

2025 Utah Climate and Environmental Legislative Update

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



Speakers

2025 Legislative Update



Josh Craft
Government and
Corporate Relations
Manager,
Utah Clean Energy



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ClimateUtah.org
Citizens' Climate Lobby,
Utah Co-State
Coordinator



Agenda

2025 Legislative Update



1. Utah's Energy Production and Operation Gigawatt
2. Utility Restructuring
3. Utah Air Quality
4. Great Salt Lake
5. Q&A
6. Resources and Call to Action

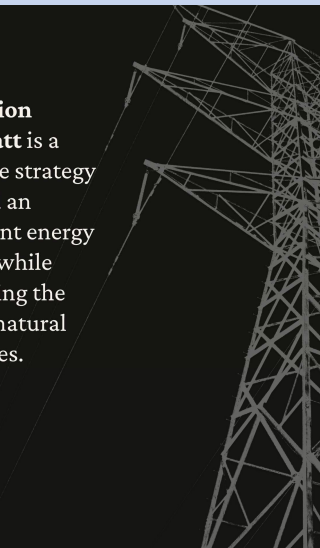
Operation Gigawatt



\$24.7M to double energy production in the next 10 years

FY26 BUDGET ROLLOUT

Operation Gigawatt is a cohesive strategy to build an abundant energy supply while protecting the state's natural resources.



UTAH

Cox announces plan to double Utah's energy in 10 years

Operation Gigawatt debuts at One Utah Summit in Cedar City

Published: Oct 8, 2024, 6:45 p.m. MDT



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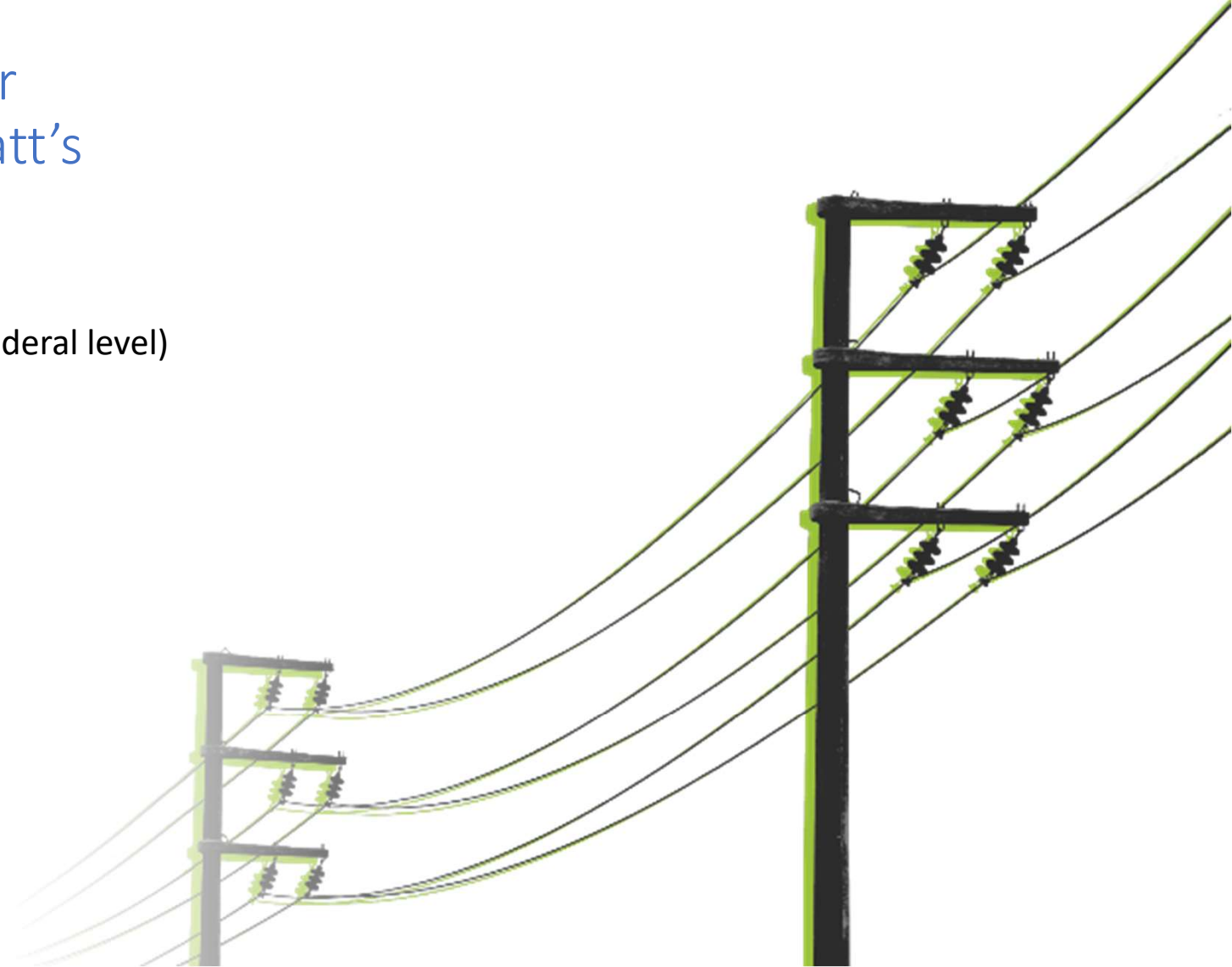
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Power lines are pictured in Salt Lake City near the International Airport on Monday, March 11, 2024. | Scott G Winterton, Deseret News

