

**JOINT RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING WATER-EFFICIENT  
LANDSCAPING ORDINANCES FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION**

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Doug Owens**

Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This resolution encourages municipalities and counties to address water efficient land use for new construction.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

- ▶ recognizes the importance of water to the state;
- ▶ supports water-efficient landscaping as a key strategy for meeting water optimization goals; and
- ▶ recommends that municipalities and counties adopt for new construction water-efficient landscaping ordinances and water use and preservation elements in general plans.

**Special Clauses:**

None

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*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

WHEREAS, the Great Salt Lake reached a record low water level in November 2022, resulting in salinity levels that threatened the Great Salt Lake's ecosystem;

WHEREAS, the Utah Division of Water Resources regional water goals, adopted in 2019, challenge Utah residents to achieve between a 15% and 27% reduction in gallons per



28 capita per day water use in individual regions throughout the state by 2040;

29 WHEREAS, the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute projected that population growth in  
30 Utah will result in an increase of 35% more households in 2040 and 84% more households in  
31 2060 than in 2025;

32 WHEREAS, the majority of culinary water delivered to households throughout the year  
33 is used for outdoor purposes;

34 WHEREAS, the Great Salt Lake Commissioner issued his 2024 Great Salt Lake  
35 Strategic Plan which recognizes water-wise landscaping for new development as one of the  
36 quickest strategies for reaching regional conservation goals;

37 WHEREAS, the Legislature directed cities and counties to adopt a water use and  
38 preservation element in their respective general plan documents by December 31, 2025;

39 WHEREAS, the general plan water use and preservation element is required to include  
40 recommendations for low water use landscaping standards for most new development  
41 throughout the state;

42 WHEREAS, using proven design techniques such as Locascapes, landscaping for  
43 homes and businesses can still include trees, shrubs, and other plants that are watered through  
44 drip irrigation to create an attractive appearance using smaller amounts of water-intensive lawn  
45 and avoid the creation of heat islands;

46 WHEREAS, many local governments have adopted updated or new ordinances  
47 requiring water efficient landscaping in new construction so residents will have access to  
48 financial incentives to assist in removing nonfunctional lawn from existing landscapes;

49 WHEREAS, despite the adoption of ordinances by some local governments,  
50 approximately 40% of the residents of the Great Salt Lake basin live in a community with no,  
51 or inadequate, requirements for landscaping associated with new construction; and

52 WHEREAS, by reducing their residents' water demand for outdoor water use, counties  
53 and municipalities can play an important role in shouldering their share of stretching the state's  
54 water supply and, where needed, benefiting the environment; and

55 WHEREAS, reducing the amount of water devoted to outdoor landscaping purposes  
56 will require a concerted effort through changes to new and existing development:

57 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the State of Utah calls  
58 on municipalities and counties throughout the state to engage in meaningful conversations with

59 all relevant stakeholders to ensure that their respective general plans include a substantive and  
60 actionable water use and preservation element that is adopted or updated as soon as reasonably  
61 possible.

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature expresses its urgent call for those  
63 municipalities and counties who have not yet adopted water efficiency standards for new  
64 construction, especially those located within the drainage of the Great Salt Lake, to  
65 immediately begin the process of doing so.

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the Utah League  
67 of Cities and Towns, the Utah Association of Counties, and the following municipalities in the  
68 Great Salt Lake Basin:

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|----|--------------------|----------------------|
| 69 | Alta               | Mapleton             |
| 70 | Amalga             | Marriott-Slaterville |
| 71 | Bear River         | Mendon               |
| 72 | Brigham City       | Millville            |
| 73 | Brighton           | Mona                 |
| 74 | Cedar Fort         | Nephi                |
| 75 | Charleston         | Newton               |
| 76 | Clarkston          | North Ogden          |
| 77 | Coalville          | Orem                 |
| 78 | Copperton Township | Paradise             |
| 79 | Corinne            | Perry                |
| 80 | Cornish            | Plain City           |
| 81 | Daniel             | Pleasant Grove       |
| 82 | Deweyville         | Pleasant View        |
| 83 | Elwood             | Plymouth             |
| 84 | Erda City          | Portage              |
| 85 | Fairfield          | Providence           |
| 86 | Fielding           | Provo                |
| 87 | Garden City        | Randolph             |
| 88 | Garland            | Richmond             |
| 89 | Genola             | River Heights        |
| 90 | Goshen             | Rocky Ridge          |
| 91 | Grantsville        | Rush Valley          |

**H.J.R. 27**

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92	Harrisville	Salem
93	Henefer	Saratoga Springs
94	Hideout	Snowville
95	Highland	Springville
96	Honeyville	Stockton
97	Hooper	Tremonton
98	Howell	Trenton
99	Huntsville	Vernon
100	Hyrum	Wallsburg
101	Independence	Wellsville
102	Interlaken	Wendover
103	Lake Point City	West Point
104	Laketown	Willard
105	Lewiston	Woodland Hills
106	Logan	Woodruff
107	Mantua	