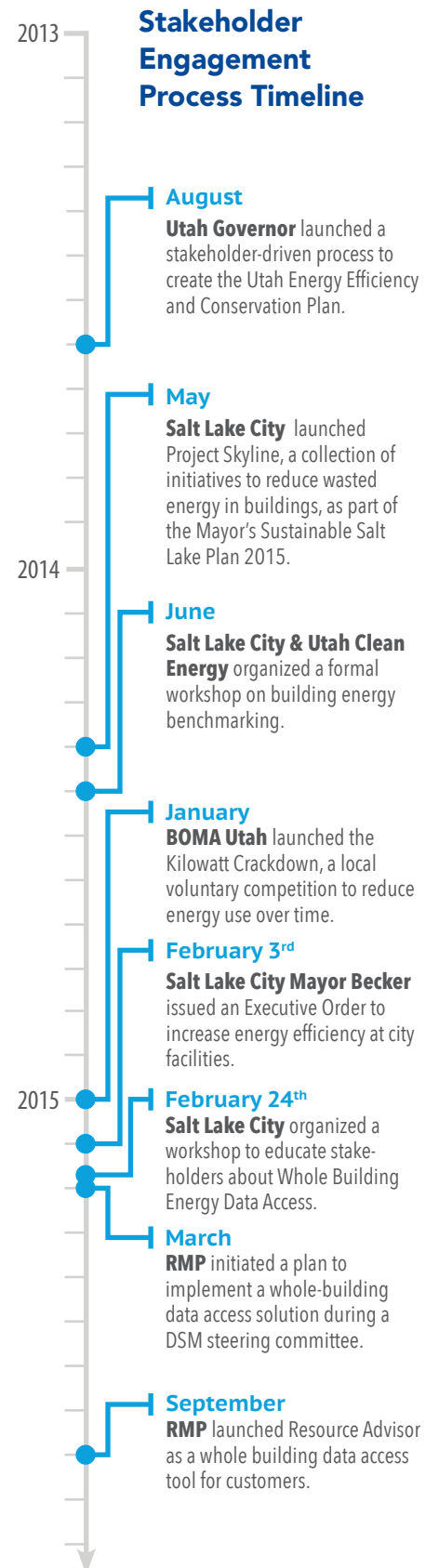Salt Lake City, Credit: Photo by Pond5, photo/44948763

Introduction

Better Buildings Energy Data Accelerator (BBEDA) partners Salt Lake City, the investor-owned electric utility Rocky Mountain Power (RMP), and the investor-owned natural gas utility Questar worked with community stakeholders throughout 2014 and 2015 to design and implement a data access solution. As a result, RMP created a data access portal for its customers in 2016, and Questar is working toward a data access solution that will be operational by 2017.

Drivers for Energy Data Access

Public and private sector-led efforts to encourage building energy benchmarking in the Salt Lake City area grew significantly over the past few years. Benchmarking was a key strategy in several initiatives, including the State of Utah's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plan, Salt Lake City's Project Skyline, and the Kilowatt Crackdown program launched by the Building Owners and Managers Association Utah chapter.
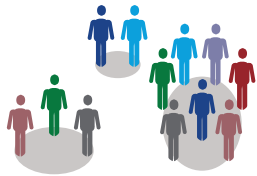
Local real estate owners cited the need to access whole-building energy consumption data to conduct benchmarking and participate in these initiatives. Responding to this need, Salt Lake City officials, along with a local nonprofit organization, Utah Clean Energy, began a process to identify and convene stakeholders to develop solutions, working in close coordination with Rocky Mountain Power and Questar.

Stakeholder Engagement Process Timeline

2013

August
Utah Governor launched a stakeholder-driven process to create the Utah Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plan.

May
Salt Lake City launched Project Skyline, a collection of initiatives to reduce wasted energy in buildings, as part of the Mayor's Sustainable Salt Lake Plan 2015.

2014

June
Salt Lake City & Utah Clean Energy organized a formal workshop on building energy benchmarking.

January
BOMA Utah launched the Kilowatt Crackdown, a local voluntary competition to reduce energy use over time.

February 3rd
Salt Lake City Mayor Becker issued an Executive Order to increase energy efficiency at city facilities.

2015

February 24th
Salt Lake City organized a workshop to educate stakeholders about Whole Building Energy Data Access.

March
RMP initiated a plan to implement a whole-building data access solution during a DSM steering committee.

September
RMP launched Resource Advisor as a whole building data access tool for customers.

Identifying Stakeholders and Solutions

Supported by Utah Clean Energy, Salt Lake City identified its major stakeholders and their key needs related to data access.

Stakeholders	Key Issues	Solutions
BOMA Utah **SLC School District** **Intermountain Healthcare**	▸ Building owners were initially confused about whether the capabilities of a data access solution would include additional benchmarking and energy analysis assistance. ▸ Building owners wanted to respect the privacy of their tenants.	▸ Utah Clean Energy and City officials convened meetings to clarify the expectations and objectives of a whole-building data access solution. ▸ Utah Clean Energy and City officials discussed data aggregation practices that help protect tenant privacy. Building owners were comfortable with an aggregation threshold of 5 or more tenants.
Rocky Mountain Power **Questar Gas**	▸ Utilities were seeking a method for protecting customer privacy. ▸ Utilities were concerned about the cost of developing a software solution to provide whole-building data to building owners.	▸ The utilities discussed their customer privacy concerns with peer BBEDA utilities and were comfortable with an aggregation threshold of 5 or more tenants. ▸ The utilities determined that they would work with a vendor to develop data access solutions, rather than use in-house IT resources, and that development costs could be covered with DSM budgets.

Determining a Stakeholder Engagement Forum

Data access was identified as a foundational issue for the success of existing and future Salt Lake City energy efficiency initiatives. Working with Utah Clean Energy, City officials designed an informal approach to build support for data access within its community. Both the City and Utah Clean Energy leveraged their existing relationships for effective outreach. Utility regulators were not formally engaged. Specifically, the stakeholder engagement process involved the following:

▸ Individual, in-person meetings were organized with each stakeholder including the BOMA Utah chapter; Salt Lake City School District; Intermountain Healthcare Group, and the State of Utah, followed by a formal workshop for Project Skyline, where RMP described its proposed solution for data access.

▸ The City facilitated multiple meetings among RMP and BOMA Utah. Leveraging the membership of BOMA Utah, the city was better able to facilitate contact between multiple building owners and the utilities.

▸ BOMA Utah wrote a letter to the utilities, signed by CBRE and other major real estate stakeholders, outlining the need for a data access solution.

▸ Utah Clean Energy organized a meeting at the RMP headquarters with representatives from each stakeholder group. These stakeholders informally served as an advisory group.

About the Better Buildings Energy Data Accelerator

The U.S. Department of Energy's Better Building Energy Data Accelerator (BBEDA) was a two-year partnership with cities and utilities to improve energy efficiency by making energy data more accessible to building owners. As a result of best practices developed by partners in this Accelerator, 18 utilities serving more than 2.6 million commercial customers nationwide will provide whole-building energy data access to building owners by 2017. This historic expansion of data accessibility will increase building energy benchmarking, the first step many building owners take to improve energy efficiency.

Learn more at eere.energy.gov/buildings/betterbuildings/accelerators/energy.html

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