Considerations for Operation Gigawatt's Success

- Transmission Capacity (Federal level)



Market-Driven Electrical Generation Transition

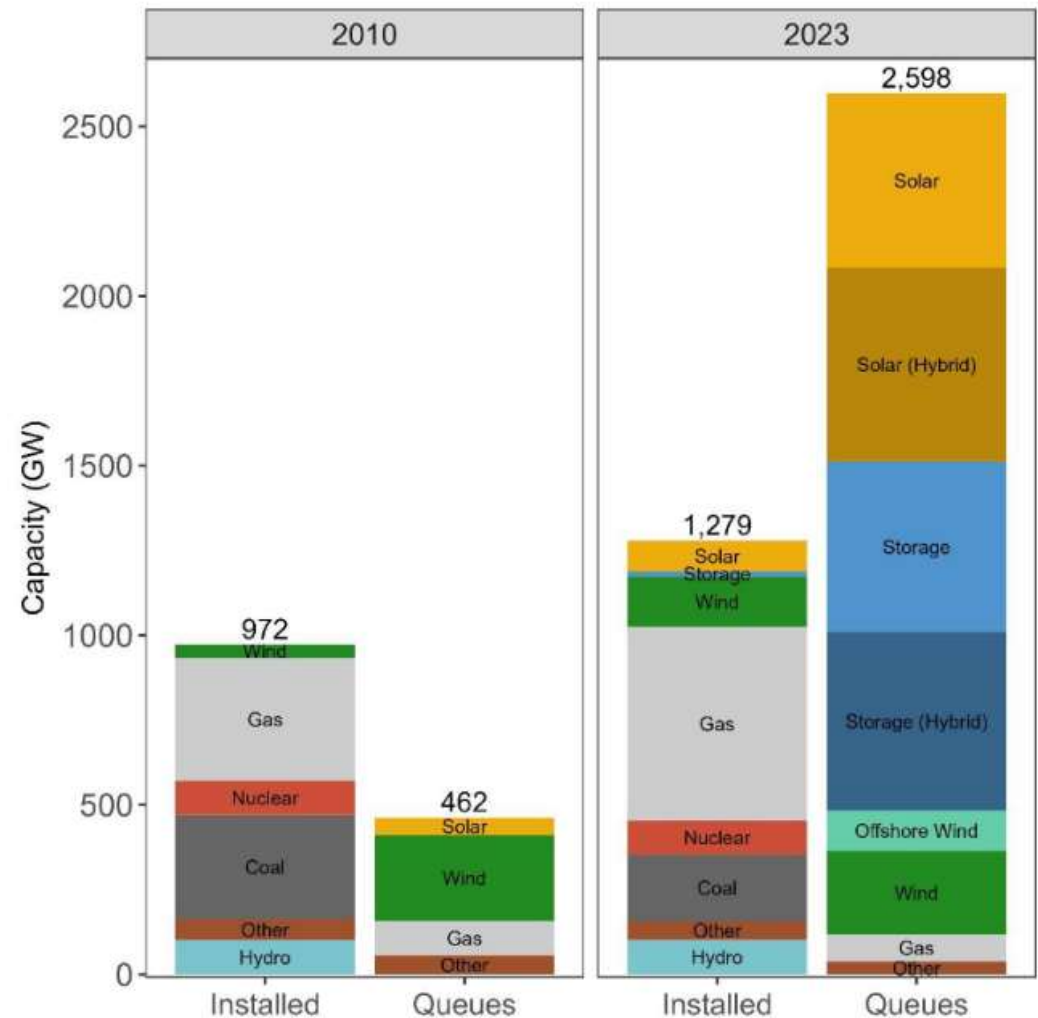
In 2023:

