.06%	51.89%	36.04%
Making it easier to get around	6.45%	33.66%	59.89%
Reducing air pollution	2.81%	9.68%	87.52%
Improving community health	5.05%	32.82%	62.13%

	1 - Not important	2 - Somewhat important	3 - Very important
Creating more affordable housing	8.84%	34.22%	56.94%
Being better prepared for disasters	7.71%	52.17%	40.11%

How familiar are you with each of the following?

713/721 - Matrix - required

	1 - I have	2 - I want to get	3 - I've heard about it	4 - I don't know what that is
Solar panels	**22.02%**	**47.27%**	**30.43%**	**0.28%**
Electric car	**19.5%**	**43.62%**	**36.19%**	**0.7%**
Electric bike	**25.39%**	**34.78%**	**39.13%**	**0.7%**
Electric lawnmower/garden equipment	**43.62%**	**20.06%**	**34.64%**	**1.68%**
Heat pump (to cool and heat a home)	**14.03%**	**31.42%**	**35.62%**	**18.93%**
Induction cooktop	**19.78%**	**27.49%**	**45.16%**	**7.57%**

Clean Transportation - MOST Important

699/721 - Multiple choice - choose many - required

Provide more, better, and lower-cost transit 76% (548 choices)

Make it easier and safer to bike and walk 72.5% (523 choices)

Make electric vehicles less expensive 18.7% (135 choices)

Provide more places to charge electric vehicles 14.1% (102 choices)

Make electric bikes less expensive and more convenient 13.2% (95 choices)

No answer 3.1% (22 choices)

Healthy Homes - MOST Important

699/721 - Multiple choice - choose many - required

Make it easier to insulate my home and save money 66.9% (482 choices)

Help switch to efficient electric appliances that pollute less 61.4% (443 choices)

Help improve the air quality inside my home 57.4% (414 choices)

Provide incentives for my landlord to make these improvements 57.3% (413 choices)

No answer 3.1% (22 choices)

Clean Energy - MOST Important

699/721 - Multiple choice - choose many - required

Provide 100 percent clean, renewable electricity for all homes and businesses 71% (512 choices)

Make it easy to finance and install rooftop solar and generate my own electricity 50.5% (364 choices)

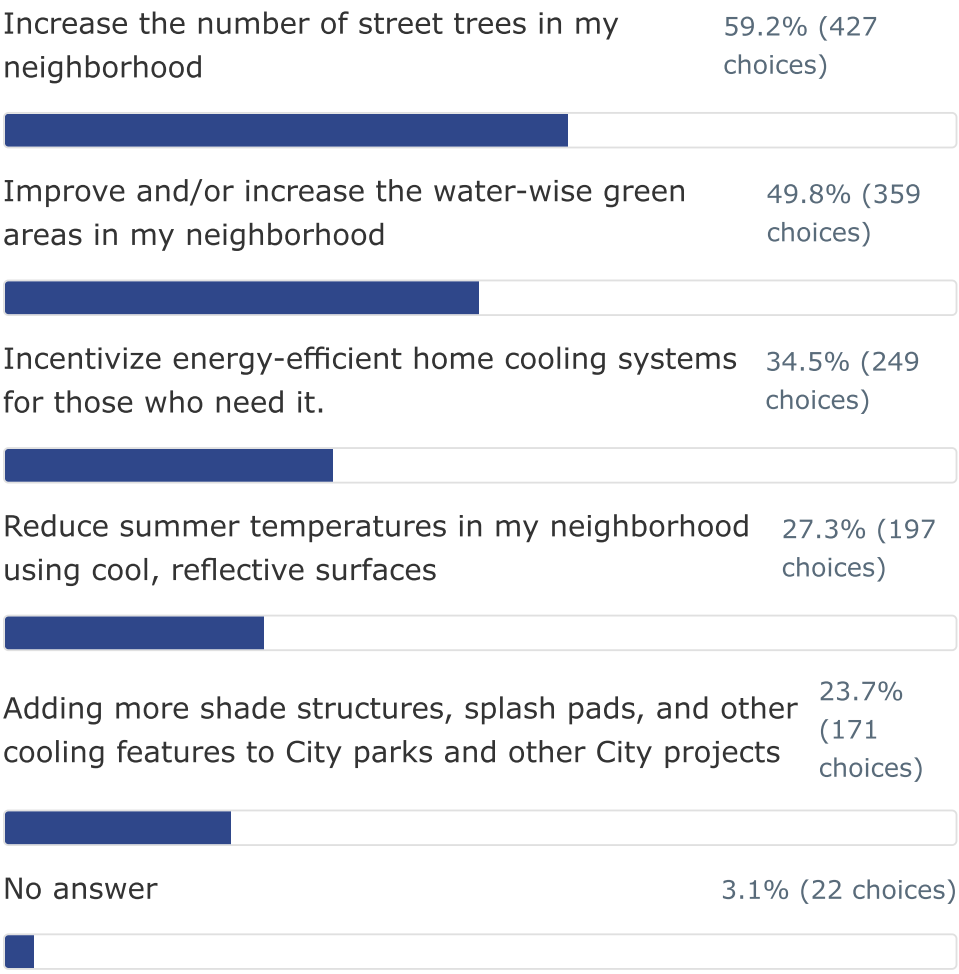
Provide incentives for my landlord to make these improvements 43.7% (315 choices)

Help me understand what I can do to reduce my energy bills (e.g., improved insulation, energy-efficient appliances, etc.) 29.4% (212 choices)

No answer 3.1% (22 choices)

Heat Mitigation - MOST Important

699/721 - Multiple choice - choose many - required



Which of the following do you think are most important as we decide on priorities for the city's climate plan and our work in the next few years?

711/721 - Multiple choice - choose many - optional

Actions that reduce climate pollution the most (i.e., provide the greatest climate benefit) 58.9% (425 choices)

Actions that have multiple benefits, such as reducing pollution, plus creating jobs, plus saving money (i.e., provide the most co-benefits) 44% (317 choices)

Actions that best prepare our community for climate impacts, like heatwaves and drought (i.e., provide the greatest resilience benefit) 29.1% (210 choices)

Actions that help people most impacted by climate issues (i.e., provide the greatest equity benefit) 25.1% (181 choices)

