

Resolution 2019-002

(A) Resolution on Improving Utah's Air Quality

(B) We, the members of the Utah League of Cities and Towns, find that:

Whereas, the leaders of Utah's cities and towns value the efficient use of our natural resources, our economic success, and public health;

Whereas, some areas in Utah suffer from periodic poor air quality, which is a serious public health concern and a detriment to our economic prosperity as a state;

Whereas, Utah's air quality has gradually improved in recent decades, but further improvement is needed given our enhanced knowledge about the detrimental impacts of air pollution on human health;

Whereas, Utah's periodic poor air quality also affects rural areas including visibility in our national parks through regional haze;

Whereas, while the state has taken significant steps in recent years to address air quality, including passing 12 air quality measures during the 2019 General Session, much more could be done at the federal, state, and local levels;

Whereas, ULCT supported HB 411 during the 2019 General Session, which provided cities with the ability to transition to 100% renewable energy without shifting costs to other customers;

Whereas, ULCT supported HB 148 during the 2019 General Session, which provided cities with greater enforcement over anti-idling ordinances;

Whereas, Utah's cities and towns recognize that our buildings and homes contribute nearly 40% of the harmful emissions that contribute to poor air quality and will soon surpass combustion engine vehicles as the leading contributor to air pollution in the state;

Whereas, Utah's cities and towns recognize that benchmarking energy efficiency of buildings and homes and increasing energy efficiency can result in direct benefits to municipal budgets; and

Whereas, Utah's cities and towns are home to over 90% of the state's population and have the ability to be innovative in finding solutions to the air quality and other environmental concerns that they face.

(C) Now, therefore, we the members of the Utah League of Cities and Towns resolve that:

1. Utah cities and towns support local government's ability to consider local action to address air quality, including but not limited to:
 - a. Enacting idle-free ordinances;

- b. Installing electric vehicle charging networks;
 - c. Encouraging energy efficiency in homes and businesses;
 - d. Encouraging and purchasing renewable energy sources where appropriate;
 - e. Considering non-combustion options for fleet vehicles and other city equipment;
 - f. Transportation planning and technology that increases access and connectivity without primarily relying on single-occupancy vehicles;
 - g. Planning our neighborhoods and communities to facilitate use of transit and active transportation options;
 - h. Exploring city functions that might be performed by employees via teleworking; and
 - i. Upgrading city buildings and facilities to comport with higher energy efficiency standards.
2. Utah cities and towns support enhanced federal and statewide action to address air quality, including but not limited to:
- a. Increased support for fiscally responsible, clean, renewable, and carbon-free energy;
 - b. State funding for public transit;
 - c. Creation of a statewide electric vehicle charging network;
 - d. Adoption of more energy-efficient building code standards;
 - e. Adoption of transparency requirements for building energy efficiency;
 - f. Investigation of how maintaining a minimum level of the Great Salt Lake might mitigate potential of harmful dust;
 - g. Stricter vehicle emissions testing; and
 - h. Support for federal enactment of clean car standards.

Submitted by:

Jeff Silvestrini, Millcreek City Mayor

September 9, 2019