1,279 GW installed

2,598 GW in interconnection
queue

Solar, wind, and batteries are 95%
of the queue

Capacity in the queue is **twice** the
installed capacity of the entire US
power plant fleet.



Permitting Reform & Transmission

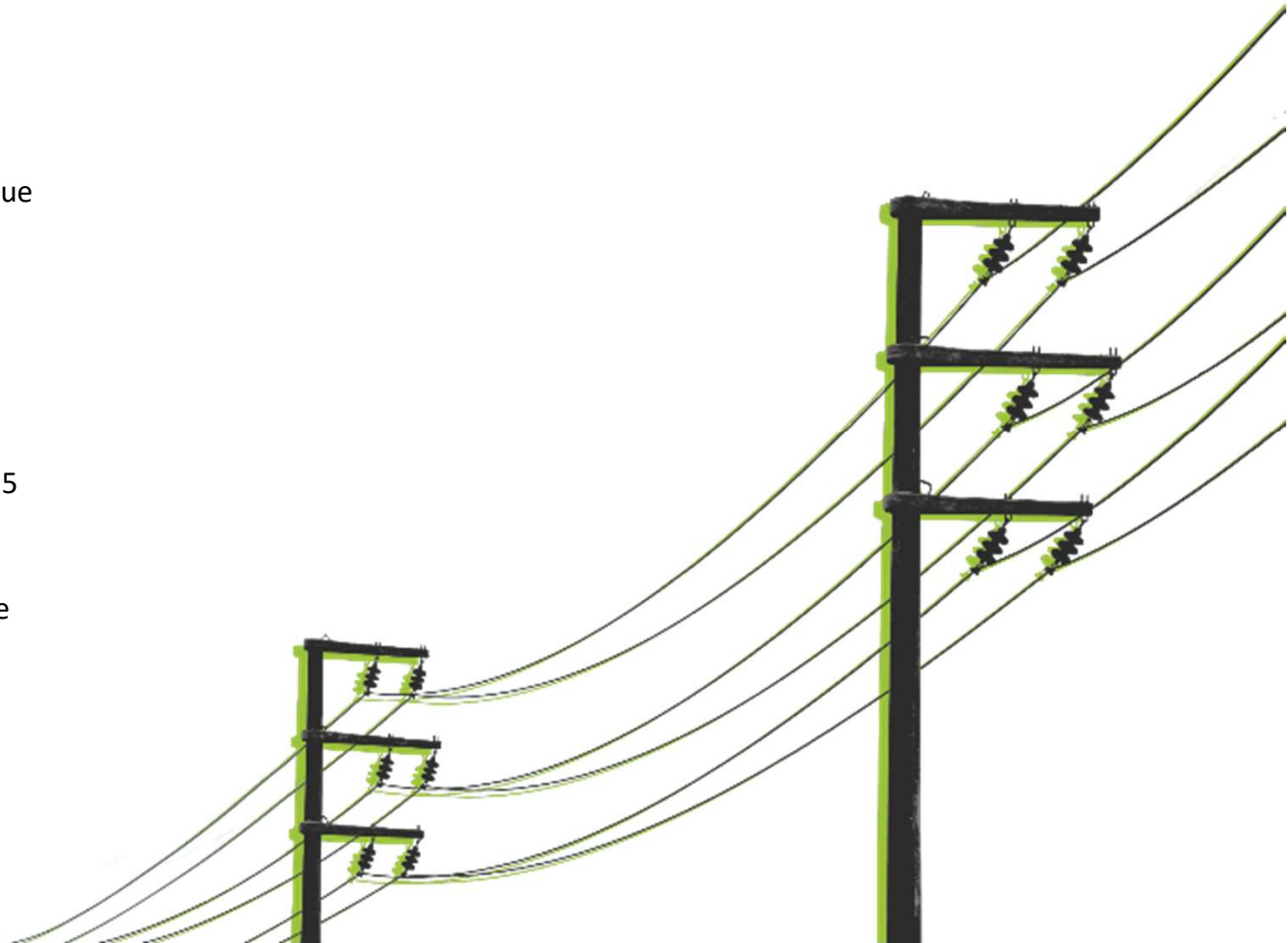
95% of new capacity in the interconnect queue is from renewables and batteries.