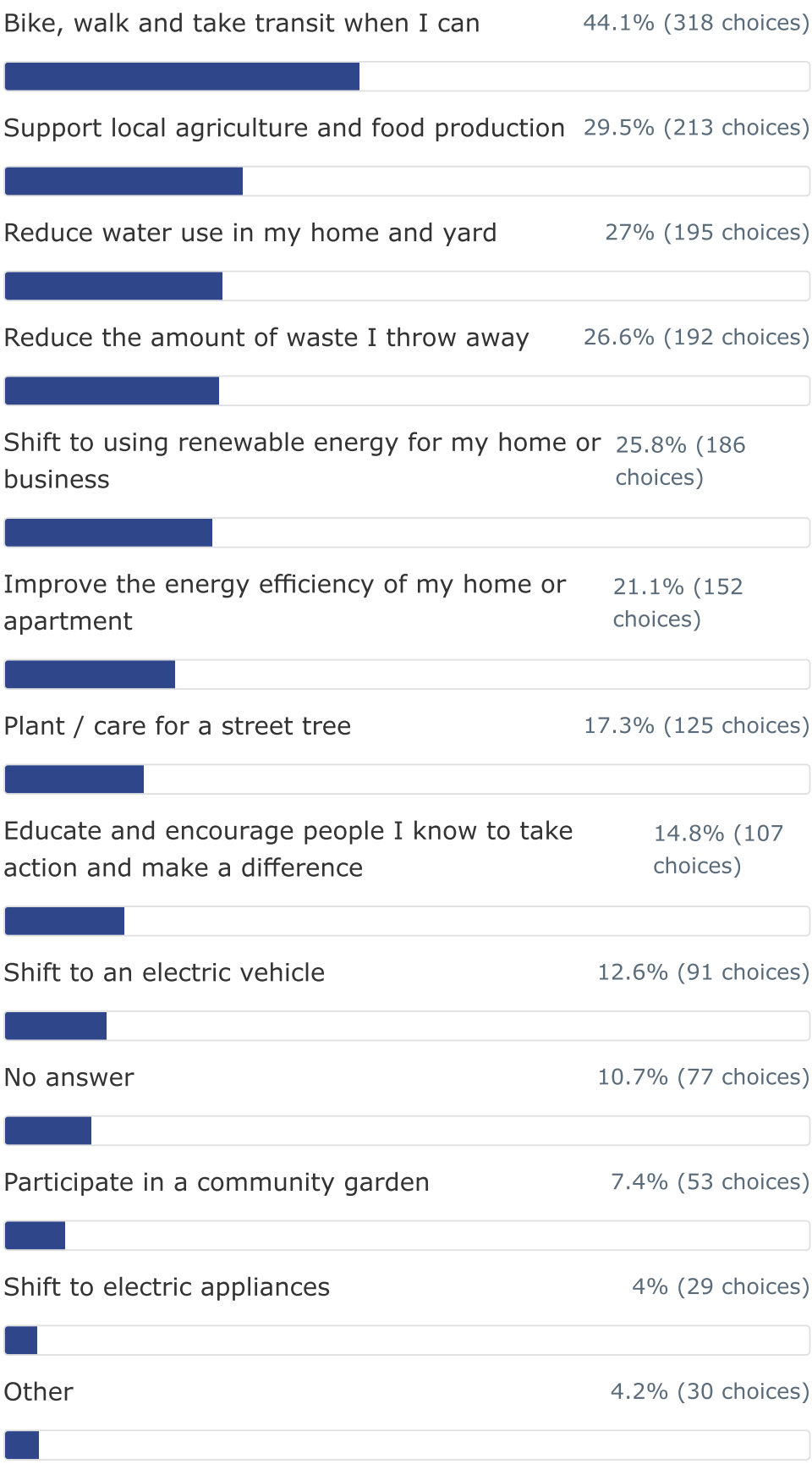
Actions that help the largest number of people (i.e., provide the broadest benefit) 18.4% (133 choices)

The City should focus on other issues 7.6% (55 choices)

No answer 1.4% (10 choices)

Which of the following actions are you most interested in or passionate about?

644/721 - Multiple choice - choose many - optional



Is there anything else you'd like us to know about your thoughts and priorities related climate action in Salt Lake City?

135/721 - Long answer - optional

Respondents most frequently emphasized the need to reduce car usage in Salt Lake City, citing concerns about pollution, safety, and urban quality, and called for improvements in alternative transportation such as more streetcars, light rail, and better respect for biking and walking infrastructure. Several noted frustration with blocked bike lanes and lack of enforcement, including poor modeling by city employees.

Air quality and the health of the Great Salt Lake were recurring priorities, with calls for aggressive action against polluting projects (like the inland port and mining), reducing car/truck traffic, and restoring lake water levels by buying back water rights and opposing diversion. The impact of local agriculture on water usage—especially alfalfa farming—was highlighted as a major concern for the lake's survival and public health.

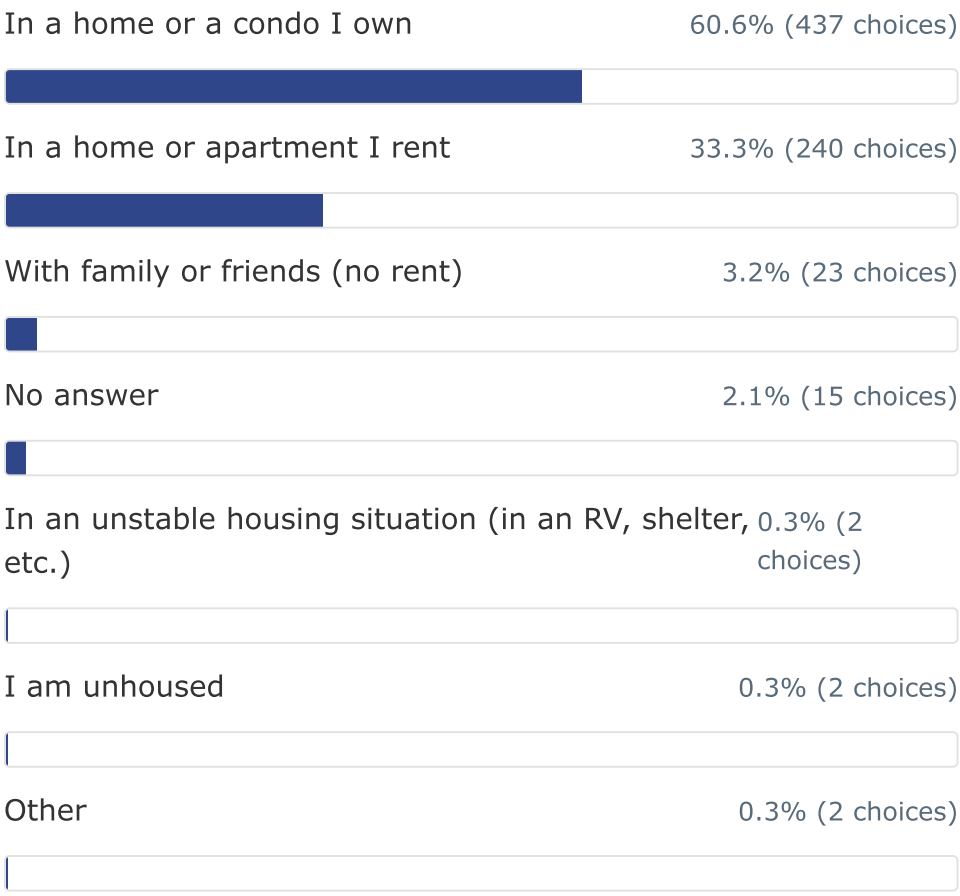
Equitable access to climate solutions was raised, particularly regarding electric vehicle charging for renters and those without garages; some questioned whether public funds should prioritize charging infrastructure that currently benefits wealthier homeowners. There were also calls to expand recycling and composting access for non-homeowners, and suggestions for legal requirements to recycle key materials and ban most single-use plastics.

Building standards were mentioned, with support for incentivizing all-electric new homes and passive design for energy efficiency. One respondent stressed the importance of clear communication about how climate actions will affect quality of life, especially air quality and heat stress, and suggested focusing resources on those most affected if broader impacts are limited.

A note of appreciation for community engagement was also expressed.

