



# GROWING WATER SMART in SOUTHWESTERN UTAH

Photo Credit: Aaron Fortin

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

January 2024 Workshop

## The Land Use and Water Challenge

Utah is navigating significant uncertainty around water availability, requiring local jurisdictions to fundamentally rethink water use and to assume new leadership roles.

Historically, planning for water resources and land use have been conducted separately. Yet the way we build directly impacts our water supply and demand.

Communities can “grow water smart” by collaborating to identify and implement strategies that resolve their water resource challenges.

## Growing Water Smart Workshops

This workshop brings water and land use decision makers in your community together as a team to collaborate on long-term water security. It provides an opportunity to gain or enhance a range of public engagement, planning, communication, and policy tools to ensure your team can realize its water conservation, watershed health, and community resilience goals.

**Location:** Cedar City, UT

**Date:** January 8-10, 2024

**Eligibility:** Southwest Utah communities and municipalities

**Costs:** The workshop is free. Participants cover their own travel to the workshop. Some meals & lodging are provided.

Communities participating in this program gain:

**Insight.** A better understanding of how land use and climatic trends impact water supply and demand at local, state, and basin levels.

**Flexibility.** Diverse strategies and tools to integrate water and land use planning to better adapt to change and uncertainty.

**Engagement.** Decision makers from multiple disciplines, departments, agencies, and organizations commit to common goals around water.

**Clarity.** Clear and concise language to communicate critical community goals around water to gain community and decision maker support.

**Collaboration.** Regional professional relationships with peers.

**A Path Forward.** An action plan tailored to your community’s needs.

*“...getting key participants away from the day-to-day needs of their jobs and into an intensive workshop where facilitators help them create a framework for smart water use and growth--that was priceless.”*

-Utah Growing Water Smart Workshop Participant, June 2023



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## Program at a Glance

The Utah Growing Water Smart workshop offers your team the time to collaborate and focus on the water resource challenges that are influencing your community's growth and development. The program is comprised of the following elements:

**Team-Oriented Work Sessions:** Teams assess community data, trends, and policies; develop succinct messaging around water; identify strategies to become water resilient; and develop an action plan to implement these strategies. Sessions are facilitated by trained water and planning professionals.

**Learning Best Practices:** Presentations provide key knowledge around integrating water conservation, efficiency, reuse, and watershed protection into future and existing development.

**Peer Networking:** Participants meet and exchange ideas with fellow professionals from other jurisdictions and past workshop participants.

## Follow Up Funding

Upon workshop completion, teams become eligible to apply for technical assistance to help carry out water and land use integration strategies identified in their action plan. Previous projects have included:

- Land use code audits and policy recommendations
- Guidance for General Plan updates
- Collaborative stakeholder engagement and facilitation
- Strategic communication plans and messaging
- Development of metrics to measure progress and impacts of water and land use integration

## Who Can Apply

Interdisciplinary teams from counties and municipalities in southwest Utah are encouraged to apply.

This workshop is designed to build and foster collaborative teams committed to taking local action toward integrated land-water planning. Applicants build a team of six to eight individuals with diverse knowledge, skills, and perspectives needed to secure their community's water future and implement the developed action plan. Team composition varies to reflect the needs of each community, and often includes:

- Current and long range land use planners\*
- Water resource managers\*
- Economic development leaders
- Elected and appointed officials\*
- Sustainability and resilience office
- Parks and public works staff
- Representatives of regional planning organizations
- Local non-profit organizational representative
- Community task force members
- Consultants contributing to your current water and land use effort

\* Denotes required representative

Regional and multi-jurisdictional teams may also apply. In this case, representatives from each community should be on the team and in pursuit of a common water goal.

*"Water conversations that have been stalled out for months are already moving forward, and we're already starting to see the benefits of the networks and connections the workshop helped us build. It was an incredible opportunity, and I'm excited to keep the momentum going."*

-Hannah Salzl, Sustainability Coordinator, Provo, UT November 2022  
Workshop Participant



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## Selection Criteria

Team composition will be selected to participate based on:

- Team composition that includes required representatives
- Demonstrated local commitment toward addressing water sustainability
- Severity of need around current and/or projected water conditions
- Capacity to foster dialogue or partnerships among agencies and entities overseeing land use planning and water resource management

## How to Apply

To participate in Growing Water Smart, please download this PDF and complete the application beginning on page four. Once completed, please email your application to: [UTGrowingWaterSmart@usu.edu](mailto:UTGrowingWaterSmart@usu.edu).

## Deadline

Applications are due on Wednesday, **October 27, 2023**. Please contact us if you plan to apply so that we may support you.

## Contact Information

We are here to help!

If you are interested in applying or have questions about the program, please email us:

[UTGrowingWaterSmart@usu.edu](mailto:UTGrowingWaterSmart@usu.edu).

Visit <http://extension.usu.edu/cwel/utah-growing-water-smart/about> for more information.

Growing Water Smart is offered through a partnership between the Washington County Water Conservancy District, the Utah Division of Water Resources, the Center for Water Efficient Landscaping at Utah State University, and Utah State University Extension.



**Center for Water-Efficient Landscaping**  
**UtahStateUniversity.**



**Extension**  
**UtahStateUniversity**



**Team Composition**

1a. Provide the names, titles, organizations, and email addresses of the 6-8 team members who will participate in the workshop. (For the greatest impact, we recommend including mid-to-senior level staff on your team.)

Category Represented	Name	Title	Organization	Email
Land Use Planner (Required)				
Water Resource Manager (Required)				
Elected and/or Appointed Official (Highly Recommended)				

1b. Please briefly describe why you chose this combination of participants to attend and represent your community at the Growing Water Smart in southwestern Utah workshop.

1c. Which team member will serve as the lead for pre-workshop communications?

**Background**

2. What is your community’s projected population growth rate? Is land use in your community changing, and if so, in what sectors (residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural)?

**Water Awareness**

3a. Please describe your community's most pressing water challenges. (Examples include water demand exceeding supply, stormwater management/flooding, water quality/watershed health, etc.)

3b. What are the biggest barriers to addressing these challenges? (Examples include lack of political will, competing priorities, community support, funding, etc.)

4. What plans, policies, and programs are currently in place in your community that seek to address your water challenges, if any? How well are they being implemented?

### **Upcoming Plans and Processes**

5. Does your community have any upcoming Comprehensive Plan, Master Plan, or System Water Plan updates?

Yes

If so, when?

No

6. Is your community in the process of updating any land use codes or standards (such as landscape, zoning, subdivision, building, or plumbing code)?

Yes

No

Not currently, but interested

If so, please describe.

### **Collaboration**

7. How are your land use planners and water resource managers currently collaborating around water and land use? Please describe any opportunities or challenges that you want to address during this workshop.

## **Desired Outcomes**

8. What does your community hope to achieve from participation in the Growing Water Smart workshop? How does your community believe it will benefit from better integration of water and land use planning? Be as specific as possible.

## **Thank You!**

Please email your completed application to  
[UTGrowingWaterSmart@usu.edu](mailto:UTGrowingWaterSmart@usu.edu).