

# 2024 Utah Environmental Legislative Update

Utah Sustainable Business Coalition is a network of more than 300 businesses, sustainability professionals, and community partners working to advance sustainable business practices in our state.



# Speakers

---



## Tim Hawkes

General Counsel to the Great Salt Lake Brine Shrimp Cooperative and recently served in the Utah House of Representatives from 2015 to 2022.



## Josh Craft

Government and Corporate Relations Manager, Utah Clean Energy



## Marcelle Shoop

Director of Saline Lakes Program for the National Audubon Society



## Nick Schou

Utah Government Affairs Manager, Western Resource Advocates

# 2024 Legislative Update



# Agenda

---

## 2024 Legislative Update



1. How to engage with the legislature
2. Great Salt Lake and water-related bill overview;
3. Great Salt Lake Council
4. The Great Salt Lake Watershed Enhancement Trust
5. Rooftop solar, Truck & Energy Efficiency Incentives
6. Med and Heavy Truck electrification, Beehive Emission Reduction Plan
7. Q&A



# **TIPS & TRICKS**

## **HOW BEST TO ENGAGE**

***TIM HAWKES***

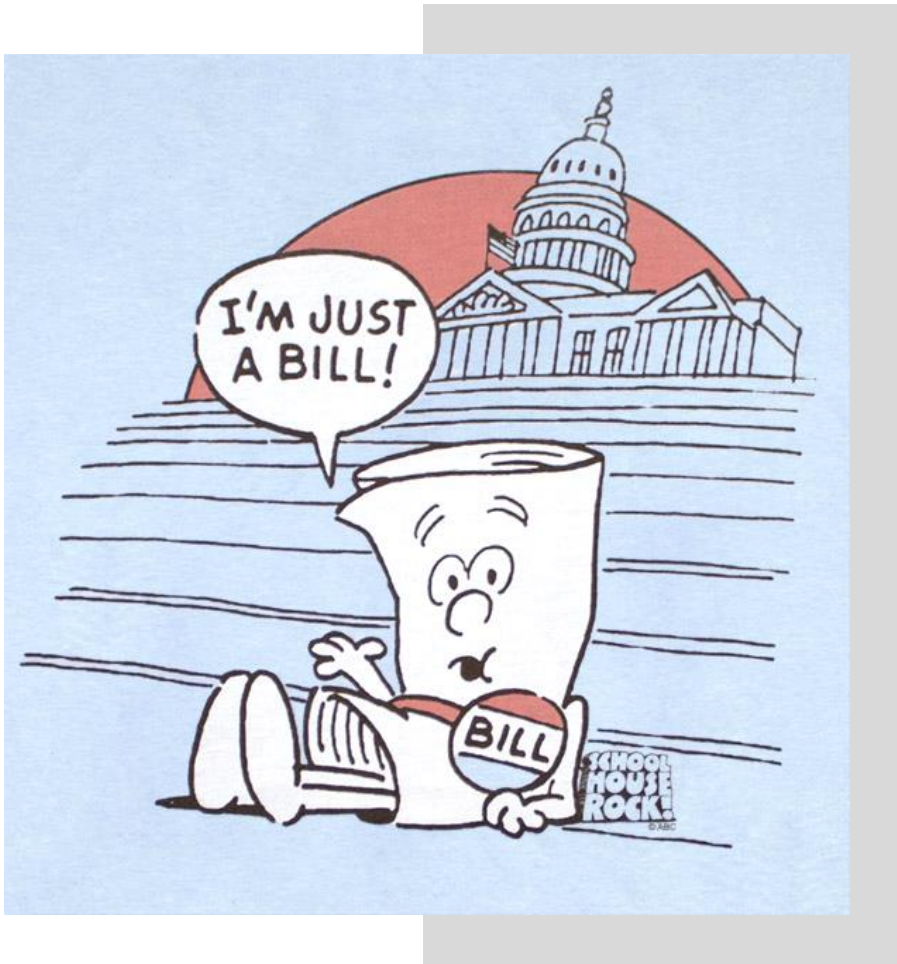
***BOARD CHAIR, GSL BRINE SHRIMP COOPERATIVE***  
***SENIOR ADVISOR, COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF UTAH***