Right now, we're only expanding our electric transmission infrastructure at 1% per year.

We need to triple our capacity to transmit clean electricity by 2050.

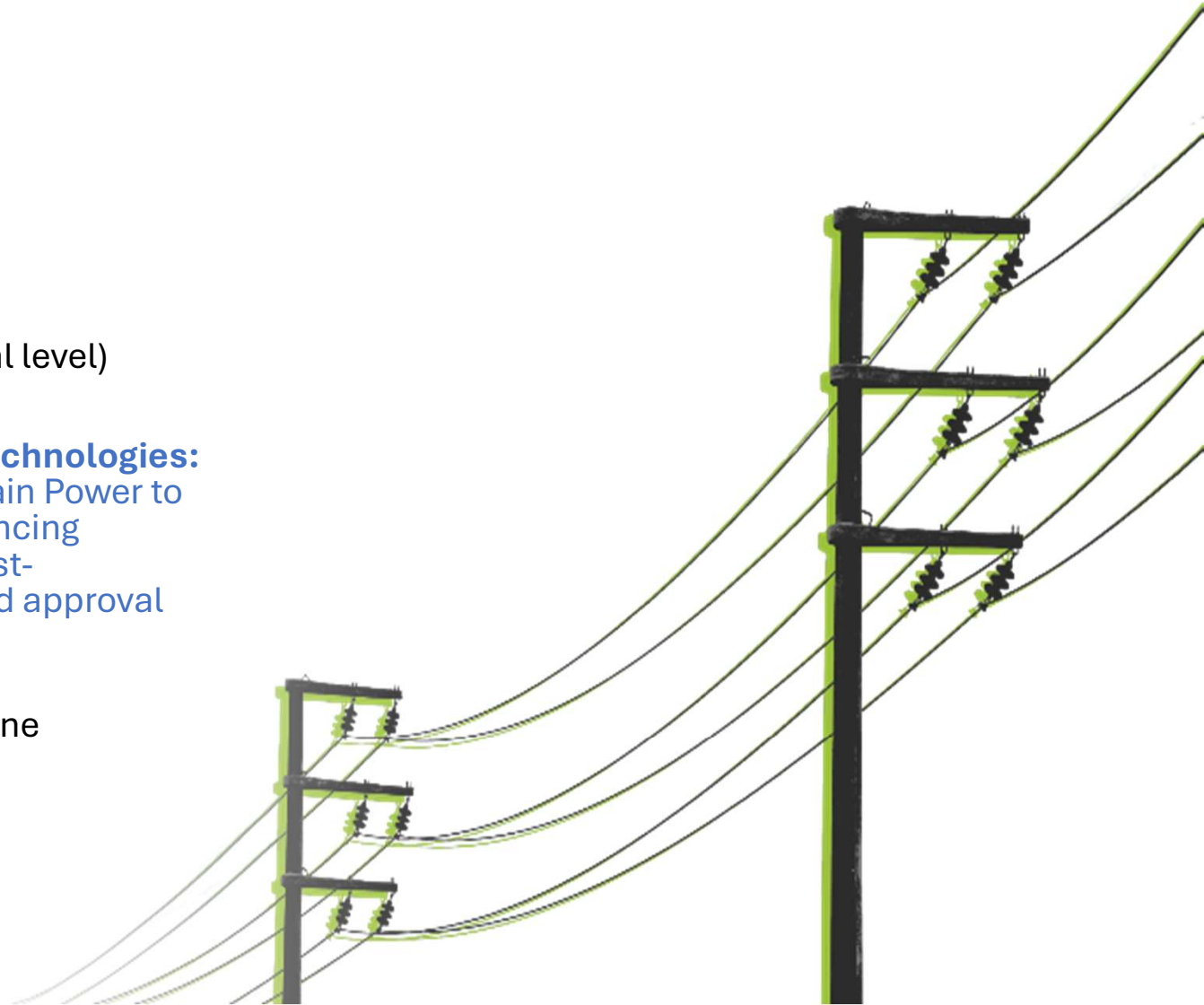
Transmission line projects generally take 5–15 years to complete.

If we can't speed up construction, 80% of the emissions reductions of the IRA are lost.



Considerations for Operation Gigawatt's Success

1. Transmission Capacity (Federal level)
2. Transmission at State level
 - **HB212 Grid Enhancing Technologies:** Encourages Rocky Mountain Power to study the use of grid enhancing technologies. Outlines cost-effectiveness analyses and approval procedures.
3. Feasibility of the 10-year timeline
4. Funding



Solar Legislation

Bill	Description
HB119	Prevents a homeowner's association from banning solar panel installation. Continues to allow HOAs to impose certain limited restrictions.
TBD	Removes permitting obstacles to small-scale "balcony" solar.



Clear Air Legislation

Bill	Description
HB185	Requires the Division of Air Quality to conduct an inventory of emissions from railyards ; and requires the division to propose a railroad locomotive emissions reduction plan.
TBD	Implements the Division of Air Quality's halogen recommendations from 2023 HB220 and adds a state standard for bromine emissions.
TBD	Funds an auditor position at the state DMV to collect fines from those who evade emissions requirements.
TBD	Phases out gas-powered lawn equipment on state property
TBD	Gets detailed data on the vehicles used by mining haul-truck fleets
TBD	A combination of regulations and incentives targeting emissions from pre-2010 heavy trucks



