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A Letter from Our Executive Director

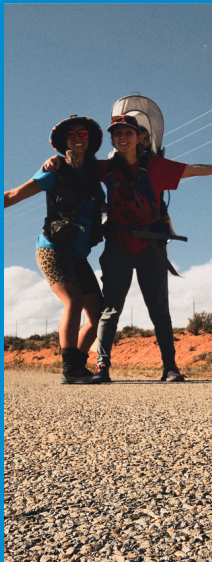
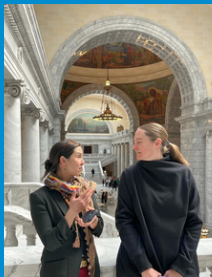
What a year it has been! I am excited to share with you the successes of last year that we accomplished with your support, as well as our ongoing efforts to tackle some of Utah's biggest environmental threats. The third week on the job for me launched the 2022 legislative session, during which we saw legislation passed towards the restoration of the Great Salt Lake and the passage of Senate Bill 136, a study bill that HEAL helped craft focused on reducing polluting diesel emissions.

Spring kicked up toxic dust storms over the drying lakebed that obscured the Salt Lake City skyline; over the summer, record temperatures led to continued concerns over climate change and air quality; and the fall brought a new record low for the Great Salt Lake. Through it all, HEAL Utah has been on the forefront of sharing information about these issues and mobilizing responses from our community.

Over the past year, I have had the opportunity to meet and thank many of you. We held our first in-person Fall Party since the pandemic, bringing HEAL members seasoned and new together on a downtown rooftop for the perfect weather window between thunderstorms. It is due to the ongoing support from this community that we have the tools to face the challenges ahead. With the hiring of our Policy Director, we have been able to engage more deeply and strategically with evidence-based research, crafting policy positions and campaigns to advance a just and equitable energy transition.

At this time of great promise and peril, please know that your continued support of HEAL helps ensure science-based, community-driven solutions that prioritize the most impacted. For the last 24 years, we've worked hand in hand with our community to protect Utahns from threats to our health and our environment. Please join us in continuing this work for years to come.

Lexi Tuddenham
Executive Director



WE ARE UTAH'S ENVIRONMENTAL WATCHDOGS

The Healthy Environment Alliance of Utah has been an environmental advocacy organization, watchdog, and strategic influencer in Utah since 1999. 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 utilizes grassroots action to make it happen.

PROTECTING UTAH'S ENVIRONMENT AND PEOPLE

Together, we advance community-based solutions to solve the biggest environmental threats in our state



BUILDING TOGETHER

We believe in frontline communities leading solutions to our state's environmental threats.

Throughout 2022 we continued the essential work of building authentic relationships to work alongside frontline communities throughout Utah. Building mutual trust has allowed our team to become a liaison and source to navigate environmental policy and civic engagement.

We are proud to have continued our Community Lobbying program to challenge private lobbyists and bring often overlooked voices to our state leaders. During the 2022 legislative session, **96 volunteer community lobbyists** (for half of whom it was their first time lobbying) **contributed over 280 hours to support HEAL's policy priorities.**

To the right is a highlight from one of our Community lobbyists, Harold Young, from 2022.



Harold Young started lobbying with HEAL back in 2018! Before 2018, he had never done any sort of lobbying whatsoever. Being involved with HEAL taught him much about the legislative process – what happens behind the scenes, how intricate it is, and what it takes to get a bill out of committee. Harold learned that he could impact policy by taking legislative action.

Over the years, Harold has learned that environmental policy is an uphill battle – change can be incremental. You rarely take giant steps, but it pays off in tiny steps forward over the long haul. He has seen a difference in the legislature from when he started until now.

"They are paying more attention to the environment. In the past, you had to drag them across the finish line. But, finally, they see what we have been telling them all these years."



Harold always stayed informed, but it wasn't until after he retired that he started to take action on issues he cared about. He decided, "I've gotta do something. I can't just sit here watching what's going on. I've got to get involved." One day, he was walking through his neighborhood when he saw a HEAL "Clean Air Now" sign. He went home and googled it and liked what HEAL was doing. That's when he decided to participate.

When Harold first started engaging in HEAL's work, it seemed like it was mostly older folks taking part, but now he has seen an increase in younger individuals. "Younger involvement is great," says Harold, but he has a call to action for his older generations: "You need to show up, and show up for your grandkids that will have to face our future environment."

