"The Sustainability committee at Provo City consists of a representative from each department. This committee combines traditional City functions with emerging best practices to ensure coordinated conscious results. We strive for outcomes that promote environmental stewardship. We believe that sustainability is a social responsibility. Provo City believes it is our obligation to encourage sustainability amongst our employees."

Mayor Michelle Kaufusi

“Provo City does not promote sustainability only to look good—we do it because it makes sense, both financially and morally. The more energy, water, and land we conserve, the more money we save our taxpayers. The more natural resources we save, the better life will be for our children. It’s our duty as public servants to do what’s right for our city and set an example. Sustainable living is a moral duty.”

Austin Taylor, Provo Parking and Sustainability Coordinator

In 2018, the Provo City Employee’s Sustainability Committee chose as its mission statement, “Create a culture of sustainability among Provo City employees.” A “Culture of Sustainability” conveys a sense of permanent lifestyle changes in which everyone participates. Sustainability isn’t about huge easily definable projects. It is about a lot of people acting in small ways to make a big difference. This is what the Employee’s Sustainability Committee is working to achieve. Sustainability isn’t just about green initiatives and saving the environment. Sustainability is about making life in the present and future more enjoyable, satisfying, and secure through considerate, caring, and mindful thought and action. To this end, the Provo City Employee’s Sustainability Committee has achieved much and is certain to yet achieve more.

Shane Jones, Employee Sustainability Committee Chair

“Sustainability is important to Provo City because we are interested in the long-term quality of life for our residents. Stewardship of our natural and economic resources is central to our heritage. That requires us to choose policies and practices that are not only what we have done in the past but what will protect and enhance what we have for future generations.”

Don Jarvis, Citizen Sustainability Committee Chair
Purpose of this Report

The Provo City Sustainability Report is designed to inform Provo citizens and employees of sustainable actions being taken by city staff, and—in turn—encourage its readers to do likewise.

Our quality of life will improve as more Provo community members adopt sustainable practices. We invite all to follow Provo City’s example!

Sustainability as a Core Value

The City of Provo is home to abundant natural resources that contribute to our quality of life. The City recognizes its role in preserving and protecting such resources as clean air, energy sources, agricultural areas, and undeveloped natural areas such as the Provo River, Utah Lake, Rock Canyon, and numerous others.

As the population of Provo grows, preservation of these natural resources becomes even more critical. The City recognizes the importance of sustainability—the ability to meet the needs of the current generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The City will act as a community partner in advocating the values and principles of sustainability among its employees, business owners, and residents, and encourage community members to do their part in contributing to the current and future vitality of the City of Provo.

Mission Statement

“Create a culture of sustainability among Provo City employees.”
Department and Committee Initiatives

CITIZENS’ SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

- Conducted a Clean Air Blitz at Centennial Elementary, instructing parents to turn off their cars when picking up and dropping off their children
- Met with state representatives to help pass Diesel Emissions Testing: HB 101
- Agricultural preservation
- Submitted recommendations for making Provo’s Clean Air Toolkit website more compelling
- Tabled at several public events, including Provo Power’s public energy fair, UVU’s Sustainability Days, and many others
CITY COUNCIL

- Provided reusable water bottles for staff and Council members, resulting in drastic reductions in single-use water bottle consumption
- Provided $5000 funding in neighborhood matching grants to Joaquin Neighborhood Bicycle Boulevard project
- Council passed ordinances and resolutions promoting sustainability:
  - Ordinance 2018-06: electronic signage guidelines (including brightness restrictions to reduce potential light pollution)
  - Ordinance 2018-14: prohibits smoking and vaping in city parks/trails
  - Ordinance 2018-30 and Resolution 2018-28: to express the intent to preserve the East Bay Golf Course as open space
  - Resolution 2018-04: to express support to the State Legislature to dedicate more funding to the LeRay McAllister fund for open space and agricultural preservation
COMPLETED INSTALLATION OF UVX BUS RAPID TRANSIT SYSTEM THAT HAS AN AVERAGE OF 9,900 BOARDINGS PER DAY.

RECEIVED A FEDERAL GRANT THAT MAKES UVX FREE FOR ALL USERS UNTIL 2021.

Hired parking and sustainability coordinator Austin Taylor who will encourage sustainable practice for city staff and citizens.

Stopped requiring paper building permits and plans; most is now done digitally.