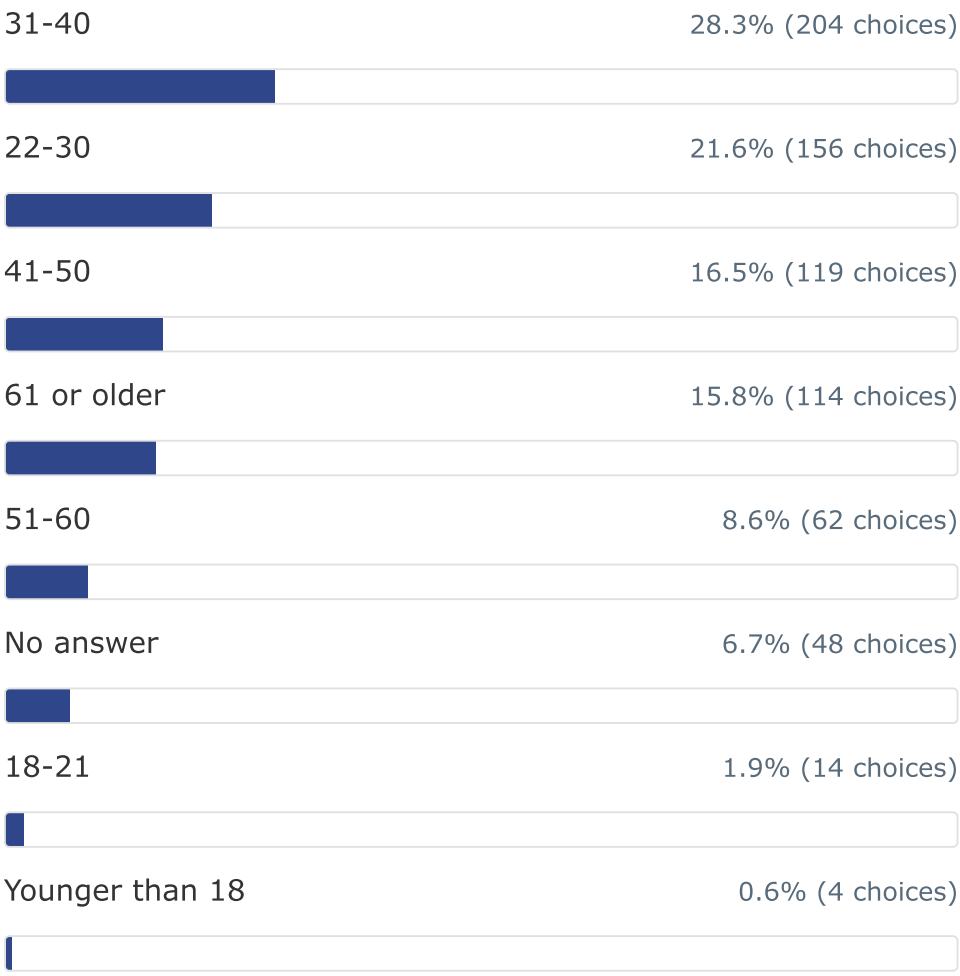
Currently I live...

708/721 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



What is your age?

674/721 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional

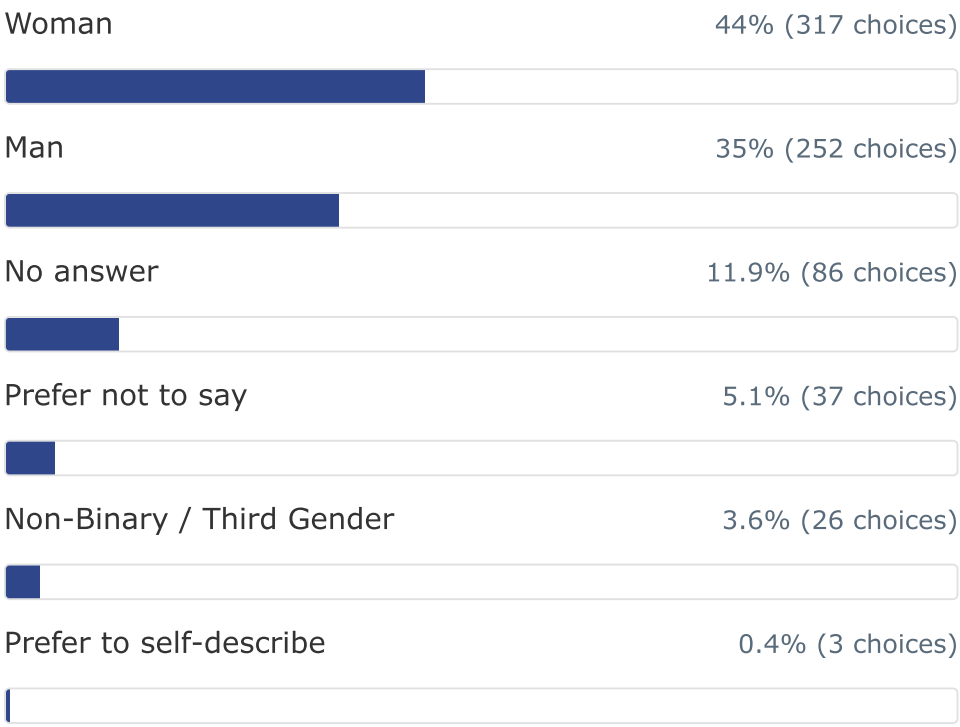


What is your household income level?

612/721 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional

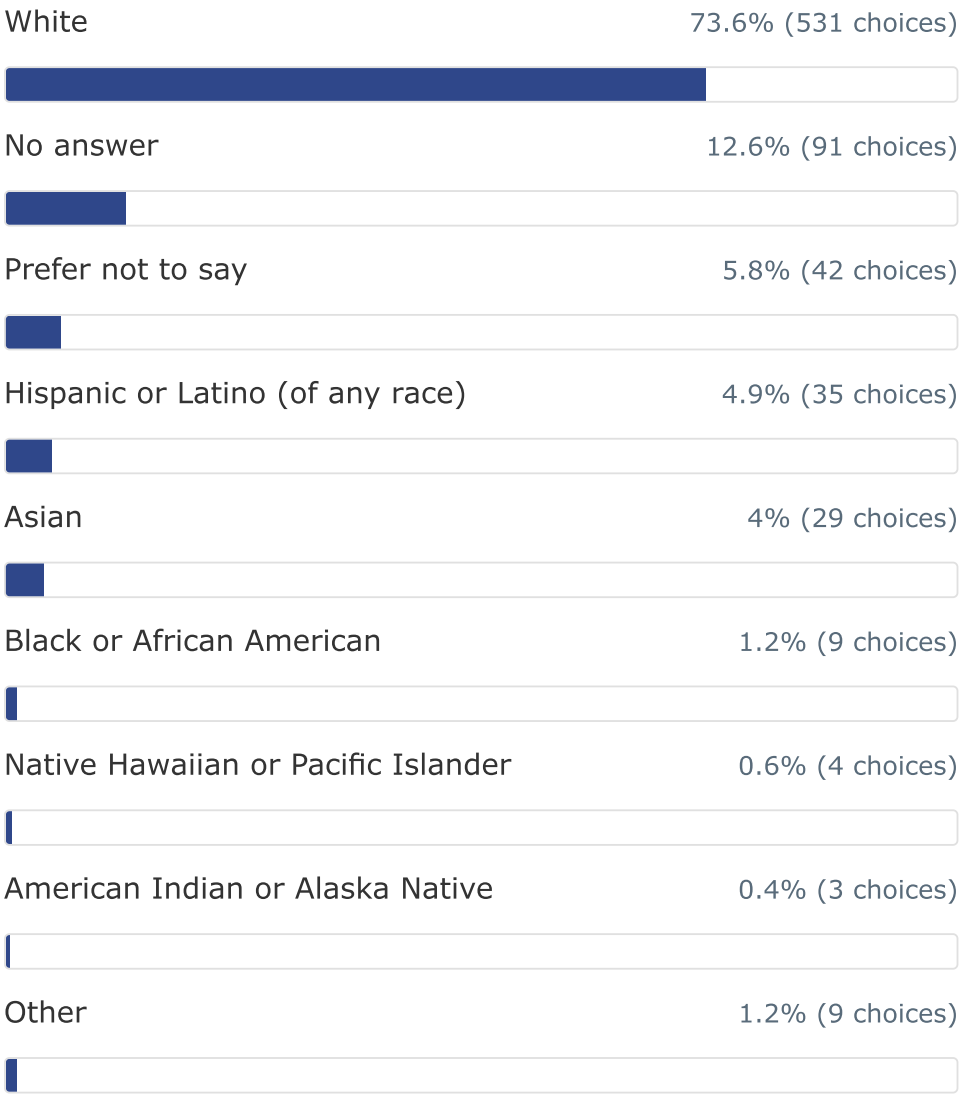
What is your gender?

636/721 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



What is the race/ethnicity with which you identify?