## Secret (Fry) Sauce

---

1. Learn the process
2. Use the website
3. Think like a power broker



# Process

1. Drafted
2. Introduced
3. Rules
4. Committee
5. Floor
6. Rules
7. Committee
8. Floor
9. Concurrence
10. Gov. Signature or Veto



Approps has  
its own set  
of rules

# Website

<https://le.utah.gov/>

- One of the best in the country
- Easy to
  - track bills (sign up for notifications)
  - read text
  - listen to debates





---

## Think Like a Power Broker

---

- Republican super majority
- Respectful tone
- Personalize ... always
- Understand demands and constituencies
- Respect their time
- Know when/how decisions are made

e.g., Committee testimony





# 2024 LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW

WHAT'S IN STORE FOR GREAT SALT LAKE?



# GREAT SALT LAKE

- Most of the major legislative changes made '20 – '23
- Really in more of an implementation stage (takes time)
- Most of the bills are refinements on existing policy



SENATOR SCOTT SANDALL

# SB 18 - WATER MODIFICATIONS

- Clarifications regarding “saved” water when it comes to ag water optimization.
- Clearer definitions and legal protections.
- Important tool to ensure that conserved water can be shepherded to Great Salt Lake.

REP. RAY WARD

## **GSL COMMISSIONER REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

---

- Directs the Commissioner to report on the effectiveness of the following programs:
  - Ag optimization
  - Water banking
  - Watershed enhancement
  - Secondary metering





SPEAKER MIKE SCHULTZ

## **GSL MINERAL EXTRACTION AMENDMENTS**

- In process, only the title is public. Why?
- Follow up to last session's legislation regarding mineral extraction on Great Salt Lake (royalty rates, administration, emergency levers)

REP. DOUG OWENS  
**WATER EFFICIENT  
LANDSCAPING AMENDMENTS**

---

- Within the Great Salt Lake watershed:
  - Requires new public schools or major renovations to limit the use of turf.
  - Similar requirements for state buildings.
- Also: [Water Usage Amendments](#)  
(prohibits shoulder season watering)





THE ARTEMIA YOU CAN TRUST

## INDIRECTLY RELATED **BILLS**

- Rep. Casey Snider – Water Related Changes (consolidated infrastructure funding)
- Rep. Gay Lynn Bennion – Riparian Amendments (flood plain and riparian planning)
- Rep. Melissa Ballard – Water Usage Data Amendments (public schools?)
- Rep. Carl Albrecht – HB-61: Water Measuring and Accounting Amendments (standards for telemetry and water use accounting)



# OVERVIEW OF THE GSL BUSINESS COUNCIL

STRENGTHENING THE BUSINESS VOICE







## BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT

---

- Employee concerns become business concerns.
- Ski resorts: our people are asking whether they need to move out of state to protect their health.
  - Valid concern?
  - What can a business do?



# OBSERVATIONS

---

- Business voice has unique influence in the State.
- Policy makers need to know that businesses care.
- Businesses need **good information** both on the situation and *what they can* do to make a difference.



# GOALS

- Provide:
  - (1) Ready access to good information;
  - (2) Effective opportunities to engage.
- Remind policy makers of the big picture.
- Support rather than supplant existing efforts.



