

GreenAction Utah supports the following:

Atmosphere

A stable atmosphere is essential for maintaining human, animal and plant health.

GreenAction Utah demands that dangers to our atmosphere be countered by:

- The U.S. holding to its time line to ban the use of CFCs and other ozone destroying products.
- The U.S. legislating reduction of its carbon dioxide emissions.
- Cooperating with the rest of the world in reducing the use of fossil fuels by large scale conservation, and by converting to safe, renewable energy sources.
- Banning the burning of tire-derived fuels (TDFs), as these have been shown to increase the toxicity of the air we breathe. Recycling of used tires is an eco-friendly alternative to incineration.
- Halting deforestation. We must undertake domestic and international reforestation programs to help preserve the atmosphere.
- Establishing an environmental trust fund with money raised from pollution fees and other public revenues.

Ecological Sustainable Agriculture

Ecological wisdom demands an agricultural practice that conserves water, soil and energy with a minimum of pollution. GreenAction Utah calls for:

- Providing incentives for small-scale family farms, biological diversity in crop cultivation, and regional approaches to food supplies rather than the transportation of food over long distances to markets.
- Implementing soil conservation practices, such as contour planting and bioregional restoration, to curb topsoil loss. Using crop rotation, compost and other organic fertilizers so nutrients will regenerate the land.
- Banning the development of plant varieties that are tolerant of increased levels of chemical biocides. Ending genetic engineering in agriculture and the release of genetically engineered organisms into the environment.
- Implementing pollution fees on non-organic fertilizers, and using the resulting revenue for environmental restoration.
- Ending importation of agricultural products treated with chemicals banned in the U.S.
- Educating the public to increase acceptance of organic produce rather than favoring the appearance-enhanced variety grown with biocides.
- Fully deregulating the growth and production of industrial hemp, with assistance to farmers for converting to hemp cultivation.
- Opposing the weakening of current standards that define “organic food.”

Forestry

Forests are indispensable to human and animal life and must be protected.

GreenAction Utah calls for actions to protect our forests:

- Overhaul California and U.S. Forest Service rules to protect our forests and use them wisely.
- Review, reform and restructure all federal and state land-use policies so that our practices become environmentally sustainable.
- Stop building logging roads in national forests at taxpayers' expense.
- Ban the harvest of Ancient Forests.
- Ban the export of raw logs and other minimally processed forest products (pulp, chips, carts, slabs, etc.), which causes American job loss.
- Offer subsidies to local watershed-based mills. This will maximize employment opportunities through value-adding processing, and promotes sustainability and worker control.
- Grow and use hemp as a plentiful and renewable resource for the manufacture of paper and other forest products.
- Support the rights of people indigenous to the rain forest, and their ecologically sound use of the forests.
- Forgive the debts of Third World countries that need help in halting the destruction of their rain forest lands.
- Develop labels that identify ecologically sound forest products. This would help consumers to support ecologically sound forestry.

- Maintain and restore values such as the protection of wildlife habitats, fisheries, biodiversity, scenery and recreation.

Recycling

Nature uses and reuses everything through continual recycling. We should pattern our use of resources after nature in sustainable cycles.

GreenAction Utah promotes conservation and recycling to:

- Create a market for recycled goods through legal and tax incentives.
- Institute convenient curbside recycling (including yard clippings) in all urban areas.
- Manufacture “recycled” paper, labeled as such, out of a specific percentage of post-consumer waste paper.
- Rapidly phase out composites and other materials that cannot be recycled.
- Educate our children on the benefits of recycling.
- Simplify procedures that let people choose not to receive junk mail.
- Legislate deposits on glass, metal and plastic beverage containers.
- Legislate limitations in packaging and impose penalties for wasteful packaging.
- Legislate in favor of recycling used tires, and against burning of tires (tire-derived fuels) in manufacturing.
- Remove obstacles to the sale of items in bulk, and standardize containers to make their reuse easier.
- Restructure garbage rates to encourage reduction in the volume of waste.
- Design and produce high quality goods that are durable, repairable and, then, recyclable at the end of their useful life; this concept is the opposite of the current “planned obsolescence.”