630/721 - Multiple choice - choose many - optional

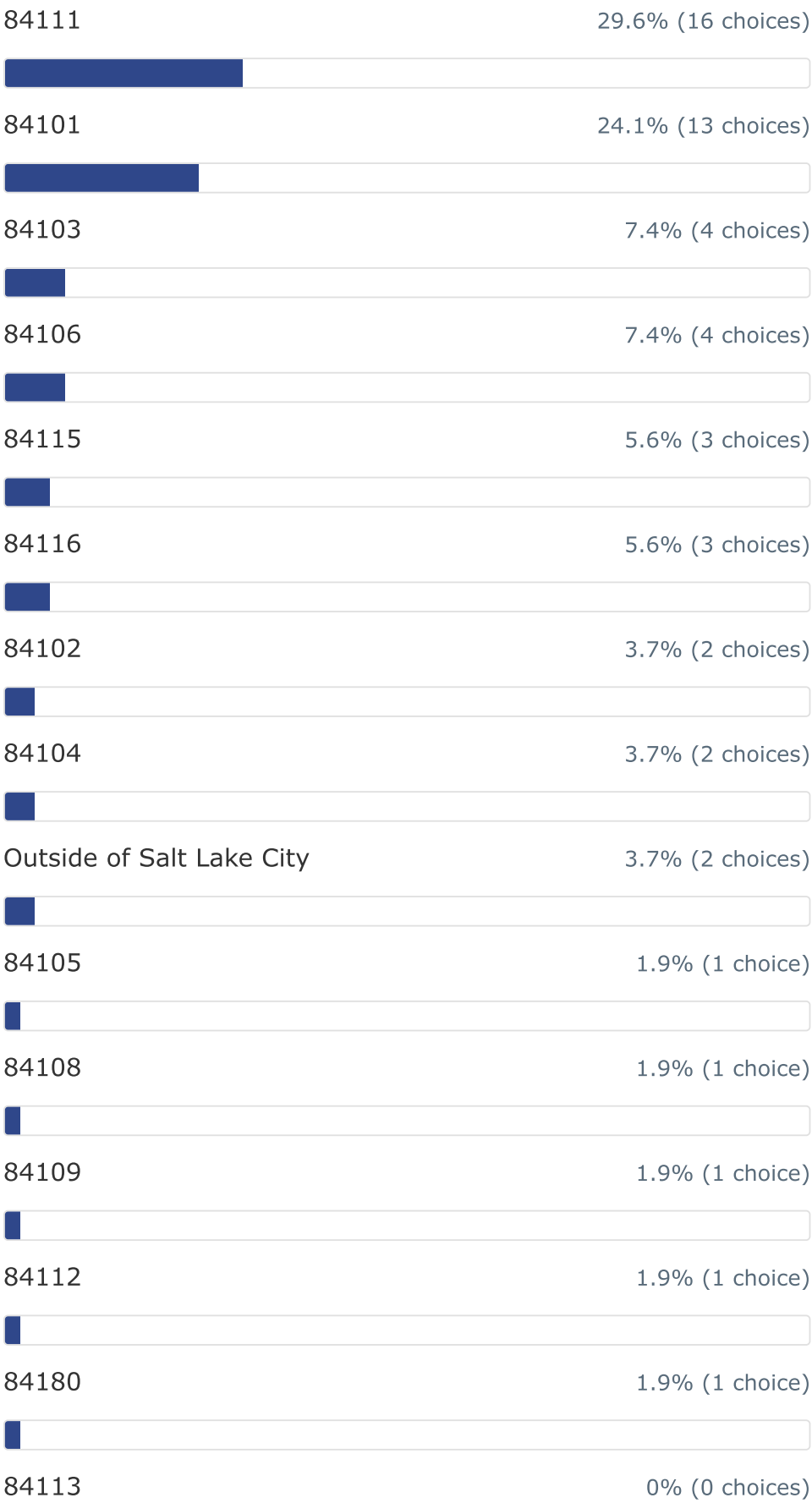


Climate Forward SLC - Business Survey Summary

In developing the Salt Lake City Climate Action Plan, city staff conducted a robust community engagement process. This process included a survey of businesses, which received 54 responses, the results of which are included below.

What is the zip code of your business/organization?

54/54 - Multiple choice - choose one - required



84114 0% (0 choices)

What is the primary focus of your business/organization?

54/54 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

Professional Services 20.4% (11 choices)

Manufacturing 13% (7 choices)

Retail 13% (7 choices)

Finance & Insurance 5.6% (3 choices)

Healthcare 5.6% (3 choices)

Transportation & Logistics 0% (0 choices)

Energy & Utilities 0% (0 choices)

Construction 0% (0 choices)

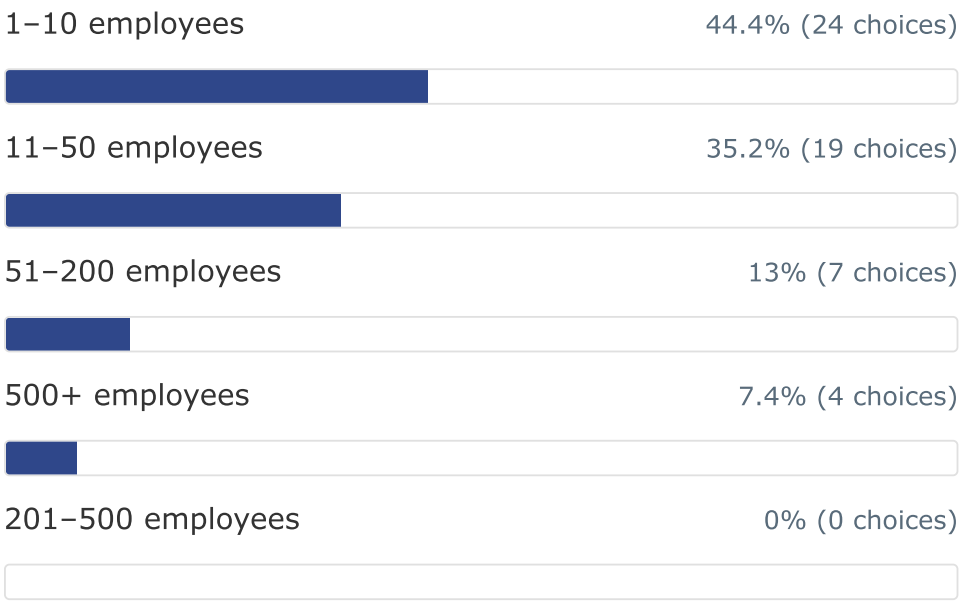
Technology 0% (0 choices)

Other (please specify) 42.6% (23 choices)

Those who selected "Other (please specify)" represent a diverse range of sectors, with the most common being hospitality (including restaurants, bars, catering, and event planning) and real estate or real estate development. Other sectors mentioned include nonprofit, social services, higher education, art, humanities and culture, community development, and sustainable retail.

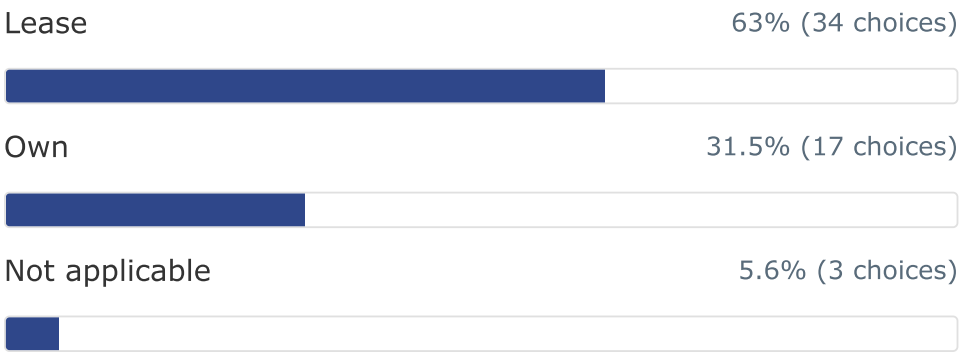
How many people does your business/organization employ?