## TO DATE

- 4 trade groups
- 23 businesses
- *Already:*
  - 15,000+ employees
  - \$6B+ in revenue





## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Sign up (primary contact and email address) to [thawkes@gsia.us](mailto:thawkes@gsia.us)
- Engage – participate and learn
- Share – help spread the word





Great Salt Lake -  
Implementation  
Utah Sustainable Business Coalition  
January 10, 2024

Marcelle Shoop, National Audubon Society  
Great Salt Lake Watershed Enhancement Trust

Photo: M. Shoop  
Lee Creek Inflow Great Salt Lake  
October 31, 2022

# To Preserve Great Salt Lake & Wetlands



Many Tools and Resources Needed

# Office of the Great Salt Lake Commissioner (H.B. 491 – 2023)

- Brian Steed, Commissioner
- Tim Davis, Deputy Commissioner
- Developing and maintaining a strategic plan
- Coordinating collaborative work among all agencies and interests in relation to the lake
- The commissioner also holds authority to require a state agency to act, or refrain from acting, in order to protect Great Salt Lake.

<https://greatsaltlake.utah.gov/>

<https://greatsaltlake.utah.gov/commissioner/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xO7f4jRaYk0>

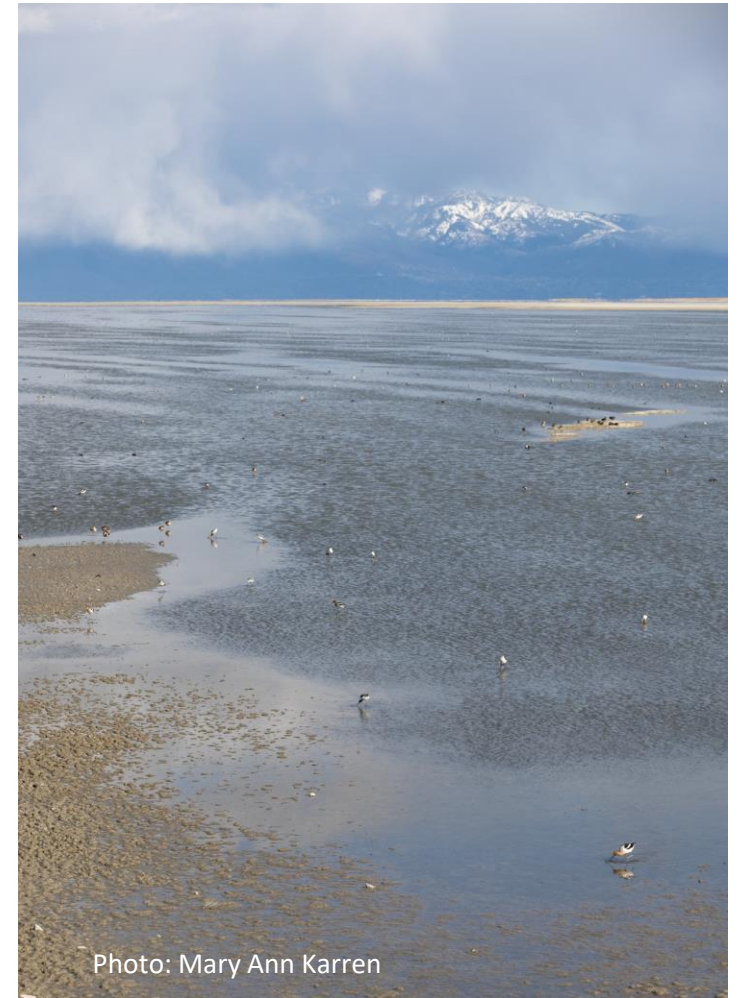


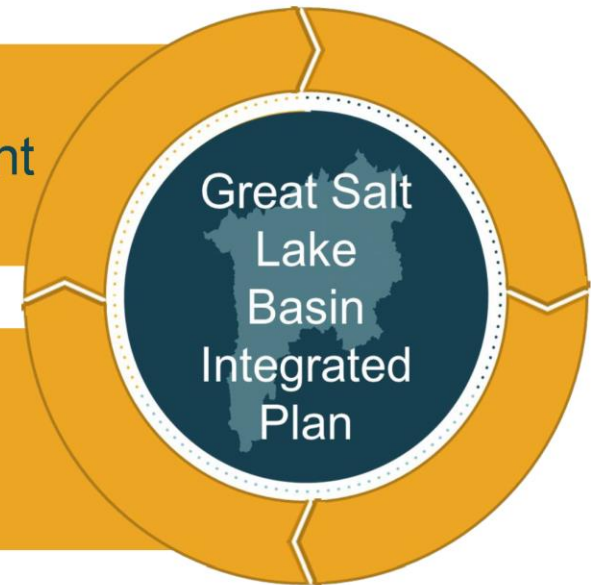
Photo: Mary Ann Karren



# Great Salt Lake Basin Integrated Plan

2022 HB 429 Great Salt Lake  
Watershed Integrated Water Assessment  
(\$5M, Finish by Nov 2026)

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
WaterSmart Basin Study  
(\$3.1M Match)



# Great Salt Lake Watershed Enhancement Program

- \$40 million to establish and implement water trust
- Benefit Great Salt Lake, wetlands, hydrologic connections
- Statutory Trust Advisory Council
- Trust is not a policy-making or governmental entity
- Oversight: Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, & State Lands
- Co-Managed by:
  - National Audubon Society – Saline Lakes
  - The Nature Conservancy – Utah
- <https://www.gslwatertrust.org/>

Utah Code Title 65, Chpt. 16 (2022)



Photo: Mary Ann Karren

# Thank you

---