POWERFUL TOGETHER

EVENTS

45

events HEAL hosted ranging from sustainable development and climate change to air quality and radioactive waste

6,480

people engaged directly through the 45 events held this year

ACTIONS

19

targeted actions organized by HEAL that allowed our supporters to contact important decision-makers and share their views on various public policy proposals

110,416

individuals informed by HEAL via digital platforms through calls to action

2,633

individuals who provided public comment or took action by HEAL's efforts

358,000

people in total throughout the state reached by HEAL Utah's digital organizing

SUSTAINABLE AND EFFICIENT BUILDING CODES

In collaboration with partnering organizations, HEAL hosted educational workshops encouraging individuals to advocate for updating Utah's commercial and residential building codes. **Over 25,000 individuals learned about the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code and its energy efficiency benefits** through workshops and digital outreach. **86 individuals submitted public comments** through our website, and **60 participated in a public hearing** regarding these updates.

PROTECTING THE GREAT SALT LAKE

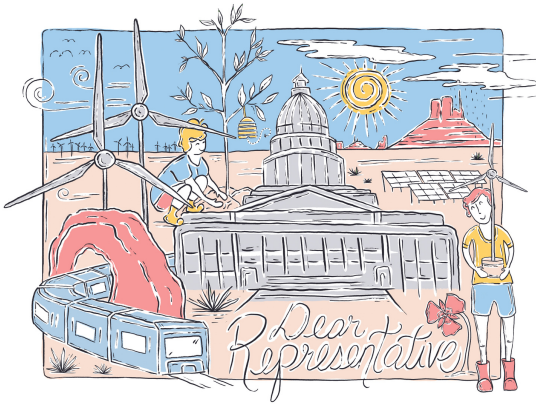
In collaboration with partnering organizations, HEAL hosted educational workshops, writing opportunities, and digital education for individuals to submit public comments on U.S. Magnesium's attempt to divert more water from the drying Great Salt Lake. **Over 26,000 individuals learned about this issue, and 804 submitted public comments.**

EXPANDING COMPENSATION FOR NUCLEAR FALLOUT AND TESTING VICTIMS

In 2021 HEAL helped convince Utah's federal delegation to support legislation that extended the Radioactive Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) for Downwinders for an additional two years from the original end date of this program. In 2022, our team **helped over 280 individuals reach out to Utah's federal delegation**, asking them to support an additional extension of 19 years and to expand eligibility for communities harmed by radiation exposure across New Mexico, Idaho, Montana, Colorado, Guam, Utah, Nevada, and Arizona.

OUR WORK

The historic passage of the Inflation Reduction Act at the federal level has provided unprecedented opportunities to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality while mitigating climate change impacts and accelerating a just energy transition for all Utahns.



As our population continues to grow, we are advancing **equitable solutions** like public transit, Smart Growth, energy storage, and building efficiency that are critical in the fight against climate change alongside renewable energy technologies and electrification.

As momentum builds toward the necessary energy transition, we have also seen the critical need to monitor and respond to the current, present, and future environmental health threats posed by radioactive and toxic waste streams. **We are committed to ensuring that we do not create yet more contamination victims as we move toward a clean energy future.**

THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF OUR CORE CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES IN 2022.

RADIOACTIVE & TOXIC WASTE



Our efforts to combat climate change center around Utah's transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. To do this, we target changes in industry, legislative and regulatory policy, and individual choices and behaviors.

Small Modular Reactors

Throughout 2022, we continued our advocacy campaign opposing the Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems (UAMPS) so-called "Carbon Free Power Project" made up of small modular nuclear reactors (SMNRs). Our advocacy efforts included coordination with the Utah Taxpayers' Association to share research on the high costs and slow timelines of such nuclear projects, as well as gathering key information on a contracting process that has largely been closed to public scrutiny and support to a student intern who helped to keep the UTA website updated. In addition, HEAL helped create fact sheets on the financial risks and contractual obligations of continued subscription to the project that we shared with municipal power managers and city council members. As of January 2023, the cost of this project has increased to \$89 per megawatt-hour (MWh) from the contract's previous price of \$58 per MWh. Furthermore, it lacks the participation needed to keep it from being a serious financial risk for Utah communities. We believe there are far better and less expensive options for zero and low-carbon energy in Utah.

Radioactive & Toxic Waste

In 2022, we submitted comments on a permit variance request submitted by Energy Solutions that could nullify the ban enacted by Governor Herbert on higher levels of radioactive waste. While the Utah Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control (DWMRC) ultimately accepted Energy Solutions' permit variance request, HEAL continues to closely monitor and oppose efforts by Energy Solutions to capitalize on the decommissioning of nuclear power plants by bringing more toxic waste to Utah.