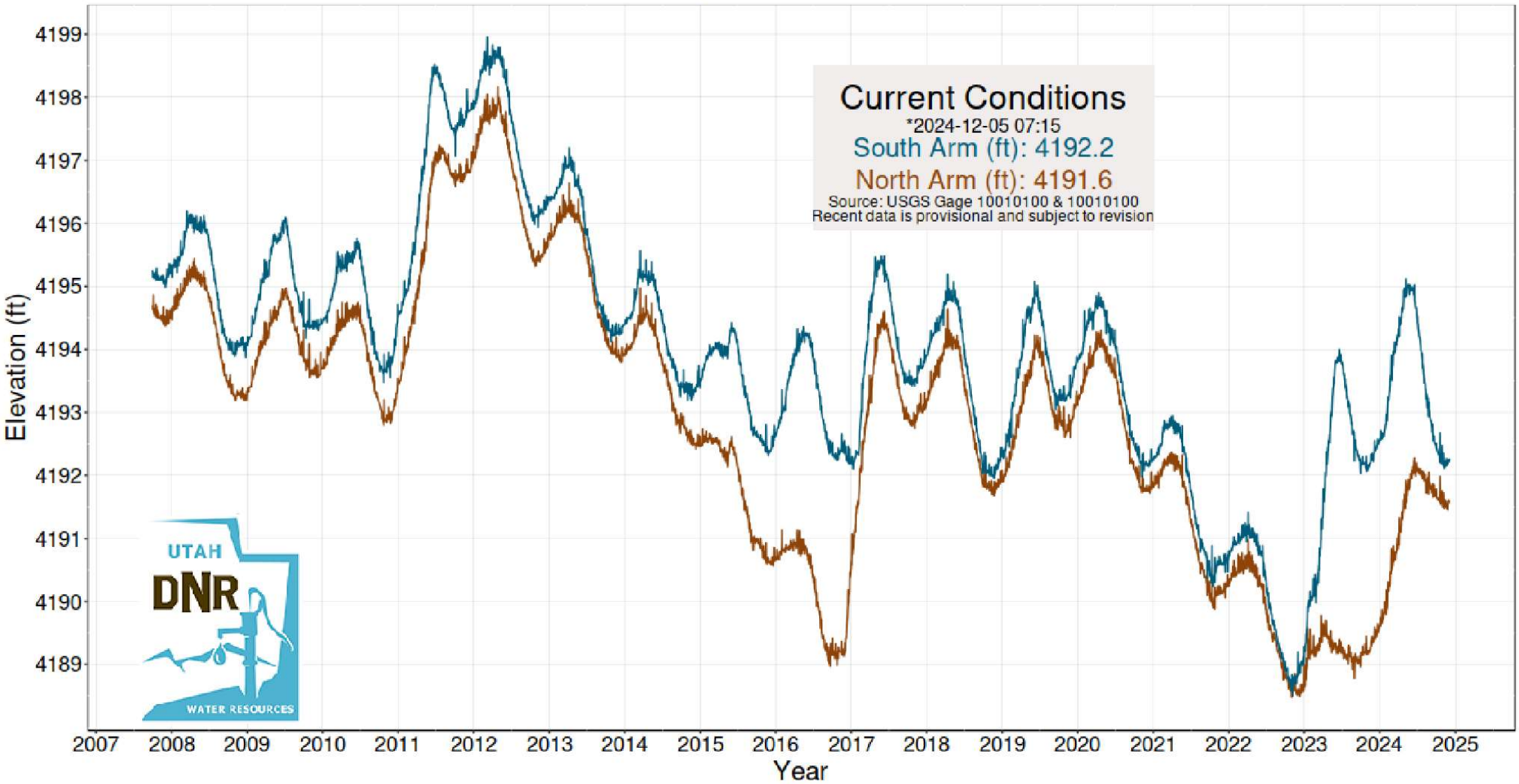
How might the 2034 Olympics influence the state's efforts to improve air quality?



