A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I can’t think of any superlatives to describe this last year that haven’t already been expressed too many times. I know you all have a long list of what has changed in your lives during the pandemic. Here is how HEAL Utah made it through 2020:

• We quit working at the office on March 15 and haven’t been back since except to pick up the mail.
• One of our policy associates left for a new job in January and we decided not to fill that position until we knew how our grants and donations would be affected by the changes in the economy.
• We weren’t able to hold our Spring Breakfast or Fall Party and catch up with many of you.
• We cancelled all of our summer tabling at neighborhood street fairs, farmers’ markets, and other community events.
• We trained ourselves and our citizen lobbyists on how to effectively participate in the legislative session using remote technology to keep up with new and amended bills, educate lawmakers, and testify at committee hearings.

But, I’m happy to tell you that we have come through it all safely, healthy, and with new tools and skills that are already improving our work:

• We found that, while we miss the collegiality of being together every day (and so do our dogs), we are more efficient and productive working from home. We also drive less, so we are practicing what we preach. As a result, we’ve downsized our office space by two-thirds and plan to continue working remotely, with probably one or two days a week in the office when it’s safe to be there again.
• Between the Paycheck Protection Program relief money for small employers and the generosity of our supporters, we came just a few thousand dollars short of reaching our fundraising goals.
• We’ve been able to continue to interact with our supporters in several successful events on Facebook and Instagram and to effectively influence policy-making remotely.

Most importantly, through all the upheaval of 2020, we’ve still been able to:

• Help keep residential rooftop solar credits from collapsing.
• Support the transition of twenty-four Utah local jurisdictions (cities and counties) in progressing toward their goal of 100% carbon-free power by 2030.
• Convince eight intermountain communities to significantly reduce their support for the proposed nuclear power plant in southern Idaho - putting it on the ropes.
• Challenge the EPA’s approval of Utah’s inadequate air quality improvement plans.
• Continue to stay one step ahead of EnergySolutions ongoing efforts to chip away at Utah’s restrictions on radioactive waste.
• Commit to fully integrate attention to environmental justice issues in everything we do.

If 2020 has taught us anything, it’s that HEAL Utah is stable, resilient, adaptable, and able to stay focused even when it seems things are falling apart around us. But perhaps the biggest take away from all this is that we are once again honored and gratified to know that we can count on your support, even when times are at their toughest.

Thank you,
Scott Williams M.D.
Executive Director, HEAL Utah
scott@healutah.org
Our Corporate and Foundation Donors

We want to thank the following organizations for their financial support of HEAL Utah in 2020.

Better Business Bureau Accredited

HEAL Utah is a Better Business Bureau accredited, 501c3 non-profit charity, donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.
Prior to the myriad of challenges presented by the novel coronavirus pandemic, HEAL Utah’s board of directors committed to offering the first in a series of three incremental pay raises and benefit increases. This investment represents a desire to both ensure our staff’s financial well-being and reflect the realities of non-profit staff recruitment. These investments are designed to reduce staff turnover, improve staff satisfaction, and promote work-life balance.

In addition, our development program adjusted, and as a result, HEAL Utah had a successful fundraising year. In the spring, HEAL Utah received a loan through the Paycheck Protection Program. This bridge loan allowed us to absorb the financial impact of canceling our spring breakfast. Our 2020 Paycheck Protection Program loan was forgiven in full by the Small Business Administration.
TOTAL 2020 EXPENSES

$505,646

2020 EXPENSES BY CAMPAIGN

- Clean Energy/Climate: 32.1%
- Nuclear Waste: 28.6%
- Air Quality: 17.9%
- Admin: 12.9%
- Fundraising: 8.2%
- Other: 0.2%

TOTAL 2020 EXPENSES: $505,646
Clean air is the dominant public health concern for Utahns living along the Wasatch Front and in northeastern Utah. In the winter, small particles called PM2.5 clog our urban areas while, in the summer, invisible ozone pollution plagues these valleys and those adjacent to the oil, gas, and mining fields in the Uintah Basin. HEAL Utah addresses 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.

Below is a summary of the public policy successes in 2020 related to air quality.

**SB0150 | Transportation Governance Amendments | Sen. Wayne Harper**

Expands the Utah Transit Authority’s ability to enter into joint ventures with communities to develop around existing transit hubs, opening up smart growth strategies that can help improve air quality by giving people the ability to live, work, and play near transit.


Requires the Department of Transportation to lead in the creation of a statewide electric vehicle charging network plan.

**HB0059 | Tax Credit for Alternative Fuel Heavy Duty Vehicles | Rep. Andrew Stoddard**

Extends the income tax credit to 2029 for certain alternative fuel heavy-duty vehicles, including electric.