Uranium Milling

In the Fall of 2021, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) cited Energy Fuels' White Mesa Uranium Mill for violating the Clean Air Act due to an uncovered waste tailings cell. The EPA partially reversed its decision in April of this year, allowing White Mesa to receive Superfund waste again although the cell remains inadequately covered. HEAL has contacted the EPA and the Utah Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control (DWMRC) to voice our concerns and express support for the White Mesa Community's request for more accurate and substantive monitoring. Members of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe are fighting against the active mill and held an annual Spiritual Walk and Protest that brought over 100 people to the White Mesa Community. HEAL's policy team is supporting their work and was a sponsor of the walk. HEAL recently received news of another proposed uranium mill near Green River, Utah, on the site of the failed proposed Blue Castle nuclear power facility. We are gathering information about this proposal and formulating a strategy for effective involvement.

Downwinders

In 2021 and 2022, HEAL pressed Utah's federal delegation to extend and expand the Radioactive Exposure Compensation Act (RECA). The proposed changes would ensure that individuals affected by radiation exposure receive monetary compensation. In June 2022, Congress signed a two-year RECA extension into law. We continue to educate Utahns on how to access RECA benefits and make their voices heard when the law comes up for renewal or change in July 2024. HEAL hosts an annual event on the National Day of Remembrance for Downwinders to increase awareness and support those exposed to radiation from nuclear weapons testing. In 2022, we had 59 individuals in attendance.

AIR QUALITY

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.



Utah Inland Port

Throughout the year, HEAL met with members of the Utah Inland Port Authority staff, board, and legislators and encouraged them to establish much more rigorous mechanisms for public input, accountability, and transparency regarding the environmental and public health impacts of the Inland Port on frontline communities. HEAL also read and commented on UIPA's Sustainability Action Study in 2022 and will continue working with Port officials on sustainability strategies in 2023.

Ozone

In 2022, we submitted technical comments to the Division of Air Quality's request for proposals in its ozone State Implementation Plan (SIP) process. The Wasatch Front is currently in non-attainment for ozone air quality standards and is gathering solutions to reduce emissions of precursors to the pollutant. In Southern Utah, we also interfaced with creating and implementing the EPA's Cross-State Air Pollution Rule, a "good neighbor" rule regulating ozone crossing state borders and polluting our neighboring states. Without emissions reduction control systems installed on Utah's Hunter and Huntington coal-fired power plants, ozone pollution from these plants affects air quality across state borders, not just in Utah. We also participated as a co-plaintiff in a nationwide lawsuit led by Earthjustice to require the EPA to enforce its own timelines and standards in updating ozone attainment classifications.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Grant

HEAL applied for and received our first-ever federal grant from the EPA in 2022. This \$200,000 from the EPA funds a joint project of Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, the University of Utah, and HEAL to put air quality monitoring equipment on electric buses in Salt Lake County. We'll use the data to build a public website for residents to make more informed air quality decisions and advocate for reductions from notable emissions sources.

Public Transit Expansion and Accessibility

In 2022, HEAL continued its collaboration with the Utah Transit Authority (UTA), Utah Clean Air Partnership (UCAIR), and The Utah Division of Air Quality with a "zero fare for clean air" program that eliminates fares on UTA transportation on moderate to severe level air quality days. In 2022, through this program, 4 zero fare days supported by HEAL provided the opportunity to collect essential data to better aid expansion and accessibility initiatives on the municipal and state levels. This data will inform efforts to create equitable and low emissions transportation solutions

Building Codes

HEAL successfully mounted a grassroots campaign to lobby Utah's Uniform Building Code Commission to recommend the adoption of updated 2021 IECC Commercial and Residential Building Codes to increase building efficiency and reduce emissions. Over 60 community members gave comments at a public hearing. HEAL staff is now riding the momentum of the recommendation for the state legislature to adopt these sustainable building codes.

GREAT SALT LAKE

HEAL's role in this coalition is to better understand the air quality concerns associated with an exposed lakebed and advocate for the funding, research, and policy changes needed to keep Utahns safe from toxic dust. **We spent months speaking with experts and legislators to prepare for Utah's 2023 General Session, where we pushed for bills to establish a more robust air monitoring system to help us better understand dust's human and environmental impact.** We see the current bipartisan interest in toxic dust as an opportunity to educate the public and elected officials on the effects of unregulated fugitive dust and to advance better legislation for air quality in the future.

