

Fact Sheet

Urbanova leverages the vibrant urban advantages of Spokane, Washington to find new ways to make communities better for people. Spokane’s downtown University District is the living laboratory for scalable, replicable projects that harness data to gain insights, empower people and solve urban challenges in new ways—all with the goal of enabling healthier citizens, safer neighborhoods, smarter infrastructure, a more sustainable environment and a stronger economy.

LOCATED IN THE HUB OF THE INTERMOUNTAIN NORTHWEST

Urbanova is located in Spokane’s University District. Spokane is a mid-sized city with a population of more than 220,000 and serves as the cultural, economic, educational and social hub of the Intermountain Northwest, serving more than 1 million people. Adjacent to Spokane’s vibrant downtown, the University District encompasses 770 acres of mixed-use urban land, including academic and mixed-use buildings, residential neighborhoods, and undeveloped and underdeveloped land. Six higher education institutions operate in the University District.

BENEFITING CITIES AND CITIZENS

- **Healthier citizens:** data, research and tools that will positively impact public health
- **Safer neighborhoods:** tools and data that will support public safety and livability
- **Smarter infrastructure:** infrastructure and systems that last longer, work better, have greater capacity and operate more efficiently
- **A more sustainable environment:** projects that help to increase conservation of scarce resources and support a healthy environment
- **Stronger economy:** increased investment and jobs in the region and opportunities for developers, entrepreneurs, researchers and community partners

URBANOVA PROJECTS

- **Smart and Connected Streetlights Pilot:** Helping increase energy efficiency and public safety, this pilot enables the intelligent management and control of the streetlights using a smart, connected sensor network. The pilot also features a human-scale urban air quality R&D component, measuring environmental factors to improve understanding of pollution and health in a community.
- **Shared Energy Economy Model Pilot:** As a part of a grant from the Washington Department of Commerce and its Clean Energy Fund, Avista is working with several partners to pilot a Shared Energy Economy model in the University District. This model will allow various energy assets to be shared and used for multiple purposes no matter who owns the assets. Demonstrating both consumer and utility benefit, this pilot project aims to improve system efficiency and grid resiliency.
- **Gallup People-centered Research:** Urbanova and Gallup are working together to identify projects that matter to citizens. They are developing one of the world’s premier people-centered smart cities platforms to give municipalities and their stakeholders data and insights they need to improve the social, economic and environmental equity and resiliency of neighborhoods. Gallup and Urbanova will develop, test and deploy smart city initiatives using findings from its unique Community Impact Evaluation System, which captures previously unavailable behavioral, attitudinal and emotional indicators.

PARTNERS

- City of Spokane
- Avista Utilities
- University District Development Association
- Itron
- Washington State University
- McKinstry
- Gallup
- Verizon



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