**HB0396 | Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure | Rep. Lowry Snow**

Requires the Public Service Commission to authorize a large-scale utility to establish an electric vehicle charging infrastructure program, specifically focused on Rocky Mountain Power’s $50 million investment.

**HB0180 | Emission Inspection Revisions | Rep. Cory Maloy**

Creates an exemption for electric vehicles from emissions compliance fees.
HEAL Utah believes that a clean energy future can both mitigate climate change and will form the foundation of a new and sustainable economy. Creating a cleaner future will require a transition to renewable energy both on a personal and industry-wide scale. As part of this transition, fossil-fuel dependent communities that have powered the progress of the last century deserve an investment of public funds for revitalizing their economies and retraining their workers. We rely on technical modeling to help inform our policy and regulatory recommendations at the local and statewide levels.

We have increased our work at the federal level as well. Beyond participating in meetings directly with Representative Nancy Pelosi and Senator Chuck Schumer, we built relationships with the offices of Senator Mitt Romney and former Representative Ben McAdams. We successfully engaged grasstops leaders in finding in-roads to pressure our congressmen to act positively on climate policy. Further, we expanded our grassroots reach through virtual conversations with leaders and influencers across the country.

Below is a summary of the public policy successes in 2020 related to these issues.

**HB0235 | Voluntary Home Energy Information Pilot Program | Rep. Patrice Arent**

Creates a committee to create rules and guidelines for a Voluntary Home Energy Information Pilot Program that will educate homeowners and sellers on home energy use - including $50,000 in one-time funding for the program.

**SB0050 | Clean Energy Act Amendments | Sen. Jake Anderegg**

Clarifies and makes technical changes to definitions in the state’s pre-existing commercial property assessed clean energy (C-PACE) program.

**HB0283 | Outdoor Adventure Commission Amendments | Rep. Jeffrey Stenquist**

Creates the Outdoor Adventure Commission which will lead strategic planning and recommendations on the state’s outdoor recreation opportunities.
Utah has a long, tragic history with exposure to radioactive fallout as well as uranium mining, milling, and power plant waste. Since HEAL’s inception, we have fought to protect the communities threatened with exposure to these and other 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 acting as a watchdog for corporations that profit from it.

This year, HEAL Utah spent significant time and resources in opposition to a financially risky, unsafe, and unnecessary nuclear project proposal that would leave small Utah cities in a precarious economic position. This greenwashed project, sponsored by the Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems (UAMPS), is deceptively called the Carbon Free Power Project. We partnered with the Utah Taxpayers Association and Love Communications. We successfully got eight of the largest municipalities committed to this project to withdraw and two others to reduce their subscription.

In addition to our work opposing this misguided project, below is a summary of the public policy successes in 2020 related to radioactive waste.

**HB0233 | Natural Resources Legacy Funding Amendments | Rep. Casey Snider**

Creates a new board focused on open spaces, habitat, and species. Originally this bill funded this board through a tax on depleted uranium, but after opposition from HEAL Utah and our supporters, the sponsor removed all of the depleted uranium language and the board is now funded by appropriations and grants.
Our Team

Staff

Scott Williams M.D.
Executive Director

Turner Bitton
Development Director

Grace Oscamp
Communications Associate

Noah Miterko
Policy Associate

Carmen ValDez
Grassroots Organizer

Jordan Stein
Administrative Assistant

Board of Directors

Myron Willson, Chair – Retired Director, Sustainability Resource Center at the University of Utah.

Camille Erickson, Treasurer – Certified Public Accountant

Christy Clay - Professor of Environmental Studies and Biology at Westminster College.

Craig Buschmann - Partner at law firm of Ramey & Schwaller LLP

Sophie Hayes - Senior Staff Attorney at Western Resource Advocates.

Zach Michalk - Environmental planner with Ecology and Environment, Inc.

Sophia Nicholas - Salt Lake City Corporation Sustainability Communications Manager,

Dee Rowland - Retired. Government liaison for the Salt Lake Catholic Diocese for 27 years.

Paul Zuckerman - Retired. Teacher for 22 years in the Granite School District.


Interns Spotlight

Kenna Patiño
Legislative Intern

Zahra Saifee
Grassroots and Outreach Intern

Riley Nevins
GIS Intern
Megan Walsh is a freelance writer, author, and climate activist. While she follows the news and environmental groups, she never experienced lobbying her lawmakers. When she came to the 2020 legislative session, she hoped that she would connect with her representative. While waiting outside of the House doors nervously, her representative came out. Not only did Megan express her concerns to her representative, but Representative Kwan brought Megan onto the House floor itself where Megan was allowed to sit among representatives, speak with them, and watch lawmaking first-hand.
Thank you for supporting another year of impact.