



# The News On UTAH'S NEW CLIMATE

**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING AND BUDGET**

SEPTEMBER 10, 2021



# Utah's New Climate - Aridification

*In a First, U.S. Declares Shortage on Colorado River, Forcing Water Cuts*

**Another reservoir goes dry as Utah's drought emergency continues**

**Drought puts farmers and ranchers in survival mode**

**Scofield runs out of drinking water**

**Long-term forecasts show Utah's drought possibly getting worse**

*A Drought So Dire That a Utah Town Pulled the Plug on Growth*



# Utah's New Climate - Heat

**Doctors worried about heat health impacts as Salt Lake hits record**

**Historic heat wave puts stranglehold on Utah's weather**

Officials Warn of Deadly Temperatures: 11 children have died this summer after being left alone in a vehicle

**Recapping Summer 2021: Another one for the record book**



# Utah's New Climate - Wildfire

**Rain will help clear out smoke Tuesday — but fire danger will be high across most of Utah**

**New Oak Grove Fire burns near I-15 in southern Utah**

**Wildfire threatening some structures near Lindon**

**Utah wildfire forces thousands of homes to evacuate as the nation's largest fire in California rages**



# Utah's New Climate - Smoke

## Colorado and Utah's Worst-In-The-World Air Quality Precedes Grim Climate Report

**SLC again ranks among world's worst air quality thanks to more wildfire smoke**



## Study: Wildfire smoke exposure increases risk of preterm birth

**How is it rainy and smoky in Utah?**

**Cough, sore throat, and trouble breathing: COVID-19 or exposure to wildfire smoke?**

## *Booming Utah's Weak Link: Surging Air Pollution*

A red-hot economy, wildfire smoke from California and the shriveling of the Great Salt Lake are making Utah's alarming pollution even worse.





# Utah's New Climate - Flood

**Severe weather hits Salt Lake area, flash flood warnings issued across Utah**

**THE LATEST: Rains pound Utah: Flooding closes I-215 at 3300 South**

**Heavy rains cause flooding and road closures throughout Salt Lake Valley**

**Iron County under another flash flood watch, residents concerned**

**Flooded Utah towns going without federal relief**

**'I'm devastated': Dozens of homes flooded in Holladay**



# Policy Spaces for Adaptation

1. Disaster Mitigation
2. Equity
3. Climate Migration
4. Electrical Infrastructure



# 1. Disaster Mitigation Planning

Media Alert: New Flood Warning Gage in Pack Creek near Moab Utah

**Mapleton residents evacuated again during Wednesday flooding**

**Flash flooding came within 75 feet of I-80 at Parleys Canyon Fire burn scar**





# 1. Disaster Mitigation Planning

**Utah's drought and low reservoirs add up to more intense algal blooms**

**Smoke hangs around in Utah thanks to heat dome**

**Great Salt Lake is shrinking fast. Scientists demand action before it becomes a toxic dustbin**

**Experts: Great Salt Lake drying out could result in \$2 billion loss per year**



## 2. Equity

**A woman died in the heat on Salt Lake City streets during a mental health crisis. Why her family says the system failed her**

**Amid record heat, Utah expert suggests new proposal to pay for AC**

**Extreme drought, urban heat and the Utah killer targeting the vulnerable**

There's a shady (and leafy) divide between Denver's whiter, wealthier neighborhoods and everyone else

Why an East Harlem Street Is 31 Degrees Hotter Than Central Park West



### 3. Climate Migration

**The great climate migration is happening and you might be the next to move**

**Cat 4 and 5 hurricanes, tornados where they haven't been, and rising temps ahead bode more of the same**



clayyy  
@yourdreamygaze



An elderly woman reacts as wildfires are reaching her house in Evia (Greece). The northern part of the island has been burning for days now, forcing its inhabitants who have spent their entire lives there to abandon their homes. I've never seen so much pain in just 1 pic....



