

Utah Growing Water Smart Program Plus

[Edit Request](#)

Requester Information

Legislator: Owens, Doug

Creation Date: 2024-01-25

Submission Date: 2024-01-25

Section 1: Request Details

Description:

Funding to continue collaborative Project to: accelerate efforts of local governments to incorporate water smart planning into their land use planning processes and provide technical expertise and guidance to participating communities; and, implement programs to increase availability of qualified waterwise landscape practitioners. The goal is for cities and counties representing approximately 60-75% of Utah's population to have completed a Utah Growing Water Smart (GWS) workshop to accelerate local government integration of water and land use planning, including implementation of water conservation measures in general plans prior to December 2025 (where required). This includes incorporating water efficiency measures and water considerations throughout the development plan approval process, development and adoption of updated or new water efficient codes and ordinances, and creation of education and outreach campaigns for increased public awareness. The funding would support the participation of an additional 21-24 communities in the GWS workshops; along with materials, guidebooks, case studies (relevant to the region) and resources (made publicly available) for any interested Utah community. Additionally, funding would include ongoing technical guidance for participating communities. Funding will also help increase the number of qualified water efficient landscaping professionals with water wise design and implementation expertise and translation and provision of the program in Spanish.

Legislative designee contact information:

- Name: Marcelle Schoop
 - Organization: National Audubon Society
 - Position: Director, Saline Lakes Program
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Section 2: Funding Information

How will the appropriation be used?

	One-time	Ongoing
Personnel Services	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$675,000.00	\$0.00
In-State Travel	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00	\$0.00
Out-of-state Travel	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies and Equipment	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00	\$0.00
Technology Purchases	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00	\$0.00
Infrastructure/Capital Investments	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00	\$0.00
Other Charges/Pass Thru	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$200,000.00	\$0.00
Expenditure Total		
One-time 2024	One-time 2025	Ongoing 2025
\$0.00	\$875,000.00	\$0.00

Funding Sources:

General Fund

- Amount Requested 2024 (One-time) \$0.00
- Amount Requested 2025 (One-time) \$875,000.00
- Amount Requested 2025 (Ongoing) \$0.00

Revenue Total

One-time 2024	One-time 2025	Ongoing 2025
\$0.00	\$875,000.00	\$0.00

Should unused funding be returned to the state at the end of the fiscal year?

No

Is this project scalable if the Legislature does not fund the full requested amount?

Yes

A short explanation describing how the project might be scaled

If funding provided is lower than the requested amount, the number or approach to the Growing Water Smart workshops and/or other parts of the program can be scaled back in relation to available funding. However, the reach of the program would much more limited.

Section 3: Agency Information

Subjects:

Health and Wellbeing
Land and Environment

Agency:

560 / Natural Resources

Type of entity to receive pass-through funding

- State Government
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Section 4: Performance Outcome Measurement

Who would benefit from this request (who is the target audience)?

The target of this program is local governments who benefit from the direction provided by the Utah Growing Water Smart Program's workshops. These workshops make implementing water conservation policies easier. This in turn benefits everyone who relies on the responsible use of our state's water supply.

What is this project or program intended to accomplish?

Build on the success of the Utah Growing Water Smart Program by: (1) continuing to accelerate efforts of local governments to incorporate smart water planning into their land use planning processes, with a goal that cities and counties representing approximately 60-75% of Utah's population (an addition of 20%-35%) will have completed a water-land integration planning workshop to accelerate local government implementation of water conservation measures in general plans by December 31, 2025; (2) provide needed technical training and expertise for communities to implement water conservation measures in planning approvals and related measures; (3) increase capacity and number of qualified water-wise landscaping professionals.

How will the Legislature know whether the project or program achieved its intended purpose?

Annual report (2025 & 2026) detailing: • Number of communities participating in the Utah Growing Water Smart workshops (generally 7-8 communities per workshop) • Percentage of Utah population represented by communities completing the Utah Growing Water Smart workshops • Description of successes and challenges communities face in implementing workshop action plans • Summary of technical guidance provided (number of communities, type of guidance requested/provided, partnerships, and other relevant information) • Number of individuals certified under a program such as Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) and translation and provision of the program in Spanish •

Section 5: Other Supporting Documents

Intent Language

Previous State Funding