Sustainability in Action at the Natural History Museum of Utah

- Areas disturbed during construction have been restored to their natural state, including natural gradation and the replanting of native vegetation.
- The Rio Tinto Center incorporates light concrete pavement and white roofing material to reduce or eliminate elevated temperatures improving the surrounding environment and air quality.
- Pervious concrete pavement covers the parking area allowing direct recharge of rainwater into the site's ground water system.
- The Museum site and the planted roof use water efficient landscaping.
- Outdoor lighting has been designed to be “dark sky” compliant which significantly cuts down on light pollution.
- Two 10,000 gallon cisterns collect rainwater from the roof of the Museum to irrigate the Museum site.
- The Museum's solar panel installation is one of the largest in the state. The system includes nearly 1,400 solar panels and provides nearly 500,000 kw/year to help power the Museum. Excess is sold back to RMP to be used in “the grid”.
- More than 75% of the Museum's construction waste was recycled including wood, metal, concrete, plastic and cardboard as well as office supplies.
- Approximately 20% of the structural and architectural materials were harvested, extracted and manufactured locally (within a 500-mile radius), resulting in a smaller carbon footprint and investment in regional and local economies.
- The site's stone walls, called "gabion walls", are constructed of stone taken from the original excavation for the building.
- High efficiency plumbing fixtures are used throughout the building to reduce water use.
- At least 90% of regularly occupied spaces have access to daylight and outside views, reducing energy use.
- Motion detectors are located throughout the building to turn lights off depending on occupancy.
- Replacement of halogen incandescent lighting in the exhibit galleries is an on-going project. This will greatly reduce the amount of energy used for lighting as well as cooling. Itg will also reduce the labor hours required to change the lamps.