54/54 - Multiple choice - choose one - required



Does your business/organization own or lease its primary workspace?

54/54 - Multiple choice - choose one - required



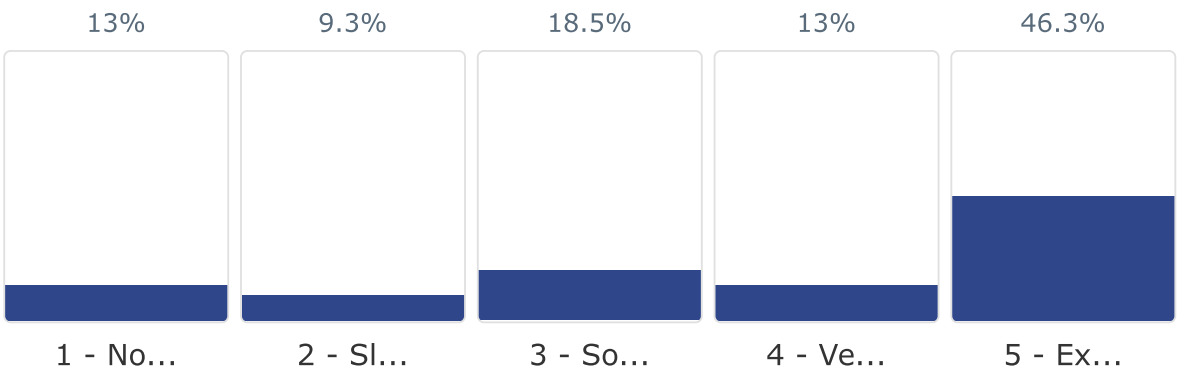
What best describes your primary role within your business/organization?

54/54 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

Business Owner or Founder	66.7% (36 choices)
Executive or Senior Leader (e.g., President, CEO)	20.4% (11 choices)
Manager or Supervisor	5.6% (3 choices)
Professional or Technical Staff	5.6% (3 choices)
Administrative/Support Staff	1.9% (1 choice)
Other (please specify)	0% (0 choices)

How concerned are you that climate change will affect your business/organization?

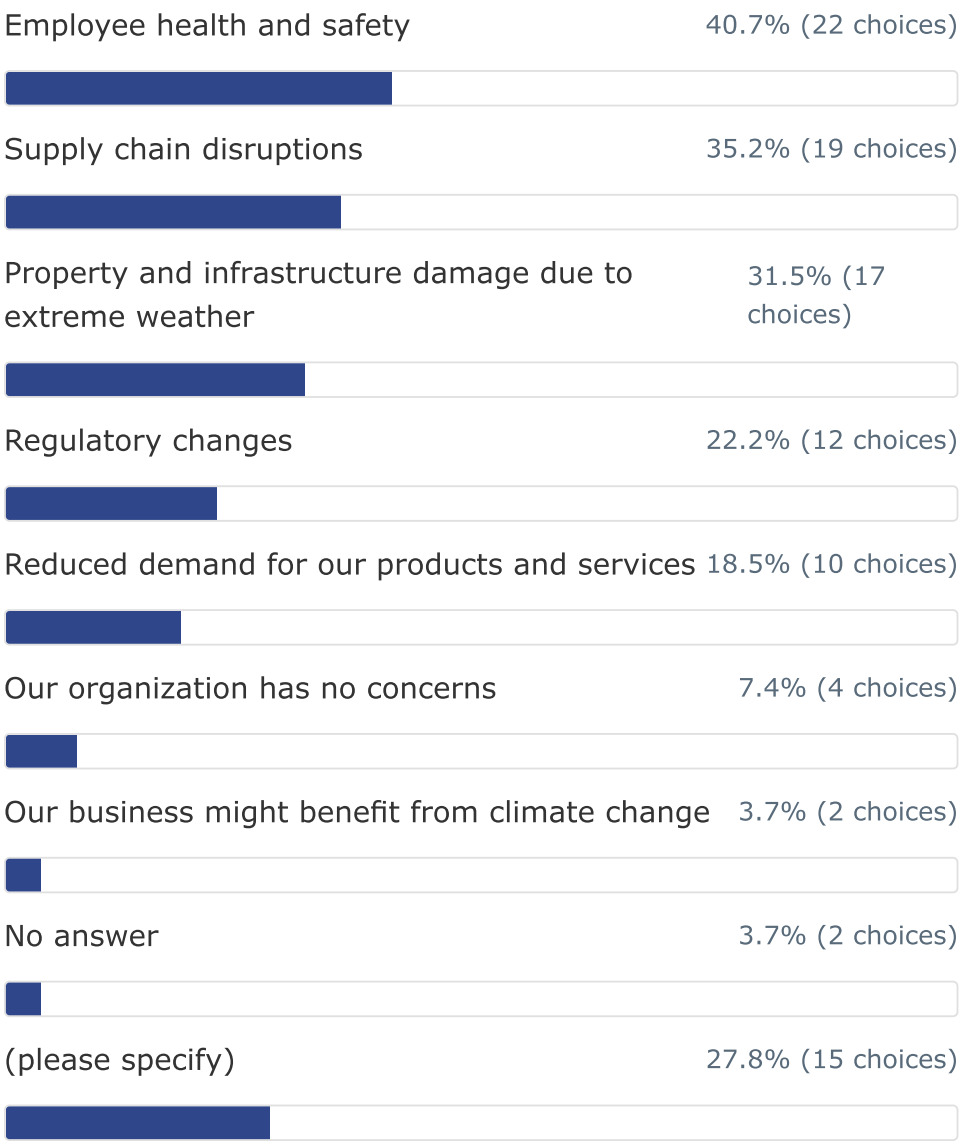
54/54 - Linear scale - required



1 - Not concerned at all
2 - Slightly concerned
3 - Somewhat concerned
4 - Very concerned
5 - Extremely concerned

What climate change impacts are of greatest concern to your business/organization?

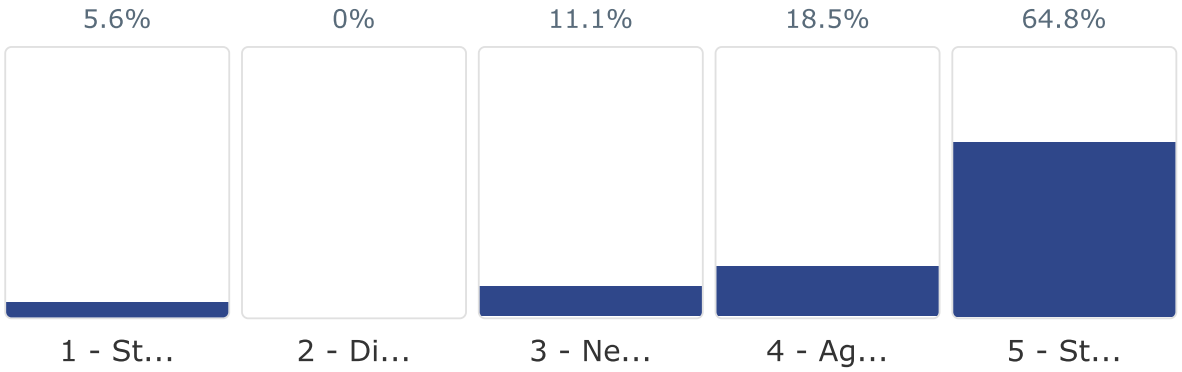
52/54 - Multiple choice - choose many - optional



In addition to those listed above, the most frequently mentioned concerns are the drying of the Great Salt Lake and resulting air quality issues, which several respondents see as existential threats to Salt Lake City and its future. Supply chain disruptions and increased costs due to extreme weather and temperature fluctuations are also common concerns, with impacts on packaging, shipping, and goods prices. Employee health and safety, especially in relation to air quality and food production, is noted. There are also concerns about reduced tourism and population loss if environmental conditions worsen. Some respondents mention the need for better waste management and recycling, particularly in hospitals.