- Marcelle Shoop, Director, Saline Lakes Program, National Audubon Society
- Executive Director, Great Salt Lake Watershed Enhancement Trust
- [marcelle.shoop@audubon.org](mailto:marcelle.shoop@audubon.org)
- [GSLWET@audubon.org](mailto:GSLWET@audubon.org)
  
- <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/project/saline-lakes>
  
- <https://www.gslwatertrust.org/>

**Josh Craft**  
Government Relations Manager



# UTAH CLEAN ENERGY'S PRIORITIES

- ✓ Rooftop Solar Legislation
- ✓ Utah Clean Truck Incentive Program
- ✓ Energy efficiency incentive program
- ✓ Sustaining the Momentum on Clean Energy



# Fair and Stable Compensation for Rooftop Solar

- ✓ **Goal: Providing fair and stable compensation for rooftop solar generation to grow the market**
- ✓ **Sponsor: Senator Wayne Harper (R-Taylorsville)**
- ✓ **The bill would modify the current export credit rate to provide compensation at a set percentage of retail rates for solar exported to the electricity grid.**



# Energy Efficiency Incentive Funding

- ✓ **Goal: Promote super-efficient building envelopes in new homes**
- ✓ We are seeking a state appropriation of at least \$1 million to help homebuilders achieve ultra-energy efficient building envelopes.
  - ✓ Would fund an existing state energy efficiency incentive program created by SB 188 of 2022.

# Continuing the Transition to Cleaner Energy Resources

- ✓ Discussions about the future of Utah power plants and power generation facilities, esp. at the Intermountain Power Plant and operated by PacifiCorp
  - ✓ E.g. HB 191 by Representative Colin Jack
- ✓ Push for Utah state agencies to play a more active role in pushing back against federal policies to reduce emissions from fossil fuels in the power sector and elsewhere.
  - ✓ “Utah Energy Amendments” by Representative Colin Jack
- ✓ Barriers to new clean energy facilities?
  - ✓ HB 117-Wind Energy Facility Siting Modifications (Rep. Jefferson Burton)



# Other Bills Worth Watching

- ✓ Energy Storage Tax Credit or Incentives
- ✓ Geothermal Energy (Sen. Nate Blouin)
- ✓ State Agency Emissions Reduction Goals (Rep. Tyler Clancy?)