Toxic Wastes

We must adopt attitudes and practices that respect the rights of present and future generations to a healthy environment. Toxic waste poisons the ecosystem rendering it unhealthy and often unlivable.

GreenAction Utah promotes an aggressive policy to control and counter toxins:

- Develop, or bring back into common use, alternatives to toxins so that we can eliminate their use.
- Contain and neutralize toxins at their point of use. Once the toxins are introduced into the environment, controlling them becomes difficult or impossible.
- Fine companies convicted of dumping toxins at a rate higher than it would have cost them to neutralize the poisons in the first place.
- Cleaned up toxic wastes on military and industrial sites. Companies hired to perform toxic cleanups must not have previously profited from the production, supply or use of those substances. Companies that previously profited should be required to perform clean-up services at cost.
- Make companies that supplied the toxins at military sites pay at least 50% of the clean-up costs, with government funds from the military budget used for the balance.
- Set and enforce stringent standards through a revitalized EPA.
- Support “strict, joint and several liability” as enacted under Superfund legislation as the surest method of tapping the ‘deep pockets’ of corporate polluters.
- Protect the right of everyone to a healthy environment regardless of race, income, or national origin. Poor, minority or immigrant communities should no longer be convenient locations for hazardous facilities and toxic dumping

Urban Land Use

Undeveloped lands, wilderness and agricultural lands are necessary for the ecological sustainability of the Earth and must be preserved. Thus, growth must be planned to minimize impact on these precious resources.

GreenAction Utah supports preservation of agricultural and wilderness lands:

- Implement the ideas and principles of the ECO CITIES movement.
- Encourage high density communities as one way to prevent urban sprawl into agricultural and wilderness areas.

- Priced increases in the population density with appropriate infrastructure developments to facilitate public transit travel, shopping, recycling and other functions as much as possible.
- Plan these high density communities so that they are compatible with desirable social goals. Retain open spaces, parklands and greenbelts as components of all development plans to maintain a high quality of life.
- Locate schools and places of employment within easy walking or bicycling distances from residences, or along mass transit lines.
- Use water treatment and closed-loop sewage treatment systems wherever possible.
- Change tax and planning laws to foster urban development that uses solar and other alternative energy sources.
- Stabilize the size of the American population and limit consumption levels.

Water

Water is essential to all forms of life. The many roles water performs in the natural world deserve our respect and protection. A clean, safe supply of drinking water is of paramount concern to every California resident.

GreenAction Utah proposes:

- Mandate water efficient appliances and fixtures be used in all new construction, and promote retrofitting of older buildings.
- Promote native landscaping and other drought resistant/ climate-appropriate plants, in order to reduce the need for irrigation. Where irrigation is necessary, promote drip irrigation systems.
- Eliminate storm water pollution of our water resources through education of our citizens, enforcement of our laws and holistic watershed management.
- Use separation techniques such as dual piping systems where pure water is used for drinking and washing, and reclaimed water is used for lawn watering and similar purposes.
- Mandate pre-treatment of industrial wastes to eliminate the presence of metals, solvents and other toxins in sewer water.
- Promote passive and natural systems (such as wetlands) for water and wastewater treatment, where appropriate.
- Eliminate water subsidies for corporate agribusiness. Higher water prices give agribusiness incentives to conserve.
- Preserve and restore the state's natural water features—California's streams, rivers, lakes, bays, wetlands and groundwater aquifers.

Wildlife

We believe that humanity should share the planet with all its other species. Our continuing destruction of animal habitats threatens an ever-growing number of species with extinction.

GreenAction Utah advocates policies to defend wildlife:

- Ensure the protection of native animals and plants in their natural surroundings when planning economic developments.
- Re-establish habitats for wildlife instead of practicing game species management for maximum sustainable yields.
- Reintroduce native species to areas from which they have been eradicated.
- Eliminate predator control on public lands, and reintroduce native predators where they would contribute to a viable ecosystem.
- Stop any further drainage of wetlands and any further development of shore areas.
- Strengthen the Endangered Species Act, as has been recommended by the National Academy of Science
- Educate ourselves about animal behaviors to overcome our culture's irrational fear of wildlife, and learn techniques of co-existence with other species.