



HEAL Utah Media Kit

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About *(press may use the below statement as a boiler plate)*

HEAL Utah has been an environmental advocate, watchdog, and strategic influencer in Utah for 20 years. By empowering grassroots advocates, using science-based solutions, and developing common-sense policy, HEAL has a track record of tackling some of the biggest threats to Utah's environment and public health -- and succeeding. The organization focuses on clean air, energy and climate, and radioactive waste. HEAL uses well-researched legislative, regulatory, and individual responsibility approaches to create tangible change and then relies on grassroots action to make it happen.

History

HEAL Utah's roots date back to the mid-1990s in Utah's west desert, where people were concerned about the Army's proposed weapons incineration. Coming together as the Families Against Incinerator Risk (FAIR), this scrappy group of advocates had significant success in curtailing weapons incineration and expanded their work to combat toxic pollution, from emitters like Magcorp, and radioactive waste disposal near their communities.

In 2001, these advocates changed their name to the Healthy Environment Alliance of Utah (HEAL Utah). As HEAL Utah, they continued the fight against toxic pollution and radioactive waste disposal throughout the state.

Today, we still stay true to HEAL's legacy mission but have expanded our campaigns to address some of the other major issues that Utah faces, clean air and climate and energy.

Mission Statement

HEAL Utah promotes renewable energy and protects public health and the environment from dirty, toxic and nuclear energy threats.

Issues

HEAL Utah formed 20 years ago to give voice to residents of Utah communities who were concerned about the health risks related to radioactive and other toxic waste. Along the way, we looked upstream to try to stop the creation of this and other types of dangerous pollutants in the first place and expanded our focus to include clean energy and clean air, which eventually led us to include health concerns related to climate change resulting from dirty energy as well. At the core of all our issues is a goal to protect public health from environmental threats.

We believe there isn't just one path to solving these problems. That's why we take multi-pronged approaches for all of our issues. We prioritize smart and strategic advocacy for policies that will result in actual, tangible changes. We work to educate and engage as many decision-makers as possible — from legislators and regulators to industry, business, and the general public. We spend time at the Capitol and in city halls and out in communities throughout Utah pushing for a better tomorrow.

Clean Air

Clean air is the dominant environmental concern on the mind of people throughout Utah's northern and eastern valleys. In the winter, small particles called PM2.5 clog our urban areas while, in the summer, invisible ozone pollution plagues these valleys and those in the Uintah Basin. Our work addresses the three main air pollution emission sources in these regions — vehicles, area sources, and industry — and we split our time on clean air between the legislature, regulatory agencies, the private business sector, and the general public.

Energy and Climate

A clean energy future can both mitigate climate change and put Utah on more sustainable, economic path forward. Creating a cleaner future will require a transition to renewable energy both on a personal and industry-wide scale. We rely on technical modeling to help inform our policy and regulatory recommendations at the local and statewide levels.

Radioactive Waste

Utah has a long, tragic history with radioactive and other toxic materials. Since HEAL's inception, we have fought to protect the communities threatened with exposure to these poisonous substances and we continue this fight today. We address radioactive waste issues by harnessing the power of grassroots advocates, educating ourselves and others on the technical science behind the hazards of such waste, and watchdogging corporations that profit from it.

Staff

Dr. Scott Williams | Executive Director

Noah Miterko | Grassroots Organizer

Grace Olscamp | Communications and Outreach Associate

Jessica Reimer | Policy Associate

Michael Shea | Senior Policy Associate

Jordan Stein | Administrative Assistant

Hannah Whitney | Development Director

Contact

Please reach out to Grace Olscamp, Communications and Outreach Associate, for all media inquiries at grace@healutah.org or 801-994-4784. Direct all other questions to info@healutah.org or 801-355-5055.

HEAL Utah's office is located at 824 S 400 W, Suite B-111, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101.

You can find HEAL on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram: @HEALUtah.

Learn more at www.healutah.org.

Recent news

Deseret News

Board Denies Utah Disposal of Depleted Uranium Bullets

Deseret News | October 25, 2018 | By Amy Joi O'Donoghue

The Salt Lake Tribune

Commentary: Utah's Decision on Radioactive Waste is About Values as well as Science

Salt Lake Tribune | October 19, 2018 | Op-ed by Dr. Scott Williams, HEAL Utah's Executive Director



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Bloomberg | May 29, 2018 | By Tripp Baltz



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UtahStateUniversity.

Utah Legislation Recognizes Climate Change with New Resolution

Utah Public Radio | May 22, 2018 | By Riana Gayle

Utah Business

Air Apparent: Improving Utah's Air Quality

Utah Business | May 3, 2018 | Kelsie Foreman