# Ways to Stay Engaged

## **Legislative Tracking**

- Available shortly at <https://utahcleanenergy.org>

## **Weekly Clean Energy Business Coalition Calls**

- Available for members

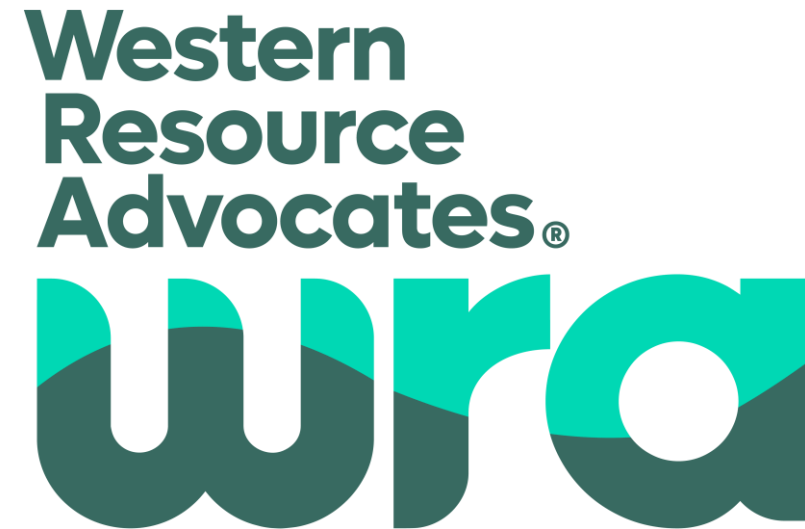
Thank you!

Josh Craft

Government and Corporate Relations Manager



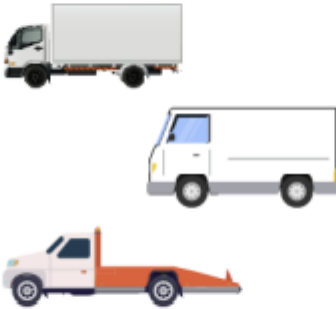

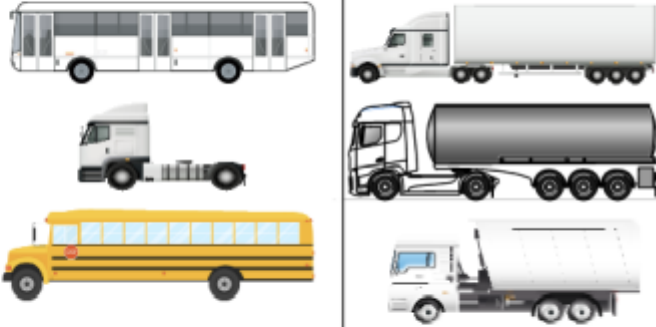


[josh@utahcleanenergy.org](mailto:josh@utahcleanenergy.org) or 603-247-5423









Nick Schou  
Utah Government Affairs  
Manager



# What are MHD Vehicles?

Medium and heavy-duty vehicles are vehicles class 2b-8 and they come in all shapes, sizes, and use cases!

Weight Class	Class 2b	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 6	Class 7	Class 8
Example Vehicles							
GVWR	8,500 – 10,000 lb 3,856 – 4,536 kg	10,001 – 14,000 lb 4,536 – 6,350 kg	14,001 – 16,000 lb 6,351 – 7,257 kg	16,001 – 19,500 lb 7,258 – 8,845 kg	19,501 – 26,000 lb 8,846 – 11,793 kg	26,001 – 33,000 lb 11,794 – 14,969 kg	> 33,000 lb > 14,969 kg