In addition, **HEAL Utah led an effort to stop US Magnesium from extending its intake canals into the Great Salt Lake as the lake continues to shrink.** HEAL staff constructed and distributed a detailed public comment toolkit and led a public comment workshop. The **toolkit received over 1,500 unique visitors**, and the **Division of Water Quality received 804 comments** against the permit. The Division of Water Quality denied the access partially because of the number of comments received against the proposal.

Great Salt Lake

In 2022, HEAL partnered with several environmental organizations along the Wasatch Front and researchers at local universities to create a Great Salt Lake coalition dedicated to saving the lake.

ENERGY & CLIMATE

Our efforts to combat climate change center around Utah's transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. To do this, we target changes in industry, legislative and regulatory policy, and individual choices and behaviors.

Community Renewable Energy Program (CREP)

In 2022, we **partnered with SLC as community energy experts in the CREP program** that will provide 100% net renewable energy by 2030 to customers in participating municipalities. In this role, **HEAL provided information on how to best support renewable energy access for low-income residents, transition to a more sustainable energy system, and increase community engagement.** In the spring of 2023, Rocky Mountain Power and the CREP Board will submit their plan to the Utah Public Service Commission.

EPA Regional Haze Lawsuit

We continued to pursue our legal challenge of the EPA's 2017 Regional Haze ruling that gave Utah's coal-fired power plants a pass on installing pollution controls. **HEAL is challenging a Trump-era rule that let PacifiCorp avoid reducing emissions from its coal-fired power plants.** The 10th Federal Circuit Court will hear this case in early 2023. HEAL coordinates a regular call of plaintiffs and stakeholders and, in addition to meeting with EPA officials, has **initiated public activation events that have rallied 650 people to speak up about the health and scenic impacts of pollution from these plants.**

Uinta Basin

In 2022, **HEAL worked to bolster the enforcement of methane regulations and opposed the expansion of fossil fuel extraction in the Uinta Basin.** Our work involves key strategies like encouraging industries to patch leaky infrastructure and orphan wells, which release large amounts of climate-forcing methane into the atmosphere. One of the ways we've tried to do this is by **encouraging companies to use available funds from the Inflation Reduction Act dedicated to reducing methane emissions.**

Utah Energy Plan

HEAL submitted comments during the Utah Energy Plan comment period and is keeping current with developments since the plan's final draft was unveiled with an "any of the above" energy approach in May 2022.

2022 LEGISLATIVE RECAP

We remain committed to ensuring state laws and public policies promote renewable energy and clean air and protect public health from environmental threats. In addition, our work focuses on bringing new voices and more Utahns into the public policy process. We believe including more Utahns in the public policy process is as important as achieving policy success.



PUBLIC POLICY SUCCESSSES

HB404 | Large Public Transit District Amendments Rep. Ballard and Sen. Anderregg

Requires an extensive public transit district to compare the costs of different types of available zero-emissions propulsion systems for specific public transit projects.

HEAL supported it, and lawmakers signed it into law.

HB433 | Community Association Regulation Amendments Rep. Maloy and Sen. Harper

This bill amends provisions of the Condominium Ownership Act and the Community Association Act to allow the conversion of mow strips to drought-tolerant plants and the installation of electric vehicle charging stations.

HEAL supported it, and lawmakers signed it into law.

HB221 | Tax Credit for Alternative Fuel Vehicles Rep. Harrison

This bill would have created a one-time grant to purchase electric vehicles.

HEAL supported it, but the State Legislature did not pass it.

HB244 | Geological Carbon Sequestration Amendments Rep. Handy and Sen. Hinkins

This bill authorizes the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining and the Board of Oil, Gas, and Mining to establish regulations for the geologic storage of carbon.

HEAL suggested revisions to it, and lawmakers signed it into law.

HB272 | Energy Storage Amendments Rep. Handy

This bill would have created a grant program to promote energy storage.

HEAL supported it and was moved to interim study but did not pass.

SB146 | Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining Amendments Sen. McCay and Rep. Winder

This bill amends the definitions of "crude oil" and "oil" but could further the development of tar sands in Eastern Utah.

HEAL opposed it, but lawmakers passed it into law.

SB136 | Air Quality Policy Amendments Rep. Handy and Sen. Escamilla

Requires the Department of Environmental Quality to study and recommend a diesel emissions reduction plan.