Taking action on climate change is important for the long-term health of our economy.

54/54 - Linear scale - required



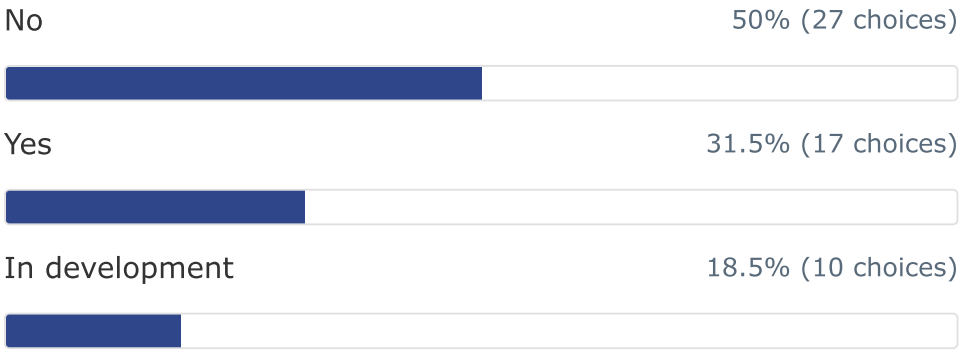
1 - Strongly Disagree
2 - Disagree
3 - Neutral
4 - Agree
5 - Strongly Agree

What motivates or would motivate your business/organization to take climate action?

54/54 - Multiple choice - choose many - optional

Does your business/organization have formal sustainability goals and/or a climate plan?

54/54 - Multiple choice - choose one - required



Please indicate your business/organization's interest in pursuing the climate actions listed below.

54/54 - Matrix - required

	1 - Interested but not started	2 - Completed or in progress	3 - Unsure	4 - Not interested
Measures to reduce waste	**22.22%**	**59.26%**	**12.96%**	**5.56%**
Installing employee EV chargers	**27.78%**	**18.52%**	**22.22%**	**31.48%**
Fleet and equipment electrification	**25.93%**	**25.93%**	**22.22%**	**25.93%**
Implementing water conservation measures	**38.89%**	**42.59%**	**12.96%**	**5.56%**
Installation of renewable energy systems	**35.19%**	**25.93%**	**22.22%**	**16.67%**
Switching to low-carbon materials/supplies	**29.63%**	**33.33%**	**22.22%**	**14.81%**
Electrification of heating and cooling systems	**27.78%**	**33.33%**	**18.52%**	**20.37%**
Measuring and tracking carbon footprint of our business	**44.44%**	**7.41%**	**25.93%**	**22.22%**

	1 - Interested but not started	2 - Completed or in progress	3 - Unsure	4 - Not interested
Enrolling in grid-supplied renewable electricity program	**27.78%**	**22.22%**	**22.22%**	**27.78%**
Initiatives to encourage employees to ride transit, bikes, or walk to work	**22.22%**	**33.33%**	**24.07%**	**20.37%**
Making infrastructure or property more resilient to extreme weather events	**31.48%**	**27.78%**	**22.22%**	**18.52%**
Energy efficiency improvements (audits, building envelope enhancements, lighting retrofits, enhanced controls, etc)	**31.48%**	**40.74%**	**14.81%**	**12.96%**

What are the biggest barriers you face in implementing climate action in your business/organization?

54/54 - Multiple choice - choose many - required

What types of support would help advance climate initiatives in your business?

54/54 - Multiple choice - choose many - required

Would your business/organization be willing to participate in future activities related to development of the City's Climate Plan?

54/54 - Multiple choice - choose one - required

Appendix B: In-Progress and Completed Projects

Table B-1. Renewable Energy Sector Projects

Impact Area	Title	Description	Current Status
Community-Wide Electricity Customers	Utah Renewable Communities	Utah Renewable Communities is a coalition of cities, counties, and other municipalities that are pioneering renewable energy solutions. The effort is committed to clean energy for Utah and is advancing a program to deliver a default net-100% renewable electricity option for customers.	Pending Approval
Municipal Facilities	Solar PV	Between 2011 and 2018, Salt Lake City SLC Corp installed more than 3,000 solar panels on government buildings and built a one megawatt solar farm on a historical landfill.	Completed
Municipal Facilities	Subscriber Solar Program	Salt Lake City subscribes to Rocky Mountain Power's Subscribe Solar program, which provides customers with power from community solar farm in southern Utah. The City is the largest subscriber and in 2024 received over 3,300 MWh of solar power through this program. This provides clean energy for the City's municipal operations.	Completed
Municipal Facilities	Elektron Solar Project	Salt Lake City and its partners catalyzed development of an 80-megawatt solar PV project in Utah. The City committed to purchasing roughly half the energy produced by the solar farm, which is approximately 80% of the City's municipal electricity needs.	Completed

Impact Area	Title	Description	Current Status
Municipal Facilities	Net Zero New Construction policy	The Comprehensive Sustainability Policy requires that all new construction and major renovations of occupied city buildings containing more than 10,000 square feet will be evaluated for the potential to meet net-zero energy emissions standards, LEED Gold, and using all-electric technologies. Where practicable, the building will be designed and built to this level of energy performance.	Completed
Commercial Buildings	Salt Lake Solar Leaders: Commercial	Partnership with Westside Salt Lake City business owners to install solar PV and battery storage systems funded by corporate philanthropy. The projects reduce utility bills, enhance facility resiliency, and provide clean energy visibility in these neighborhoods.	Completed
Underserved Homes and Businesses	Solar Stewards REC Donations	Donation of renewable energy certificates (RECs) associated with government facilities and other buildings to support other sustainability efforts.	In Progress
Distributed Renewable Energy	Solarize Programs	Salt Lake City has previously supported or ran local solarize campaigns to facilitate the bulk purchase of solar PV installations for participating residents. New efforts could be pursued and align with Solar 4 Savings efforts plus other opportunities.	In Progress

Table B-2. Transportation Sector Projects

Impact Area	Title	Description	Current Status
Active Transportation	Bike Lanes and Infrastructure	Infrastructure, policies, and programming to support bike transportation throughout the city. The City's Division of Transportation has installed over 291 miles of bicycle lanes to reduce vehicle miles traveled.	In Progress
Active Transportation	400 South Viaduct Trail	In partnership with UDOT, Salt Lake City is building a multi-use trail along the south side of 400 South from 900 West to 200 West, adding a safe space for walking, biking, and rolling while keeping existing vehicle capacity. This key east-west connection project will tie into existing bike paths and public spaces.	In progress
Active Transportation	300 West Bikeway	A two-way bikeway built along 300 West between 900 South and 400 South, improving safety, comfort, and connectivity while linking the 9-Line and 300 West paths to the 400 South Viaduct Trail and protected lanes on 300 South.	Completed
Active Transportation	9 Line Trail	Multi-use pathway that connects the West and East sides of Salt Lake City along 900 South. The facility provides low stress, family friendly travel and connects several destinations including The Jordan River, Liberty Park, and the 900 S Pump Track. Project is completed but extensions are planned on both ends of the project.	Completed