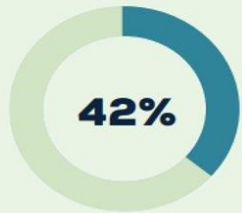
<b>Class 1 - 6,000 lbs &amp; Less</b>  Minivan    Cargo Van    SUV    Pickup Truck
<b>Class 2 - 6,001 to 10,000 lbs</b>  Minivan    Cargo Van    Full-Size Pickup    Step Van
<b>Class 3 - 10,001 to 14,000 lbs</b>  Walk-in    Box Truck    City Delivery    Heavy-Duty Pickup
<b>Class 4 - 14,001 to 16,000 lbs</b>  Large Walk-in    Box Truck    City Delivery
<b>Class 5 - 16,001 to 19,500 lbs</b>  Bucket Truck    Large Walk-in    City Delivery
<b>Class 6 - 19,501 to 26,000 lbs</b>  Beverage Truck    Single-Axle    School Bus    Rack Truck
<b>Class 7 - 26,001 to 33,000 lbs</b>  Refuse    Furniture    City Transit Bus    Truck Tractor
<b>Class 8 - 33,001 lbs &amp; Over</b>  Cement Truck    Truck Tractor    Dump Truck    Sleeper

# Why MHD Vehicle Electrification?

FIGURE 3:  
MHD VEHICLE SHARE OF TOTAL  
U.S. ON-ROAD EMISSIONS



2019 U.S. On-Road GHGs



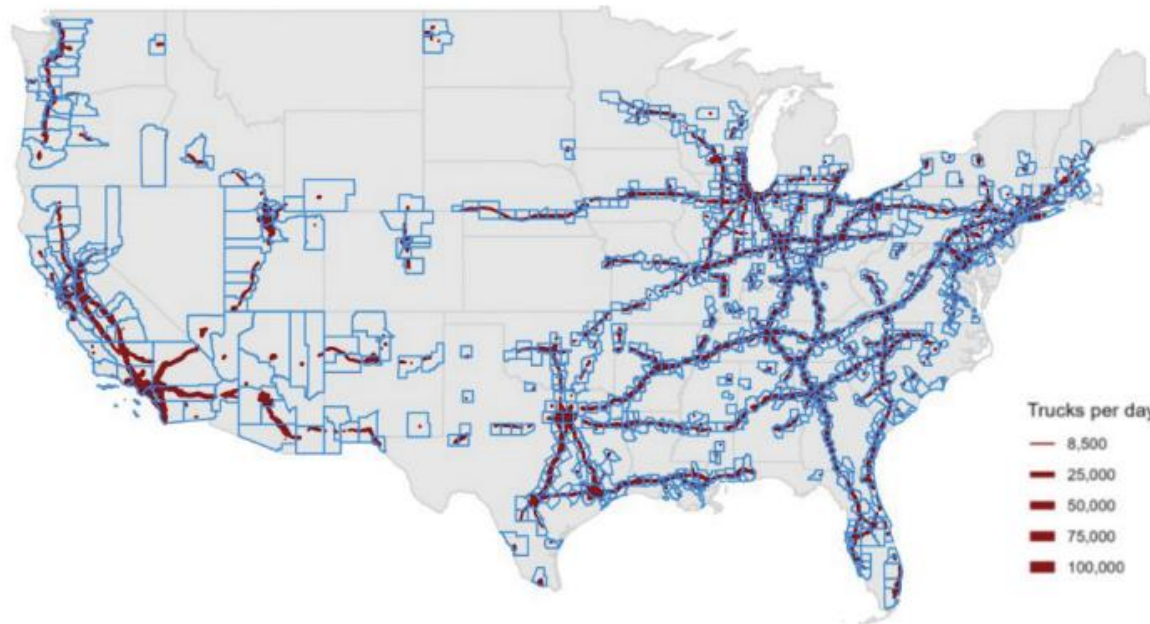
2017 U.S. On-Road NO<sub>x</sub>



2017 U.S. On-Road PM<sub>2.5</sub>

MHD Vehicle Emissions    Other Vehicle Emissions

MHD vehicles make up about 6% of all vehicles but have an outsized impact on air quality. Ozone and PM 2.5 SIP attainment processes are ongoing in Utah – what long-term fixes are available?



