



2023

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

UTAH TRANSIT AUTHORITY



UTAH TRANSIT AUTHORITY AND SUSTAINABILITY







The Utah Transit Authority provides sustainable mobility solutions in a manner that protects the planet, strengthens the community, and enhances shared prosperity. UTA recognizes the wide-ranging impacts of its transit services and is committed to serving the community—UTA moves you sustainably.

In 2022 UTA’s Board of Trustees made sustainability an integral part of the organization’s strategic priorities, with the goal of “moving Utahans to a better quality of life”. When UTA became a founding signatory of the American Public Transportation Association’s (APTA) Sustainability Commitment in 2009, they committed to improving their impact on the community, planet, and economy. In the years following, UTA has strived for excellence and sustainability has long been a part of the organization’s continual success and improvement.

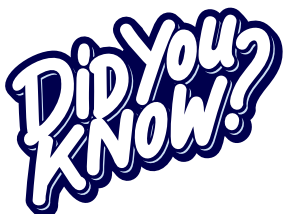




2023 SUSTAINABILITY

	2022	2023	% Change from 2022 to 2023
			
	Total Emissions 96,527 Metric Tons (facilities and all transit)	Total Emissions 98,201 Metric Tons (facilities and all transit)	Change from 2022 +1.7%*
	Natural Gas Use 82,435 Btu/sq.ft. (facilities)	Natural Gas Use 81,934 Btu/sq.ft. (facilities)	Change from 2022 - 0.6%
	Energy Use 12.95 kWh/sq.ft. (facilities)	Energy Use 12.67 kWh/sq.ft. (facilities)	Change from 2022 - 2.2%
	Electric Buses 3	Electric Buses 31	Change from 2022 + 933%
	Total Ridership 31,439,582	Total Ridership 35,059,930	Change from 2022 + 11.5%

* In 2023, the square footage of UTA's facilities increased by 9.4% and their fleet traveled 3.7% farther



Emissions from an average 7-mile commuter trip using public transit instead of a single-occupant vehicle will be 53 times lower



MOVING UTAHNS TO A BETTER QUALITY LIFE

In 2023, UTA took the initiative to improve their operations and facilities in an effort to become better environmental stewards. Highlighted below are some of UTA's 2023 sustainability accomplishments

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY AND PROGRAMS

UTA took a monumental step forward by embracing sustainability as a cornerstone of their strategic plan, encapsulated by the commitment of "Moving Utahns to a Better Quality of Life." This year saw the inception of UTA's first official agency-wide sustainability policy, signifying the Agency's dedication to becoming better environmental stewards and fostering a more resilient future for communities along the Wasatch Front. The program will be lead by UTA's newly established Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability group, along with the new Sustainability Steering Committee and Green Team. As UTA continues to advance their sustainability initiatives, they remain steadfast in their pursuit of propelling Utahns towards a brighter, more sustainable tomorrow.



DEPOT DISTRICT

In 2023, the Central Depot District Garage replaced the 52-year-old Salt Lake Central Bus Garage, marking a significant milestone in modernizing UTA's transit infrastructure. Specifically engineered to house alternative-fuel, clean-air transit buses, the facility represents an important step towards agency sustainability. With vastly improved energy efficiency compared to its predecessor, the Central Depot District Garage embodies UTA's commitment to enhancing service while minimizing its carbon footprint.

OGDEN EXPRESS (OGX)

After years of planning, the Ogden Express (OGX) bus rapid transit (BRT) line launched operations this year. Boasting a 100% electric bus fleet, 22 enhanced stations, dedicated lanes, signal priority at 19 lights, and weekday 10-minute service, OGX sets a new standard for sustainable urban transit. Additionally, riders can enjoy zero fare on OGX for three years, further incentivizing eco-conscious commuting. The implementation of an electric BRT system like OGX in Ogden signifies a significant leap towards swift and environmentally friendly transportation, reducing the number of cars on the road with every ride.



ZERO EMISSION BUS TRANSITION PLAN

UTA is striving to make each ride it provides more ecofriendly. This is evident in the Agency's Zero Emission Bus Transition Plan, which outlines the goal to replace 50% of UTA's fleet with battery electric or clean fuel buses by 2040. The effort started in 2019 when UTA launched their first 3 electric buses. In 2023 alone, 31 more electric buses went into service. In addition, 2 overhead chargers were installed to help with electric bus charging on route.

TOOELE ON-DEMAND ELECTRIFICATION

In partnership with Tooele County, the Federal Transit Administration,UCAIR, Rocky Mountain Power, and Via Transportation, UTA's Tooele On-Demand service became a fully electric fleet of 10 vehicles. The On-Demand service helps with first and last mile travel connecting riders to other UTA services via shared eco-friendly trips and expands UTA service across Tooele county.

WATER CONSERVATION

UTA's facilities team renovated two Trax stations, specifically those at 4800 South and Bingham Junction. Water dependent plants and irrigation systems were removed over a total space of 3,700 square feet. The removals were carried out to stop the water supply to newly xeriscaped areas. The removal of such landscaping and irrigation systems helps UTA reduce their water footprint and beautify the landscape with drought-tolerant areas that don't need regular watering.