HEAL supported it, and lawmakers signed it into law.

SCR008 | Concurrent Resolution Recognizing the Importance of the Agriculture Industry Rep. Chew and Sen. Winterton

Recognizes the importance of agriculture and sets a precedent for future regenerative agriculture legislation.

HEAL supported it, and lawmakers signed it into law.

SB051 | Transportation Amendments Rep. Christofferson and Sen. Harper

The initial draft of this bill would have created emissions requirements for vintage vehicles, but a later draft attempted to develop funding for hydrocarbon infrastructure, likely in the Uinta Basin.

HEAL opposed the amendment, and the original without hydrocarbon language was passed.

HB156 | Sales & Use Tax Refund Amendments Rep. Watkins and Sen. Filmore

Would have enacted a refund of state sales and use tax paid by an oil and gas extraction establishment or a pipeline transportation establishment for machinery, equipment, and other standard operating costs.

HEAL opposed and successfully helped to stop the bill's passage.

Committed to Environmental Justice

HEAL Utah received our first-ever federal grant in 2022 through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We're partnering with Salt Lake County, the University of Utah, the Utah Transit Authority, and Salt Lake City. Through this EPA project, HEAL Utah will help place air quality monitors on electric buses traveling around the Westside of the Salt Lake Valley.

The EPA project is a three-year-long project with multifaceted goals, but the overarching aim is to evaluate the disparities between the East and West distribution of air pollution in the Salt Lake Valley. This project entails multiple control and testing routes; control routes on the East side are compared to test routes on the West side, and several provide cross-sections of the Valley.

The primary evaluation routes are UTA bus routes 509 and 2, while the control routes are 4, 6, 9, 11, 17, 35, 205, and 551.



A valuable outcome of the project will be a more accurate depiction of the pollution disparity between the West and East sides. This disparity is crucial as air pollution fosters a multitude of health issues. These health factors, compounded with decreased access to healthy food and medical care, further harm the quality of life and longevity of people living on the Westside of the Salt Lake valley.

The EPA project has the potential to serve as a model for environmental justice advocacy work backed up by data. At the same time it will not speak for underserved communities, but rather give them a platform to voice their concerns and experiences with respect to their health and their environment.



OUR TEAM



Lexi Tuddenham
Executive Director



Melanie Hall
Policy Director



Alex Veilleux
Policy Associate



Carmen Valdez
Policy Associate



Turner Bitton
Development Director



Jordan Stein
Administration



Meisei Gonzalez
Communications



Kenna Morgan
Community Engagement

Intern Highlight



Liv Lee (left) and Katie Goeckeritz (right)



Hector Cedillo-Tellez



Roberto Elguera (left) and Natalie Lavenstein (right)



Kayla Sorenson



Elliott Parkin

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Gabriela Portugal | Director of Cancer Programs at Alliance Community Services

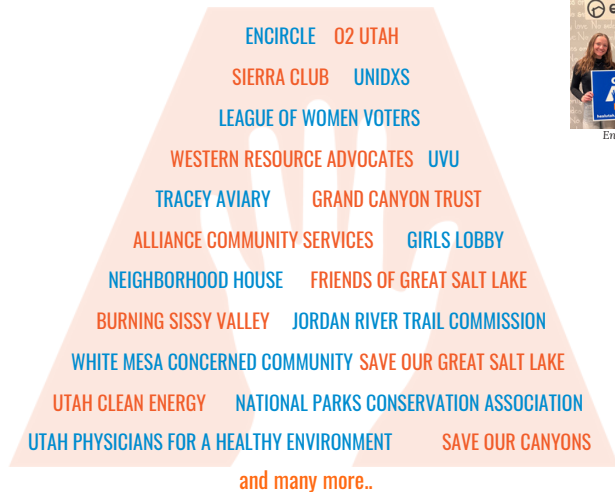
Briana Kobor | Program Manager at Global Energy Regulatory Policy, Google

John R. Contreras | Chair & Director Master of Public Health Program, Westminster College

Sophia Nicholas | Deputy Director for the SLC Sustainability Department

Community Partnership & Coalitions

Our name is the Healthy Environment ALLIANCE of Utah, and we take the “Alliance” part very seriously. Whether it is collaborating with other nonprofits, coalitions, or community groups, we could not continue fighting for the health of Utahns and our environment without our INCREDIBLE partners.



Encircle



Jordan River Trail Commission



UVU



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