Benefits for Salt Lake City-Provo-Orem from 2020-2050 (assuming all new sales are ZE by 2040)

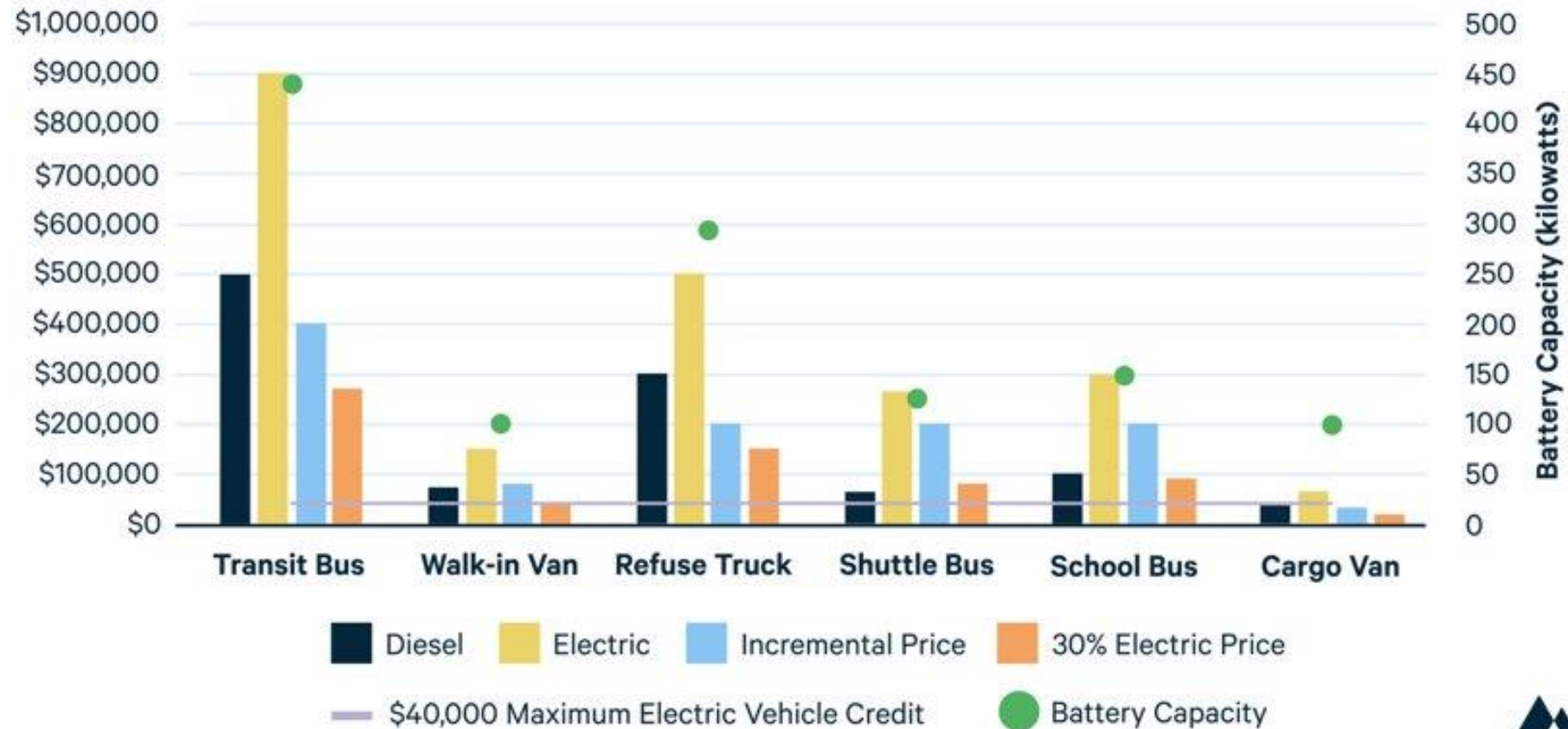
- \$4.9 billion in monetized health benefits
- 440 premature deaths avoided
- 23,600 asthma attacks avoided
- 85,550 lost work days avoided

Benefits for Utah:

- \$5.7 billion in monetized health benefits
- 506 premature deaths avoided
- 26,100 asthma attacks avoided
- 94,300 lost work days avoided

# Achieving Price Parity is Key!

Total cost of ownership can be lower for fleets with the right incentives to reduce the upfront purchase costs of these vehicles – they can offer businesses a break on fuel costs. In the next decade, ZE vehicles will reach near price parity and be a much more attractive option.



