

State News for NSPE Members

A Roadmap for Rescuing Utah's Great Salt Lake

Conserving water won't be enough to restore the depleted Great Salt Lake, the signature Utah landscape whose existence as a functioning ecosystem remains seriously imperiled from low water levels and rising salinity.

Much of the water saved by Utah cities and farms through various conservation measures will have to be allowed to flow into the terminal lake if its levels are to rebound and remain at a safe level, according to Utah's Great Salt Lake Strike Team, which released its latest data analysis just ahead of Utah's upcoming legislative session.

To get the lake up to a healthy level within 30 years, it will need to see average inflows increase by 471,000 acre-feet a year, a roughly 33% increase in the amount that has reached the lake in recent years.

"We really need to focus on water shepherding going forward to make sure that the water that we conserve gets to the lake," said team co-chair Brian Steed at a Newsmaker Breakfast hosted by the University of Utah's Gardner Policy Institute in Salt Lake City.

"Water conservation efforts will be ineffective for Great Salt Lake if conserved water fails to reach it," the report states. "The shepherding process requires accurate measurement, robust accounting models, and timely adjustments so depletions can be accurately quantified."

This idea is a key point in the strike team's legislative report, which will be followed in the coming weeks with a series of policy sketches, each exploring a specific area for lawmakers' consideration. [Read more.](#)

Clean Energy Advocates Set Their Sights on Utah Legislative Reforms

Utah Clean Energy has set its sights on a number of measures and funding priorities for the 2024 state legislative session, moves they say will boost Utah's efforts to reduce air pollution.

Sarah Wright, chief executive officer of the organization, told the *Deseret News* that lawmakers would be wise to tap into a federal funding stream from the Utah Department of Transportation that sets aside \$4 million a year for five years. While talks are preliminary and very early in the process, Wright said this could be one way to incentivize getting some of the dirtiest burning vehicles off the road. Wright said even though trucks make a small percentage of the overall fleet, they contribute 30% of the nitrogen oxide emissions and other precursor chemicals that cause PM2.5.

Utah Clean Energy wants to do more to supplement investment in the EV charging grid, making it more accessible to users. In addition, the group is pushing lawmakers to take steps to fund a bill that passed two years ago to update the state's business and home energy codes.

Home and buildings account for 40% of US dioxide emissions and simple steps like improving the building's "envelope" can make a significant impact in pollution. [Read more.](#)

Utah Museum Opens 'A Climate of Hope' Exhibit

Natural History Museum of Utah has opened "A Climate of Hope," a new exhibit to inspire optimism and action for a better future in the face of climate change, the [Daily Utah Chronicle](#) reports.

Exhibit developer Lisa Thompson said they took a unique approach to "A Climate of Hope" compared to other exhibits focused on climate change, "Typical museum exhibits about climate change were very data heavy, and they tended to be very gloomy ... and they tended to often focus on faraway places," Thompson said. "And we know from the field of climate communication research that's been growing ... that those just aren't very effective ways to help people learn about climate change or to help them know how they can be part of climate solutions."

The interactive exhibit shows how climate change impacts Utah and how people around the state are implementing solutions. Visitors are shown volunteer opportunities they can take part in to combat climate change at the local level.

"A Climate of Hope" is the first permanent exhibition at the NHMU in 12 years. Thompson said development on the exhibit started in 2019. "[We did] interviews and surveys with visitors to understand what they know about climate change, what they feel about climate change and what they would like to see in the climate change exhibit," Thompson said. "We did that just before the pandemic shut

everything down." [Read more.](#)

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the [NSPE Advocacy Center](#).

Help Guide the Future of NICET's SSI Program

The National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET), a division of the NSPE, is developing a certification program for the Systems Software Integrator (SSI) certification program. NICET invites you to [participate in the SSI Job Task Analysis survey](#) to provide vital feedback needed to develop the program.

The SSI certification program seeks to reduce risk, improve quality, and ensure public safety from new emerging technologies as software and information technology increasingly converges with the operation of physical processes and machinery affecting our lives.

We highly value the insight you can provide and would greatly appreciate you taking the time to complete the survey by February 5. After completing the survey, participants can enter into a drawing for a \$100 Amazon gift card.

[Take the Survey](#)

Nominations Open: 2024 Excellence Awards

Please consider nominating a colleague for an NSPE Excellence Award.

NSPE Award : The NSPE Award is the highest award given to an individual by the Society. It is presented to an engineer who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession, the public welfare, and humankind. The nomination deadline is March 1.

New Professional Award : This award recognizes a young NSPE member who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession and the community during the early years of one's career. The nomination deadline is March 1.

Engineering Education Excellence Award : This award recognizes engineering faculty who have demonstrated the ability to link engineering education with professional practice. The recipients must be licensed and have a faculty appointment in an ABET-accredited engineering program. The nomination deadline is March 31.

Call for NSPE Fellow Membership Nominees

Nominations for the **NSPE Fellow Membership Grade** are **due by March 1**. This prestigious national program aims to recognize dedicated professional engineers who have demonstrated outstanding and sustained service at the chapter, state, and national levels of NSPE. [Access more information about the nomination process](#) .

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