

ENERGY AND INNOVATION PLAN SUMMARY

Affordability, reliability, and sustainability are Utah's priorities¹ for all of its energy-related work. Taking a thoughtful, measured approach to energy policy keeps Utah's energy prices some of the lowest in the country, enables planning and investment in helping communities survive and thrive, and puts Utah in a leadership position for developing the resources and technology necessary to power the country in the future.

Utah is an energy-rich state with vast traditional and renewable resources. The opportunities we have to explore and develop new technologies will maintain and grow Utah's position as an energy leader. We are in the top 15 states for producing coal, crude oil and natural gas and have an increasing amount of solar, wind, hydroelectric and geothermal capacity, which make up the bulk of Utah's renewable energy generation. Utah is also committed to expanding the tools in its energy toolbox including investment and research into technologies and resources such as battery storage, hydrogen, nuclear, carbon capture, biogas and others.

Recent events in Russia and Ukraine have shined a spotlight on the importance of energy independence and the geopolitical challenges of relying on energy resources produced in countries like Russia and China. In addition to far-reaching energy security benefits and price stability, domestic energy production supports

local jobs, strengthens state and national economies, and ensures higher standards of development. A resource-rich state like Utah plays an important role in America's energy independence now and as this country's energy mix continues to evolve.

Energy independence and market pressures to transition to lower-carbon and carbon-free energy sources are also increasing the demand for infrastructure such as transmission lines and minerals such as lithium. Utah plays an important role for the country and world as a producer of critical and rare earth minerals that are key to clean energy technologies that are making the energy transition possible. Utah is also primely located for new transmission infrastructure to move energy across the region from more remote generating facilities to larger population centers.

Utah has incredible natural resources that support diverse wildlife populations, draw tourists to explore, and attract new businesses and residents. Protecting Utah's



¹ Utah Code 79-6-301

air, water and land is critical to maintaining the health and quality of life for the people and wildlife that call it home. Utah's largest utility, Rocky Mountain Power and its parent company PacifiCorp, continues to transition its generation to more renewable and carbon-free energy, with a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 74 percent from

2005 levels by 2030. Utah is also focusing on the transportation sector. In 2021, the state released a Statewide EV Charging Network Plan that prioritizes filling EV charging gaps within key corridors, including rural communities, and adding additional EV chargers over time to accommodate increased EV adoption and users.

COMMITMENTS

The Utah Energy and Innovation Plan identifies several key commitments around which the state will conduct its energy work and advocacy. Through offices such as the Office of Energy Development, the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office, the Division of Air Quality, and others, Utah is committing to funding, research, planning, monitoring, and partnerships that will enable Utah to keep affordable, reliable energy for its citizens while maintaining a thriving energy economy and healthy environment.



Utah is committed to an “any of the above” energy future, supporting efforts and policies that provide a variety of tools and resources that citizens, communities, businesses, and industries can choose from to deliver or obtain affordable, reliable energy.

Utah is committed to American energy independence, pursuing policies and actions that will enable more domestic energy development and enhance global energy security.

Utah is committed to supporting rural communities through economic development and diversification efforts, infrastructure investment, and workforce training and development.

Utah is committed to supporting a clean energy future through a strong and responsible mining program for critical minerals; investment in emerging energy technology such as hydrogen, storage, and energy efficiency; and air quality research and incentive programs.

Utah is committed to collaboration with its local, regional, and federal partners to pursue infrastructure and innovation projects such as EV charging, transmission, emerging fuel hubs, and coal community support and transition.