



UTAH OFFICE OF
ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

Utah Energy Research Grant

Luke Voss - FY 24

Overview

- House Bill 426 Section 79-6-403
- Creates the Utah Energy Research Grant Program and gives OED the authority to administer the grant program.
- Appropriates in FY24, \$1,000,000 from the General Fund, to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Utah Energy Research Grant Program, as an ongoing appropriation.
- The Grant Program was created within the DNR office with the purpose of encouraging energy-related research within the state by providing matching grants to applicants that have received federal or private grants for specific ongoing energy-related research projects.





OED Evaluation Criteria for Selecting Energy Research Projects

When evaluating a proposal for a grant, the office considers the following criteria:

- The grant amount requested, which may not exceed the amount of federal or private grants the applicant has been awarded;
- The extent to which the proposal advances the goals of the state energy policy and strategic energy plan;
- The extent to which any additional funding sources or existing or planned partnerships may benefit the proposal; and
- The viability of the proposal.



Annual Summary

2024 Grant Amounts

Number of Grants Administered	1
Grant Amounts Awarded	\$30,000
Avg Grant Amount	\$30,000

Grant Annual Summary

Fiscal Year	Number of Grants Awarded
2024	1
2025	TBD
2026	TBD
Total	1



Current Project

- Brigham Young University, Dr Sowby
 - The overall objective is to improve the resilience of Utah's water infrastructure to power outages so water services can continue
 - \$60,000 total project cost; \$30,000 from OED
 - Five key activities:
 - Determine the energy requirements for Utah water/wastewater utilities during emergency situations, such as natural disasters and power outages.
 - Interview Utah water/wastewater utilities, including rural ones, about existing backup power capacity, technologies (generators, renewables, batteries), and permanence (mobile, on-site).
 - Investigate Utah water/wastewater utilities' preferences for and adoption of renewable energy (solar, wind, biogas).
 - Develop recommendations to integrate backup power into water/wastewater emergency planning and ensure continuous water supply for Utah communities.
 - Develop recommendations to enhance adoption of renewable energy by Utah water/wastewater utilities.



Program Impact

- The program has encouraged energy-related research within the state by funding BYU researchers to analyze water resilience in Utah and provide recommendations to improve resilience.



Program Status

- In the 2023 General Session, HB426 created the Utah Energy Research Grant Program (Utah Code 79-6-403) and appropriated \$1,000,000 ongoing General Fund to the grant program
- During the 2024 General Session, HB3 moved the funding into the new Utah Energy Research Fund for the purpose of implementing the provisions of Utah San Rafael State Energy Lab (HB 410, 2024 General Session)



Program Status Continued

- The purpose of the new Utah Energy Research Fund is to not only administer the Utah Energy Research Grant Program but to also fund the ongoing operation of the Utah San Rafael State Energy Lab, including compensation for lab staff
- Therefore, the Energy Research Grant Program has been put on hold for the time being until funding is available to administer the program and operate the Utah San Rafael State Energy Lab