3:51 PM · Aug 8, 2021



213 2 [Copy link to Tweet](#)



## 4. Electrical Infrastructure

*A Glimpse of America's Future: Climate Change Means Trouble for Power Grids*

**Heat Wave Generates Concerns Over Viability of Utah Power Grid**

**The Texas freeze: Why the power grid failed**

**Severe weather, blackouts show the grid's biggest problem is infrastructure, not renewables**



# Overcoming Barriers

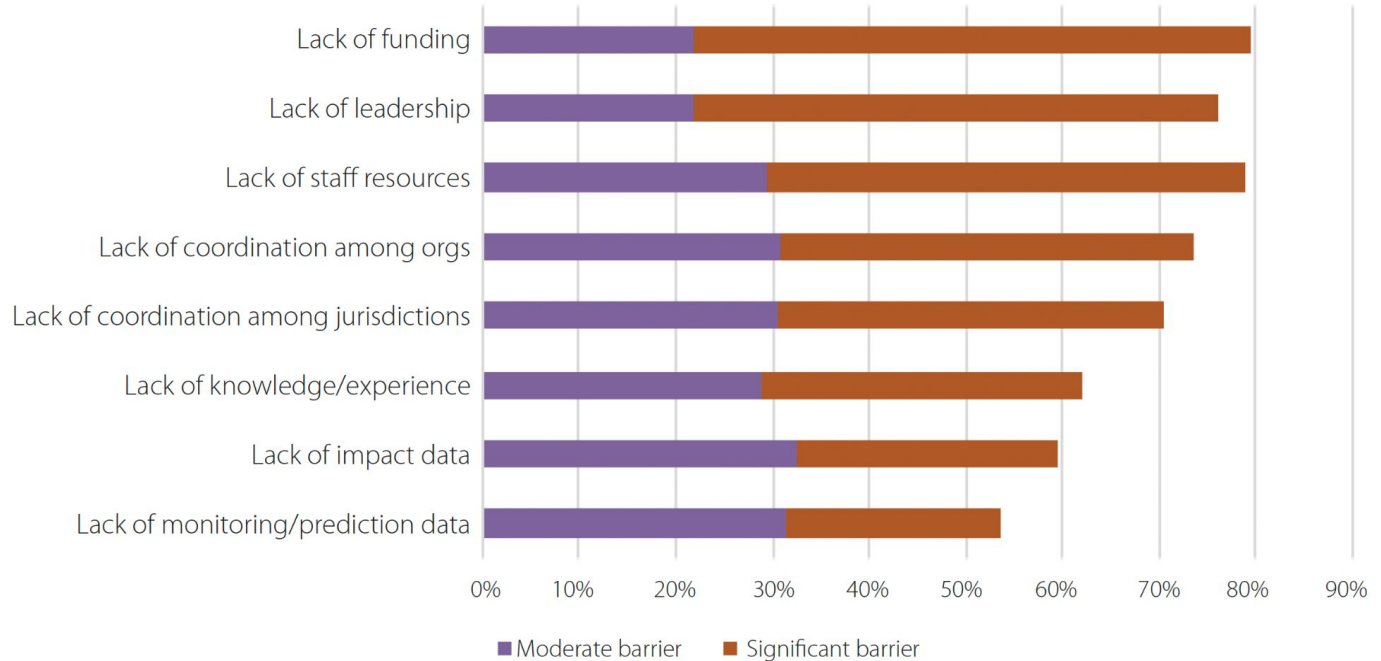
1. Repurpose Existing Plans
2. Think Across Topics and Entities
3. Tap into Existing Resources



*In a 2018 survey, APA members identified the biggest perceived barriers to addressing drought through planning.*

*Source: APA*

### Perceived Barriers to Addressing Drought Through Planning





# Repurpose Existing Plans and Regs

1. **Land Use** - Lot sizes, centers, landscaping requirements, TOD, infill
2. **Transportation** - Active transportation, public transit, complete streets, bioswales and stormwater management
3. **Housing** - Access to transit, disaster resilience
4. **Parks and Open Space** - Equitable access, flood retention,
5. **Environment** - Tree canopy, sensitive land protections, UWI
6. **Public Facilities** - Cooling centers
7. **Economic Development** - Water consumption needs, location



