PROJECT PURPOSE: A key to water conservation in Utah is to have an educated work force well versed in efficient irrigation, landscape design, and landscape maintenance. In a true spirit of collaboration, the Center for Water Efficient Landscaping, the Utah Nursery and Landscape Association, and the Water Conservation Garden Park at Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District have partnered with EPA WaterSense in adapting the California-based Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper certification program for Utah. The goal of this program is to educate landscape managers, contractors, and designers in the fundamental principles of landscape water conservation.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE:

- Since its establishment in 2012, the QWEL program has held multiple workshops and certified over 200 individuals. It shows no sign of stopping with over 50 certifications in 2016 alone.
- The Utah QWEL program was re-certified as an EPA WaterSense partner in 2015.
- In 2016 USU Extension provided the resources to bring a significant portion of the training online to allow a broader audience. That goal is nearing completion and should improve both the quality and availability of instruction.
- A website is maintained by Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District which allows the general public to find landscape professionals who have been certified through QWEL, thus extending this training to the public in general.