Impact Area	Title	Description	Current Status
Active Transportation	Neighborhood Byways	Neighborhood Byways are a network of people-friendly streets that encourage active transportation for everyday trips. Residential and commercial streets are woven together to create a safer and more friendly network for bicycles and pedestrians. Some of the improvements on byways include safe crossings, traffic calming, tress for shade and comfort, and bicycle-friendly infrastructure.	In Progress
Active Transportation	GREENbike	Non-profit bike sharing program supported by public-private partnerships. With over 400 bikes and 50 docking stations, GREENbike supported over 78,000 rides in 2025.	In Progress
Active Transportation	E-Scooters	The City works with two providers of shared e-scooters. In 2025, nearly 1 million trips were taken on shared e-scooters. The City is looking to expand this program to make shared micromobility more reliable, accessible, safe, and affordable.	In Progress
Transit	HIVE Pass	Discounted transit pass available to all Salt Lake City residents. The program provides transit access at a 75% discount relative to the standard monthly UTA pass, plus free access to the GREENbike program. A subset of the HIVE pass is providing free transit passes to select participants.	In Progress
Transit	Human Services Fare Program	Program supporting the transportation needs of low-income residents through qualified social service agencies. The program provides 6,900 daily and 2,700 monthly passes every year to service providers like Volunteers of America and The Other Side Village.	In Progress

Impact Area	Title	Description	Current Status
Transit	Localized Transit (VIA)	On-demand transit solution created and supported in partnership with UTA. VIA supports Salt Lake City's Westside along with various other communities across the region.	In Progress
Transit	UTA Route Frequency and Hour of Operation Enhancements	Partnership with Utah Transit Authority to provide more frequent service network with expanded hours of operation, known as the GO Route.	In progress
Transit	Bus Stop Infrastructure Improvements	Upgrades or construction of new bus stops. In recent years, the City has built or improved more than 250 bus stops.	In Progress
Municipal Fleet Electrification	Electrified Fleet Charging Infrastructure Study	Detailed analysis of opportunities to electrify the City's municipal vehicle fleet, including department-by-department assessment of EV charging infrastructure needs and costs.	Completed
Municipal Fleet Electrification	City Fleet Electrification	Implementation of priorities identified in the SLC fleet electrification study. A transmittal was sent to City Council in 2025 with context and suggested next steps. As of December 2025, Salt Lake City has 481 alternative-fueled vehicles, including 69 all-electric. The Airport has an additional 408 alternative-fueled vehicles, including 45 which are fully-electric vehicles and 87 electric off-highway vehicles, such as carts and lifts.	In Progress
Community Electrified Transportation	Community Electrified Transportation Study	Evaluation of opportunities to support electrified transportation, including household personal vehicles, transit, and innovative mobility options such as rideshare and carshare. The study documented 19 priority opportunities across four categories for electrified transportation.	Completed

Impact Area	Title	Description	Current Status
Community Electrified Transportation	EV Charging Stations on City Property	Salt Lake City owns and operates 27 public EV charging stations at locations such as community centers, public parks, and streetside parking. The Airport owns over 95 public EV charging stations in parking structures, the economy lot, and employee lots.	In Progress
Community Electrified Transportation	Electric Vehicle Readiness Ordinance	Requires one EV charging station be provided per 25 required parking spaces in new or major reconstruction of multifamily properties. In addition, the resolution requires that 20% of parking stalls are "EV Ready," meaning they have electrical capacity and conduit to efficiently install EV charging equipment either upfront or in the future.	Completed
Community Electrified Transportation	Enhanced EV Readiness Ordinance	Updating the EV readiness ordinance to incorporate additional, high-value property types for EV charging infrastructure.	In Progress
Community Electrified Transportation	e-Bike Incentive Program	Launched an e-bike voucher program and distributed vouchers to help over 300 residents purchase new e-bikes.	Completed

Table B-3. Buildings Sector Projects

Impact Area	Title	Description	Current Status
Commercial Buildings	Elevate Buildings	Salt Lake City commercial building benchmarking initiative which was enacted in 2017 to reduce energy waste, support economic development, and improve air quality. (City Code Section 18.94.060)	In Progress
Municipal Facilities	Energy Management Policy	The Comprehensive Sustainability Policy requires energy benchmarking and implementation of energy performance best practices in City-owned facilities and buildings.	In Progress
Municipal Facilities	Net Zero New Construction Policy	The Comprehensive Sustainability Policy requires that all new construction and major renovations of occupied city buildings containing more than 10,000 square feet will be evaluated for the potential to meet net-zero energy emissions standards, LEED Gold, and using all-electric technologies. Where practicable, the building will be designed and built to this level of energy performance.	Completed
Municipal Facilities	LED Traffic Lights and Streetlighting	Salt Lake City has converted all of the traffic signals to LED lights—saving more than 1,700,000 kwh and $100,000 per year. The City has also begun a long-term program to convert all streetlights to high efficiency fixtures and is developing a Street Lighting Implementation Plan.	In Progress
Residential Buildings	Empower SLC	Energy efficiency outreach initiative funded by the Salt Lake City Sustainability Department and implemented by the non-profit Utah Clean Energy in 2018-2020. Empower SLC delivers cost-savings, increased comfort, and pollution-reduction to Westside community members.	Completed

Impact Area	Title	Description	Current Status
Commercial and Residential Buildings	Low-Carbon Materials	The CRA and Sustainability are investigating carbon mitigation impacts of incorporating low-carbon materials into the CRA's Sustainable Development Policy and the City's internal procurement policies.	In Progress
Municipal Facilities	Biogas Capture	Salt Lake City began capturing methane, a byproduct of wastewater treatment, at the City's wastewater plant in 2005. This methane is used to power two large electrical generators, generating both electricity and heat needed to power treatment plant operations. Today, this co-gen facility produces almost 6 million kilowatt hours of electricity per year, reducing the City's GHG emissions by 2,700 tons annually.	Completed
Municipal Facilities	New Water Reclamation Treatment Facility	The new water reclamation facility will replace the city's only sewer treatment facility and is one of the largest infrastructure improvements in SLC history. This is the City's first Envision project, resulting in over $16 million in savings to date due to material reuse, with nearly 1.9 tons of waste diverted from landfills, and over 4 million gallons of potable water conserved.	In Progress
Airport Facilities	Salt Lake City International Airport	Salt Lake City International Airport was awarded LEED Gold certification by implementing numerous strategies to reduce emissions, minimize waste, and conserve water.	Completed

Impact Area	Title	Description	Current Status
Airport Facilities	Uniform and Victor Airport Taxiway Projects Southern Infrastructure Project	The Airport is building two additional taxiways – Uniform and Victor – to improve connectivity and increase passenger capacity. The Southern Infrastructure Project is improving parking and airfield circulation. These projects are using the Envision framework to improve planning and ensure sustainability and resiliency practices are incorporated.	In Progress

Table B-4. Climate Resiliency & Adaptation Sector Projects

Impact Area	Title	Description	Current Status
Climate Resiliency	Western Adaptation Alliance	Collaborative network of cities across the Intermountain West and Southwest working to jointly evaluate risks and opportunities related to enhancing climate resiliency and carbon mitigation in communities.	In Progress
Climate Resiliency	Western Water Assessment	University-based applied research program that addresses societal vulnerabilities to climate variability and climate change, particularly those related to water resources in the Intermountain West.	In Progress
Heat Mitigation & Green Spaces	Urban Tree Canopy	Salt Lake City Urban Forestry strives to plant 1,000 new trees each year to maintain a healthy thriving urban forest. As of 2025, over 5,000 new trees have been planted on the westside of SLC since 2020.	In Progress
Heat Mitigation & Green Spaces	Downtown Beautification Initiative	Salt Lake City is advancing the Downtown Beautification Initiative to expand tree canopy, green infrastructure, and high-quality public space in the city's most urban neighborhoods. These improvements focus on creating shaded, comfortable routes for walking, biking, and transit while improving air quality, reducing urban heat, and enhancing the experience of downtown streets and public spaces.	In Progress
Climate Resiliency	Salt Lake Sustainable Infrastructure Policy	A part of the Comprehensive Sustainability Policy, the Sustainable Infrastructure section guides internal projects and infrastructure development, including enhancing resiliency and requiring large landscape projects to prioritize climate resiliency and sustainability. The policy was updated in December 2023 to include Envision and SITES as acceptable certification pathways, in addition to LEED.	Completed