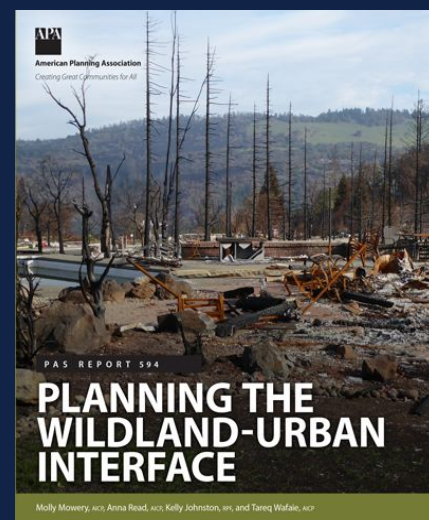
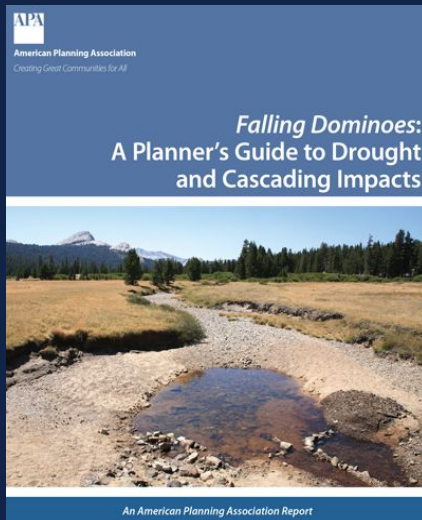
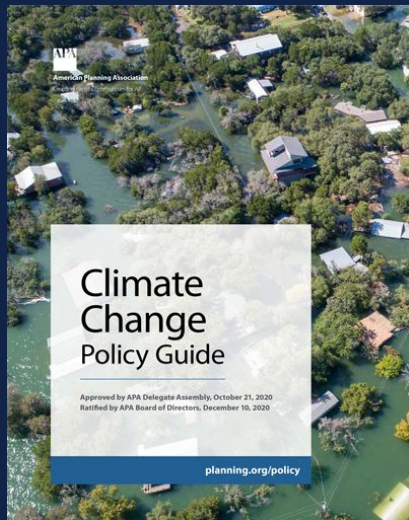
# Think Across Topics and Entities

- 1. Consider cascading disasters and regional context**
- 2. Employ robust public engagement to reach underrepresented populations**
- 3. Collaborate with neighboring cities and counties on cross jurisdictional issues - e.g. transportation, waterways**
- 4. Coordinate with state agencies**
- 5. Build relationships with development community, utility providers, and community organizations**





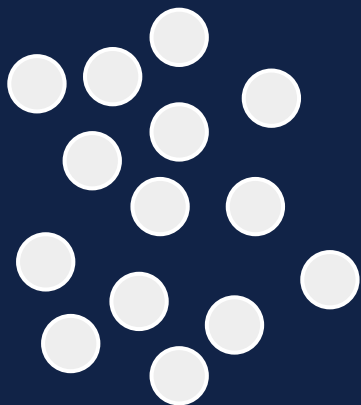
# Tap into Existing Resources





# Utah's Coordinated Water Action Plan

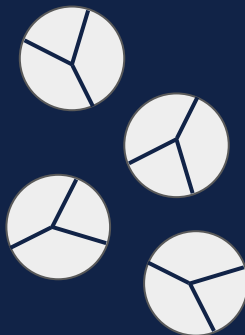
Decision  
Areas



Action  
Priorities



Strategies



Elected Official  
Decisions





# Utah's Coordinated Water Action Plan

## Vibrant Communities



## Productive Agriculture



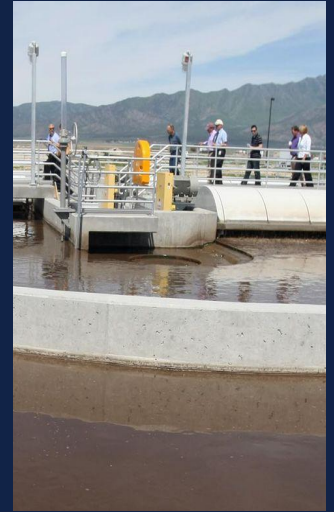
## Resilient Planning



## Healthy Waters & Watersheds



## Investing in Infrastructure





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STATE OF UTAH