Integrated Land and Water Planning

ECONOMIC INCENTIVES

2024 GREAT SALT LAKE POLICY SUMMARIES

The Great Salt Lake Strike Team analyzed ten policy options and created summaries for each. The strike team does not endorse individual policies but rather evaluated the most-discussed options to address Great Salt Lake.

Policy summaries fall into four categories:

- **Water Shepherding**
- **Economic Incentives**
- **Agriculture Optimization**
- **Engineered Options**

For more information on policy summaries, please scan the QR code above or visit: https://gardner.utah.edu/great-salt-lake-strike-team/policy-summaries/

Integrating land use and water planning will reduce future water demand. Land use planning at the local level includes actions like zoning, urban design, and landscaping requirements. Integrating these actions with water planning will reduce water demand of new development and provide financial benefits by helping local governments implement water-smart growth strategies.

IMPLEMENTATION OPTIONS

- Implement at a local government scale (counties, cities, towns).
- Provide a toolbox of water-smart planning, policy, ordinances, program designs, and best practices to meet different community circumstances and needs.
- Use Growing Water Smart workshops to fast-track integration.
- Institutionalize land-water integration in local government decision-making.
- Build local governments' capacities to contribute to Watershed Councils and Utah's 2022 Coordinated Action Plan for Water.

CONSIDERATIONS

- **Financial benefits of risk reduction** - Integrated land and water planning shapes and conditions growth based on sustaining water sources for reliable long-term supply availability. It reduces financial risks associated with surface water depletion, groundwater overdraft, water quality impairment, and drought- and climate-related impacts.
- **Return on investment** - Embedding water efficiency and optimization in land-use transitions and urban (re)development reduces new demands that growth would otherwise place on limited water supplies. It ensures that investments to conserve water in existing uses is not for naught, and it avoids future water conservation costs in areas now being developed. Over time it adjusts Utahns' water use expectations, further reducing future water demands.
- **Value in drought and climate resiliency** - Becoming more resilient provides greater economic security and insurance against water and climate uncertainties that could dramatically affect Utah's growth and prosperity.

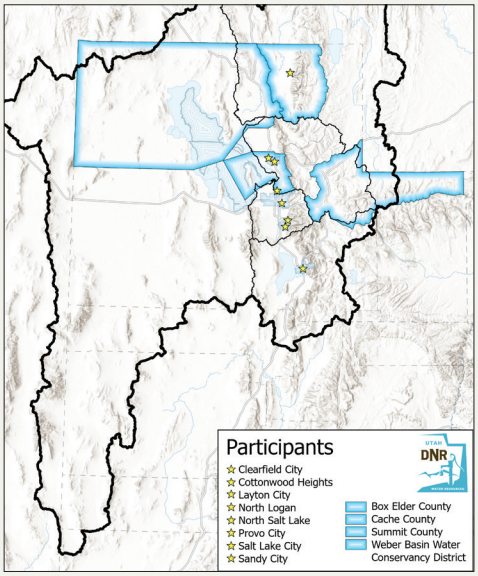
Example:

UTAH GROWING WATER SMART WORKSHOPS

Bring water managers, land planners, city staff, and elected officials together to identify and implement strategies to build a more resilient and sustainable water future.

A city can reduce residential and institutional water demand by two-thirds by eliminating nonfunctional turf.

Participating Communities in the Great Salt Lake Basin



For more information please visit https://extension.usu.edu/cwel/utah-growing-water-smart/