

## Conference Sets New Standard

This year's 3-day Annual Conference of the Utah Resource Conservation & Development Council's Association, organized by Recycle Utah, set a new standard.

RU brought together more than 30 speakers and organizations to explore better solutions to water issues and discuss alternative energy opportunities.

Lt. Governor Gayle F. McKeachnie delivered a keynote address on the impact of the huge future growth predicted in on water needs. Educational sessions also discussed storm water permits to keep surface water pollution in check, and the impact of the drought on rivers & streams from the angler's perspective.

Perhaps most significant were the sessions on renewable energy. Randy Udall, Director of the Community Office for Resource Efficiency (CORE) in Aspen, Colorado, gave a keynote address on "Renewable energy of the future: What people need to know *now* in order to prepare to be a part of the solution."

"I came away from the meeting convinced that this nation must take active steps to seek viable renewable energy alternatives," said Sam Cunningham, co-president of the Utah Assoc. of RC&D Councils. "I am writing [Sen. Bennett] to urge support of initiatives aimed at researching alternative energy and providing incentives."

This three-day conference at the Yarrow Hotel was sponsored by the Utah Energy Office, the Park City Chamber of Commerce, Park City Municipal, National Resources Conservation Service, the Utah Clean Energy Alliance and the Alpine Soil Conservation District & Recycle Utah.

## Prepare for Fire Before it Happens

During a wildfire, resources are limited. Firefighters are faced with a triage situation and must pick homes they can defend. Make yours defensible before a wildfire occurs.

**Define & Create "Defensible Space."** Defensible space is the area between a house and the surrounding wildlands, where the vegetation has been modified to reduce the wildfire threat.

**Break Up with Non-Flammables.** Interrupt the layers of vegetation with rocks or mulches, patios and sidewalks to provide for separation between trees and small groups of shrubs.

**Eliminate "Ladder Fuels."** Remove vegetation that helps the fire spread from lower growing plants to taller ones. Prune lower tree branches, creeping vines or high shrubs.

**Lean, Clean & Green.** Keep an area free of debris — clean up pine needles & leaves.

**Check Your Roof.** Get rid of debris in gutters, remove branches. Install spark arrestors near chimneys. Check the rating of shingles and replace with fire-proof types.

**Store Water.** If there is an insufficient water supply, store water above or below ground. Swimming pools count.

**Make Fireproof Signs & Access.** Make sure your address is clearly displayed on a fireproof sign at the entrance to your property.

**Plan for Emergencies.** All family members should know the plan for securing the house, packing, and having a "safe area" where they can meet for a quick getaway.

*For an emergency planning and risk assessment, contact Janet Johnson at Wasatch Wildfire Safety in Midway at 657-0668.*



## Green Your Home!

Here are some tips to make your home green.

### Inside

Interface FLOR Carpet Tiles are derived from corn. They can easily be replaced and returned for recycling or commercial composting. [InterfaceFlor.com](http://InterfaceFlor.com).

O-Zone Lite is an energy-efficient fluorescent bulb is coated with an air purifier. [OzoneLite.com](http://OzoneLite.com)

WheatSheet is fiberboard made from wheat chaff. A great alternative to particle board. [EcoProducts.com](http://EcoProducts.com).

### Outside

Select Lawn Seeds that are right for the high arid desert.



Cut grass before it's overgrown but remove no more than one-third of the blade height.

Longer grass suppresses weeds

Avoid gas emissions—mow with an electric mower.

Don't fertilize — many lawns don't need it. Green fertilizers minimize toxic chemical runoff

Leave the clippings. Left on your lawn they reduce fertilizer need and return nutrients to the soil.