Great Salt Lake Status Update

Great Salt Lake Elevations

Updated 12/05/2024



Current Conditions

*2024-12-05 07:15

South Arm (ft): 4192.2

North Arm (ft): 4191.6

Source: USGS Gage 10010100 & 10010100
Recent data is provisional and subject to revision



Great Salt Lake Legislation

Bill	Description
TBD	Riparian Amendments
TBD	Agricultural Amendments to encourage lower water crops
TBD	Drip irrigation on new construction



2025 Legislative Update



Q&A



2025 Utah Legislative Session Tracking : Utah Clean Energy

BILL TITLE & NUMBER	SPONSOR(S)	WHAT THIS BILL DOES	POSITION	STATUS
Electricity Policy Legislation				
HB 72-Electricity Rate Amendments	Rep. Carl Albrecht	This bill repeals Rocky Mountain Power's energy balancing account for expenses after Dec. 31, 2024 and requires that the Utah Public Service Commission only approve recovery of costs by a regulated utility if it demonstrates benefits from investments to Utah customers, including related to new facilities, infrastructure, and liability costs.	Support with amendments	Introduced, 12/27
HB 57-Residential Solar Panel Consumer Protection Amendments	Rep. Colin Jack	This bill amends the existing consumer protections for residential solar sales and marketing. This includes new standards for marketing and certain registration and security requirements for solar companies.	Monitoring	Introduced, 12/20
HB 71-Committee of Consumer Services Amendments	Rep. Doug Owens	This bill repeals the sunset date for the Committee on Consumer Services.	Support	Introduced, 12/20
HB 70-Decommissioned Asset Disposition Amendments	Rep. Colin Jack	This bill would prevent the Intermountain Power Agency from altering or disconnecting, or otherwise disrupting existing power equipment required to operate the existing coal-fired power plant currently operated by IPA.	Oppose	Introduced, 12/27
HB 119-Solar Panel Restrictions in Homeowners Association Amendments	Rep. Doug Owens	This bill would modify existing statutes related to how homeowners association can restrict rooftop solar on residential dwellings to make it easier to allow residents to add solar.	Support	Introduced 1/6/25
HB 157-Energy Education Amendments	Rep. Colin Jack	This bill tasks the Office of Energy Development with supporting and maintaining energy education as part of K-12 school curriculum and creates an Energy Education and Workforce Development Task Force.	Monitoring	Introduced 1/9/25
SCR 003-Concurrent Resolution Regarding Utah's Authority to Determine its Own Energy Future	Sen. Wayne Harper	This resolution asserts that the states should have the primary role in determining its energy policy and also that the federal government should consult with state agencies before issues new rules and regulations	Monitoring	Introduced 1/13/25
HB 212-Grid Enhancing Technologies	Rep. Christine Watkins	The bill focuses on the implementation and promotion of grid-enhancing technologies to improve the efficiency and reliability of Utah's electrical grid. These technologies may include advanced sensors, dynamic line rating systems, and other innovations designed to optimize the performance of the electrical transmission and	Priority	Introduced 1/14/25



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2025 Legislation

Actions & Latest News

Past Legislation

Legislation - 2025 Session

2025 Climate Utah Bill Tracker : House and Senate

Climate & Permitting Reform Legislation					
Bill #	Bill Name	Sponsors	Status	Resources	Summary
HB085	Environmental Permitting Modifications	Rep. Clancy	released		Requires the Division of Air Quality to develop guidance and rules for plantwide applicability limits (for large sources). Asks DAQ to conduct a study on the expansion of "permit by rule" (for small sources).
TBD	Solar Power Amendments	Rep. Ward	in process	Josh Smith - Shout it from the balconies	Removes permitting obstacles to small-scale "balcony" solar.
Clean Energy, Transmission, Energy Storage, & Electric Vehicle Legislation					
Bill #	Bill Name	Sponsors	Status	Resources	Summary
HB212	Grid Enhancing Technologies	Rep. Watkins	released		Encourages Rocky Mountain Power to study the use of grid enhancing technologies. Outlines cost-effectiveness analyses and approval procedures.
HB119	Solar Panel Restrictions in Homeowners Associations Amendments	Rep. Owens	released		Prevents a homeowners association from banning solar panel installation. Continues to allow HOAs to impose certain limited restrictions.
Clean Air Legislation with Potential Climate Benefits					