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Salt Lake City Receives EPA Grant to Combat Greenhouse Gases

City Given Slice of EPA's \$7.8M Pie

SALT LAKE CITY – The Environmental Protection Agency announced today Salt Lake City is among 20 U.S. communities to receive a total of \$7.8 million in grants for projects to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions while achieving additional environmental, economic, public health, and community benefits. The funds will help Climate Showcase Communities fund projects to increase energy efficiency, save residents money, and reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions. As a grantee, Salt Lake City was awarded \$368,000 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through a collaborative multi-agency vehicle miles travel reduction program called Sustainable Transportation for a Sustainable Future.

The selected cities target the many aspects of reducing a community's carbon footprint, from increasing energy efficiency in homes and businesses, to helping residents save fuel by decreasing the number of miles they drive. Salt Lake City was chosen because of its commitment to climate related issues, particularly air quality. The goal of the Salt Lake City project is to reduce vehicle gas emission in Salt Lake City and the surrounding area by 63,000 tons below the 2012 projected levels through creating sustained changes in driving behavior of residents.

"Salt Lake City is excited to move our Clear the Air Challenge, Salt Lake Sustainable Schools and Travelwise programs to the next level with this grant funding," said Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker. "We are very pleased to have been selected as one of the few recipients nationwide of this grant and are prepared to utilize the funding to reduce greenhouse gasses for cleaner air in Utah's Capital City."

"These communities see the overwhelming scientific evidence on climate change and are working with EPA to fight back," said EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson. "We're working on innovative, win-win strategies that reduce greenhouse gases and cut energy bills for families and businesses – strategies that can be put in place to fight climate change in communities from Utah and Ohio to China and India."

Dedicated partners and the City funded an additional \$184,000 in contributions to the Sustainable Transportation for a Sustainable Future program. Partners Kennecott/ Rio-Tinto, UDOT, Salt Lake County, Utah Clean Cities Coalition and Salt Lake Solutions have pledged to contribute time and money to the effort raising the total fund to \$552,000 for the entire project. The City and its partners will

develop a Sustainable Transportation for the Future toolkit to include instructions, research plans, messaging strategies, and travel campaigns to share with other communities in Utah.

Kennecott is glad to support this program to further engage with the community and help find solutions for this pressing issue," said Nicol Gagstetter, senior adviser for sustainable development at Kennecott Utah Copper.

Preliminary calculations by the grant applicants estimate that by 2012 the projects will reduce about 135,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually—equivalent to the emissions from 25,000 passenger vehicles or 12,000 homes and save more than \$4.5 million per year in energy costs. Several projects are expected to create or maintain jobs and provide green job training. Grantees selected for the Climate Showcase funds were also required to show their ability to achieve ongoing greenhouse gas reductions as well as to track, measure, and show progress toward their goals.

The Climate Showcase Communities Grant Program is administered by EPA, providing technical assistance, tools, and guidance to help state, local, and tribal governments implement policies and programs to mitigate climate change.

More information on the grants and the grant recipients is available online at <http://www.epa.gov/statelocalclimate/local/showcase/>.

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