



2026 Strengthening Community Resilience to Safeguard Health in Utah's Changing Environment

Whereas Utah is experiencing environmental changes with regard to air, water, and temperature and these changes can have health impacts;

Whereas wildfire smoke, dust, inversion, ground-level ozone, and other environmental conditions that contribute to Utah's poor air quality are linked to negative health outcomes, including respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, central nervous system disorders, mental health and psychological problems, metabolic conditions, and reproductive harm;

Whereas drought and flooding in Utah can result in illness, injury, and compromised quantity and quality of water;

Whereas extreme cold in Utah can lead to frostbite, hypothermia, and worsened cardiovascular and respiratory function;

Whereas extreme heat in Utah can cause heat stroke and other heat-related illnesses; exacerbate preexisting conditions, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and asthma; and increase the risk of pre-term birth and adverse mental health conditions;

Whereas efforts to improve community resilience will help safeguard health in Utah's changing environment;

Whereas enabling all Utahns, including those most impacted by environmental change, to participate in developing solutions that address their needs will allow more communities to thrive; and

Whereas UPHA has consistently supported measures to advance environmental sustainability and health for all Utahns.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Utah Public Health Association:

- Continues to support the tracking of Utah's environmental trends and related health outcomes;
- Works to develop trust among partners to foster community resilience in a changing environment by co-creating solutions with Utah communities, especially those most impacted;



- Advocates for accessible community education regarding resilience to environmental change in Utah;
- Supports education for students and continuing education for health professionals in Utah to learn about and collaborate on topics related to community resilience in a changing environment; and
- Promotes environmentally conscious business and civic decisions to strengthen community resilience in Utah, including effective city planning, community programming, and sustainable building practices.

References

1. Utah State University. Recent Climate Change in Utah, 1870–2023. Accessed January 28, 2026, https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3473&context=extension_curall.
2. University of Arizona. 2013. Assessment of Climate Change in the Southwest United States. Accessed January 28, 2026, <https://swccar.arizona.edu/>.
3. “Climate-Related Health Impacts.” Environmental Public Health Tracking, Utah Department of Health and Human Services. Accessed January 28, 2026, <https://ibis.utah.gov/epht-view/topic/CChangeHealth.html>
4. “Resolutions.” On “Our Advocacy” webpage, Utah Public Health Association. Accessed January 28, 2026, <https://www.upha.org/resolutions>.
5. Salt Lake County Health Department. Climate Adaptation Plan for Public Health. Accessed January 28, 2026, <https://utahclimateactionnetwork.com/wpcontent/uploads/sites/6/2020/05/Salt-Lake-County-Climate-Adaptation-Plan.pdf>.
6. “About Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) Framework.” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Accessed January 28, 2026, <https://www.cdc.gov/climate-health/php/brace/index.html>.