

Healthy Neighborhood Environments

The neighborhoods in which people live influence cancer risk in a number of ways, such as through the air they breathe, the homes they live in, walkability and the places nearby

STRATEGIES



Support community-based reforms that protect neighborhood residents from unhealthy exposure to cancer risk factors (e.g., radon, UV radiation)



Advance initiatives that improve air quality in communities with higher exposure to air pollution



Incorporate disability-accessible parks, green space, and other active living infrastructure into plans for community design and development



Work with communities to reduce violence and the threat of violence in outdoor and community spaces



Protect community residents from displacement as opportunities to modify the local environment arise



Targets for Change

Increase the proportion of Utah days classified as "Good" on the Air Quality Index (AQI)

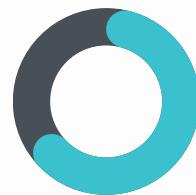


75.2%
(2019)1



82.0%
(2025)1

Increase the proportion of green space and tree canopy in Utah communities



34%
(2016)2



TBD
(2025)2

References:

1. Air Quality System, U.S. Environmental Protection
2. Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program

Action Steps

- Support initiatives that incentivize individuals and businesses to trade in high emissions equipment and machines for cleaner alternatives
- Work with employers to adopt electric vehicles for their vehicle fleets and retrofit existing vehicles with emissions-reducing technology
- Work with cities and towns to adopt pedestrian- and public transit-oriented development criteria into the approval process for community development projects
- Plant trees and support infrastructure to increase shade availability in highly exposed neighborhoods, on school grounds, and at outdoor public venues
- Institute price incentives that enable lower-income residents to access radon mitigation services
- Create shared-use agreements that support community access to existing public, private, or nonprofit facilities before or after business hours for physical activity
- Support communities in the creation, maintenance, connectivity, and accessibility of active living infrastructure and green space in lacking areas
- Transform local vacant or abandoned spaces into vibrant and disability-accessible public spaces through land banking or other community-led means
- Advance locally-tailored approaches to community safety that keep all community members safe
- Dispatch trained social service professionals, such as Mobile Crisis Outreach Teams (MCOT), to respond to local incidents related to housing insecurity or behavioral health
- Work with local housing authorities and housing non-profits to preserve existing affordable housing units through community land trusts and other public-private strategies
- Support policies and programs to create affordable housing units accessible to very or extremely-low income households, larger families, and people with disabilities
- Solicit public feedback on community projects in accessible local venues while providing child-care options and translation services
- Pursue community benefits agreements (CBAs) with developers to ensure that development proposals meet the needs and goals of local community members