



Newsletter

March 2017
Issue 68

Alta Environmental Center
PO Box 8007 • Alta, UT 84092
environment@alta.com
801.832.1700



Sustainability at the Albion Grill — Nate Bramhall

When we think about food, what is it that concerns us the most? My guess is it's most often whether the meal's going to taste good. The cooks at the [Albion Grill](#) take the aspects of food production seriously, but unlike other cafeteria food vendors, the Grill folks are also concerned with making sure their food is sustainably sourced.

This is largely due to the diligent efforts of the manager, chef Jude Rubadue, who's been running operations at the Albion Grill for the past two seasons. Although Jude first introduced sustainable food practices to Alta in 2000 at Watson Shelter, her experience and dedication to sustainable food can be traced back to her time as an organic farmer during the 70s. Appropriately, Jude's motto is "Good, clean, fair food," and if you ever eat at the Albion Grill, you can taste her philosophy at work!

When I spoke with Jude, I brought up the [claim](#) that sustainable food tends to be a little more pricey, and asked how she navigates that issue. To which she promptly replied, "It depends on what you mean by 'pricey.' Having pollutants in the water, the air, the soil. That's pricey... just not in dollars." With such ecological priorities in mind, the Albion Grill currently purchases an estimated 20-30% of its food from certified sustainable sources. To name a few, beef from [Niman Ranch](#), [Coleman organic chicken](#), [Beehive Cheeses](#), and [Cremellini Fine Meats](#). So, next time you sit down to eat at the Albion Grill, know that you'll be eating something that's not only delicious, but more environmentally friendly.



Wildlife Author to Speak at Awards Ceremony - Nate Bramhall

Since 2014, the Alta Environmental Center has partnered with the University of Utah for the "[Alta Sustainability Leadership Awards](#)," which celebrates excellence in leadership for the health of our community and planet. We're anxiously anticipating this year's event - March 27th at the University library- not only to recognize the valuable research and work put in by this year's award recipients, but also to hear a keynote address delivered by best-selling author and wildlife biologist, Douglas Chadwick.

Chadwick has made a career by working to conserve and bring awareness to wilderness areas and their fascinating inhabitants.

Though he is best known for his seven-year [study](#) on mountain goats and grizzlies among the peaks of the Rocky Mountains, Doug has reported on wildlife all around the world, from whales in the sub-Antarctic to snow leopards in the Himalayas.

Having published fourteen [books](#) and over 200 articles on wildlife, natural history and conservation, Chadwick has also been a frequent [contributor](#) to *National Geographic* since 1977. His latest book is an adventure memoir called "Tracking Gobi Grizzlies," which focuses on celebrating and saving the world's rarest bears in Mongolia. In it, he describes his experiences while studying the Gobi Grizzly and demonstrates how saving this endangered key-stone species can help to conserve many of the Gobi's other wild inhabitants. Needless to say, perspectives like that of Douglas Chadwick's are few and far-between, and we feel honored to hear from him at the upcoming awards ceremony, which of course is a free public event, and you're invited!



“Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads.”

Thoreau



UCAN and the Path to Positive —Nate Bramhall

No matter your political, scientific or faith-based stance on the causes of climate change, the fact is, it is [happening](#) and Utah stands to experience harsh effects. If you’ve ever looked down the canyon on an ‘inversion day,’ you’ve seen how quickly weather along the Wasatch front can shift in response to changes in the atmosphere. Most of Utah’s air quality issues stem from the abundance of emissions released from automobiles and buildings, and once the inversion clears, that pollution persists worldwide. Which is largely why [addressing](#) local climate change issues in a timely and strategic manner is an especially urgent issue for Utahns.

In 2015, guided by Salt Lake City, Alta Ski Area joined with Park City, the Salt Lake City Public Health Dept., Utah Clean Energy

and the University of Utah to create the [Utah Climate Action Network](#) (UCAN). Put simply, UCAN functions as a non-partisan facilitator of investigation, conversation, and positive engagement regarding climate action. As an inherently collaborative project, the success of UCAN depends directly on willing cooperation between a [diverse set](#) of community members, including businesses, research institutions, municipalities, faith-based and non-profit organizations.

After speaking with the network’s program manager, Ryan Stolley, it became clear to me that meaningful conversation with community leaders really is where the path to effective climate action starts: “a lot of people are concerned about climate issues, so finding them and connecting them with useful resources is one of our main objectives.” Of course, part of the challenge with doing so is that the nature of current climate discussion can be polarizing. For some organizations, taking a stance on climate issues means risking reputation among their peers and constituents. In an effort to reframe and normalize the conversation around climate change, UCAN is encouraging Salt Lake City to become the nation’s 2nd “[Path to Positive Community](#).” This means UCAN is reaching out to trusted community leaders to take a public stance in support of climate action. Which is where you come in.

Whether you’re a business owner or a religious leader, if you’d like to get involved with climate action in a meaningful way, contact Ryan Stolley directly at ryan@utahcleanenergy.org, and he’ll connect you with the right resources to get to work. To stay informed on UCAN’s progress, follow them on Twitter (@utclimateaction) or [Facebook](#).

March-April Sustainability Events

If these highlighted sustainability events catch your eye, check out our full sustainability calendar at alta.com/alta-environmental-center/resources#sustainability-events.

- **March 27—Alta Sustainability Leadership Awards:** Join us at the University of Utah to recognize innovative contributions to making a more sustainable world. sustainability.utah.edu/education/recognition/alta-awards
- **March 31—Environmental Education Workshop:** Integrating Outdoor Recreation & EE! usee.org/programs/workshops
- **April 7—Alta Gala:** Support your local Alta nonprofits by dancing the salsa at La Caille. More info at altagala2017.afrogs.org
- **April 15—Alta Earth Day:** Join us for the 8th annual community Alta Earth Day, celebrating environmental stewardship, responsible recreation and awareness of the relationship between climate change and the future of the ski industry. We will have snowshoe tours, eco-friendly vendors, Tour With a Ranger, bird tours, après ski with a film and opportunity drawings. See it all at alta.com/the-mountain/events/earth-day