# Beehive Emission Reduction Plan



Department of Environmental Quality

On August 16, 2022, the [Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 \(IRA\)](#) was signed into law. Among other provisions, the IRA established funding for state greenhouse gas planning and implementation efforts. This funding initiative, known as the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program, includes two phases.

[Phase I](#) provides formula planning grant funding for states (\$3M each), metropolitan areas (\$1M to each of the 67 largest areas), territories (\$2M set-aside), and tribes (\$25M set-aside) to develop plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. [Phase II](#) will provide \$4.6B nationwide in competitive implementation grant funding for government entities participating in Phase I. Find more information at EPA's [CPRG program](#).

Governor Cox has identified the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) as the lead agency to receive CPRG funding to engage in emission reduction planning in Utah through the *Beehive Emission Reduction Plan* initiative. In this capacity, DEQ will play a key role in helping Utah secure broader emissions reduction-related funding under the IRA, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), and from other sources. DEQ has extensive emission reduction planning experience and is prepared to coordinate with partners to ensure that funding is leveraged to support balanced, state-driven solutions that pave the way for continued growth while maintaining a high-quality of life in Utah.

## Sign up for updates

\* Email

By submitting this form, you are consenting to receive marketing emails from: Utah Department of Environmental Quality, 195 North 1950 West, Salt Lake City, UT, 84114, US, <http://deq.utah.gov>. You can revoke your consent to receive emails at any time by using the [SafeUnsubscribe@](#) link, found at the bottom of every email. [Emails are serviced by Constant Contact.](#)

Sign up!



# 2024 Legislative Update



# Q&A

---



## Upcoming Webinar: ESG Reporting with CSRHub



Join experts from CSR Hub and other ESG leaders in Utah to learn more about the ESG landscape and reporting.

**Date:** Thursday, February 8 @ Noon

**Where:** Online Webinar

Tom Moyer, a Utah resident and clean energy advocate, keeps a Utah Legislative tracker each year that is very comprehensive.

Climateutah.com



## Legislation - 2023 Session

2023 Climate Utah Bill Tracker : House and Senate

Clean Energy, Energy Storage, & Electric Vehicle Legislation					
Bill #	Bill Name	Sponsors	Status	Resources	Summary
<a href="#">SB125</a>	Transportation Infrastructure Amendments	Sen. Wilson	<b>passed unanimously</b>		Designates the ASPIRE Center at Utah State University to coordinate statewide transportation electrification planning. Creates a steering committee to help develop an action plan for the electrification of transportation infrastructure within Utah. Provides \$2.1 million for the operations of the research center and the committee.
<a href="#">HB426</a>	Statewide Energy Policy Amendments	Rep. J. Moss	<b>passed</b>		Amends the state energy policy to require a strategic energy plan in cooperation with industry, university, and state agencies. Creates a new energy research fund and appropriates \$1 million a year to provide matching grants for federal and private grants for energy research projects in the state within the Office of Energy Development.
Clean Air Legislation with Potential Climate Benefits					
Bill #	Bill Name	Sponsors	Status	Resources	Summary
<a href="#">HB220</a>	Emissions Reduction Amendments	Rep. Stoddard	<b>Final version (S04) passed unanimously</b>	<a href="#">Fox News story</a>	Started as a huge bill seeking to reduce emissions of criteria pollutants 50% by 2030