Helped save Amanda Knight Hall from demolition, saving literally tons of building materials from going to the landfill.
EMPLOYEE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

• Revised recycling instruction sheet to better identify what can be recycled for posting by recycle bins and brainstormed ideas for creating an environment more conducive to recycling like larger recycling containers and smaller garbage cans at individual workstations.
• Adopted the Mission Statement: “Create a culture of sustainability among Provo City Employees”.
• Participated in annual Provo City Health Fair with committee members volunteering to spend a few hours at an information table discussing sustainability and strategies for implementation with city employees attending the fair.
• Recruited representatives from every department to be on the committee and introduced the idea of a Department Sustainability Ombudsman in each department who is recognized by the department administration and employees as an advocate for sustainability and a sounding board for ideas for implementation.
• Assisted in planning, organizing, and manning Provo City Booth for Bike to Work Day.
• Hosted presentations on Low Impact Development, resource recovery from wastewater treatment, carbon footprint calculator, nuclear energy, and environmental work by Paso Pacifico in Central America.
• Reviewed the six strategies of influence as outlined in “The Influencer” and discussed ways in which each strategy could be implemented within the City.
FACILITIES SERVICES

- Coordinated the installation of three new EVCS (electric vehicle charging stations); one at the City Center, Rec Center, and Academy Library. These units are utilized frequently.
- Submitted an application to the State of Utah for $753,000 in Volkswagen grant money to fund another 22 EVC stations. If awarded, the new stations will be placed at several locations in or adjacent to city parks and along major highways and corridors.
- Included a requirement for energy-efficient building design for the new City Hall and Public Safety building and Fire Station #2. Facilities will ensure the new facilities will meet a high standard for energy efficiency. These new facilities will reflect creative design, community involvement and cost consciousness.
FIRE
- Discontinued idling the firetrucks when not in response mode
- Added two department representatives to Provo City Employee Sustainability Committee

INFORMATION SYSTEMS
- Provided reusable water bottles for staff
LEGAL
• Replaced standard drinking fountain in our hallway with one with a water bottle filler.
• Adopted several solutions to become a “paperless” office, including
  o purchasing laptops and software to allow all criminal cases to be handled in court without a paper file;
  o identifying case management software solutions for civil cases and obtaining funding for the software; providing scanner units to employees to facilitate paperless solutions.

PARKS AND RECREATION
• Adopted the successful “Pack it in Pack it out” slogan, encouraging people to take their trash they bring to the park with them when they leave. North Park has gone from 40 trash cans to 6 and other parks are having similar success.
• Removed weedy and invasive species at Rock Canyon Trailhead with a group of volunteers to reduce fire hazard and enhance the beauty of the area.
• Installed WeatherTRAK sprinkler controllers across many city parks; there are now over 100 of them installed. With them, staff can account more accurately of water use and save water while also producing healthier plants.
• Added a greenhouse to the community garden on 100 South near the Center Street I-15 Interchange to extend the growing season. All four community gardens are used to capacity, turning weedy vacant lots into productive space.
• Transformed median irrigation and plants in front of the City Center. Installed larger tree wells which provide better tree root development and improve tree health. Replaced old sidewalk in the medians with low growing ground cover. upgraded turf spray irrigation to a sub-surface system which eliminated overspray onto the road. This has resulted in water savings and asphalt life extension.

POLICE

• Started recycling
• Encouraged police officers to shut off vehicles when not in use
• Provided reusable water bottles and coffee mugs for staff
POWER

- Began installing new downtown streetlights that feature energy-saving LED light bulbs and night sky-friendly design
- Partnered with BYU as the university installed a natural gas-powered co-generation facility on campus. This replaced the old coal-fired power plant that was a significant contributor to air pollution in the valley. Provo Power receives 15MW of co-generation capacity from this arrangement.
- Secured 30% of hydroelectric power from the new 10MW Olmsted Power Plant which was completed this summer at the mouth of Provo Canyon.
- During the annual Provo Power Fair, the Provo’s Sustainability Committee provided a booth that educated visitors about clean air issues and showed them various electric yard/gardening tools. Several hundred people visited the booth.
- Added 61 solar customers and 385 kW of capacity on rooftops in the city. Provo has a total of 485 customers and 3200 kW of capacity total from rooftop solar.
PUBLIC WORKS

- Redefined “Provo Water Reclamation Facility” as “Provo Water Advanced Treatment and Resource Recovery Center (Provo WATRR Center)” making resource recovery the central feature and goal of wastewater treatment.
- Continued to promote recycle and green waste programs with approximately half of the city now participating in the recycling program and a third now participating in the green waste program.
- Created an electric vehicle charging station at the Public Works employee parking and made provision for the installation of another with faster charging capability with the remodel of the Public Works office building.
- Planted edible landscaping including almond and hazelnut trees and currants at the newly constructed six million-gallon water tank.
- Submitted an application to the State of Utah for $244,166 in Volkswagen grant money to fund 55% of the purchase price for three new diesel trucks with low-emission technology.