Impact Area	Title	Description	Current Status
Municipal Facilities	Glendale Regional Park	Phase 1 of the Glendale Regional Park was completed in 2025. This was the City's first project to follow the SITES certification process, which encourages the design of landscapes that reduce water demand, filter and reduce stormwater runoff, enhance biodiversity, provide pollinator and wildlife habitat, reduce energy consumption, protect critical ecosystems, improve air quality, and increase recreation opportunities.	Completed
Water Conservation	Water conservation programs	The City is engaged in over 60 water conservation programs to reduce water use or water waste. These programs are being re-evaluated as part of the Salt Lake City Water Conservation Plan update.	In Progress
Water Conservation	Wake the Great Salt Lake	Salt Lake City Arts Council project that supports temporary public art installations dedicated to the Great Salt Lake. The goal of the project is to educate residents and visitors about the issues surrounding the Great Salt Lake and inspire people to action.	In Progress
Air Quality	Indoor Air Quality Pilot Program	Pilot program in 2024 that distributed air purifiers, high efficiency HVAC filters, and plug-in induction cooktops to over 70 residences.	Completed

Table B-5. Food Sector Projects

Impact Area	Title	Description	Current Status
Food Access	Mayor-Council Joint Resolution on Food Equity	Proposed passing a resolution to declare food equity a priority to the city. Presented to City Council in February 2022, not passed, not yet revisited.	In Progress
Food Access	Food Policy Council	Convened body of food system stakeholders to advise on policy strategies related to food and support advancement of relevant food access programs, policies, and partnerships. Placed on pause in October 2023.	In Progress
Food Access	Double Up Food Bucks Program	Provided matching funding of $60K to initiate a produce purchasing incentive program at farmers markets for SNAP recipients. Partnership with Utahns Against Hunger.	Completed
Food Access	SLC FruitShare	Partnership with the Green Urban Lunch Box to harvest fruit from community member trees throughout Salt Lake City. The program had over 3,700 trees registered and benefited from the support of roughly 75 volunteers. Program ran with City support and funding from 2012-2018.	Completed
Food Access	Square Kitchen: Culinary Incubator Kitchen	Assists local food entrepreneurs by providing an affordable commercial kitchen space for food prep plus business marketing tools and resources. City conducted a market analysis/feasibility study and provided start-up funding.	Completed
Urban Agriculture	Food Recovery & Waste	Various initiatives and partnerships to recover, redistribute, and divert food waste and organics materials from the landfill. Curbside composting is an ongoing city effort. Partnerships and support for Waste Less Solutions and Wasatch Resource Recovery have been completed.	In Progress

Impact Area	Title	Description	Current Status
Urban Agriculture	Green City Growers	Partnership between Wasatch Community Gardens and Salt Lake City Public Lands to start and manage community gardens on Salt Lake City land. Began in 2012.	In Progress
Urban Agriculture	SLC Urban Farming Program	Leasing underutilized city parcels for farming to local farmers. Began in 2015, plot leases 2018-current	In Progress
Urban Agriculture	Urban Agriculture Ordinance Revisions	Updates made to zoning policies to allow more opportunities for urban agriculture activities in the city including backyard chickens and bee keeping	Completed
Urban Agriculture	Urban Greens Mobile Market	Partnership with the Green Urban Lunch Box to pilot a mobile farmers market in the Poplar Grove and Glendale neighborhoods. Ran from 2016-2018. Grant funded.	Completed
Urban Agriculture	Local Food Microgrant Program	Leveraged grant funds to assist local farmers in growing more diversified and sustainable produce. Partnership with Urban Food Connections of Utah.	Completed
Urban Agriculture	Dining with Discretion	Online resource of climate-friendly diet options and local restaurants that focus on sustainability.	Completed

Table B-6. Waste Sector Projects

Impact Area	Title	Description	Current Status
Waste Reduction, Diversion, and Recycling	The Recycling Partnership Characterization Study	A study to conduct an analysis of various waste and recycling streams, including residential, commercial, self-haul, construction debris, organics, and glass; and identify opportunities to improve organic and recyclable material diversion.	In Progress
Waste Reduction, Diversion, and Recycling	Construction and Demolition Ordinance	Requires a waste management plan and construction waste audit for certain commercial and multifamily new construction projects. Plans must address how 55% of C&D waste will be recycled or reused.	In Progress
Waste Reduction, Diversion, and Recycling	Pay As You Throw Rates	Residential waste collection fees are tiered with increasing charges for 40-, 60-, and 90-gallon bins in order to encourage waste minimization and diversion while appropriately funding collection and landfill costs. Next step would be pursuing a rates study to inform potential re-design.	In Progress
Waste Reduction, Diversion, and Recycling	Business and Multifamily Recycling Ordinance	Businesses and multifamily properties that produce over 4 cubic yards of waste per week are required to have a recycling program. These properties produce 50% of all waste in Salt Lake City, but prior to the ordinance being amended only 10-15% of that waste was being recycled.	In Progress
Waste Reduction, Diversion, and Recycling	Recycling Education and Outreach	Education, training, and enforcement efforts to improve waste diversion and recycling behaviors. Efforts include residential and non-residential customers, plus internal city departments. Salt Lake City was awarded an EPA Recycling Education and Outreach grant in 2023 to support residential outreach and engagement and is revisiting the prior Master Recycler Program efforts to determine if/how to reimagine and relaunch a similar program.	In Progress

Impact Area	Title	Description	Current Status
Waste Reduction, Diversion, and Recycling	Call 2 Haul	Provides collection services for large bulky items that don't fit or belong in your weekly curbside containers, like old furniture, mattresses, appliances, refrigerators, tires, electronic waste, and bulky green waste. Collected materials are diverted, where possible, for recycling and composting.	In Progress
Waste Reduction, Diversion, and Recycling	Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)	Waste Management opened a new, state-of-the art Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Salt Lake City in 2020. This advanced recycling center allows efficient and effective sorting and process of recyclables collected in the region.	Completed
Waste Reduction, Diversion, and Recycling	Airport Glass Recycling Program	The Airport has a glass recycling program for all concessions and airline lounges, resulting in over 100 tons of glass recycled over the last two years.	In Progress
Waste Reduction, Diversion, and Recycling	Curbside Recycling Services	Residential curbside recycling services, including voluntary glass recycling and collection of food and green waste for diversion to a composting program.	In Progress
Landfill Gas Capture	Landfill Gas Capture and Beneficial Reuse	Ensure that landfill gas capture and reuse activities are optimized for desirable impacts, including infrastructure and operations. A new long-term contract for landfill gas capture and reuse will be negotiated in the next two years.	In Progress

Table B-7. Status of Cross Cutting Policies and Programs

Impact Area	Title	Description	Current Status
Businesses and Organizations	e2 Business Program	Aimed to assist smaller businesses, this program is dedicated to helping Salt Lake's business community run in a more environmentally and economically sustainable manner. Participation is free to any business located within Salt Lake City limits. The current number of businesses enrolled is 50.	In Progress
Businesses and Organizations	Airport Green Concession Program	Through the SLC Green Concessions Program, concessionaires across the airport implement actions to reduce and divert waste, conserve energy and water in their operations, use non-toxic products, and provide healthy menu options.	In Progress
Air Quality	Landscaping Equipment Exchange	Launched in 2023, Equipment purchase incentives for residents for all-electric landscaping equipment, including lawn mowers, trimmers, leaf blowers, and handheld tools.	In Progress
Carbon Removal and Low-Carbon Materials	4 Corners Carbon Removal Coalition	Salt Lake City partnered with Boulder County, Flagstaff, and Santa Fe on innovative approaches to support low-carbon concrete plus carbon capture and sequestration solutions.	Completed
Workforce	FUSE Fellow Program	Salt Lake City participated in the FUSE Executive Fellow program and hosted a professional who helped evaluate workforce needs, opportunities, and partnerships related to energy and climate occupations.	Completed

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