



Thomas Gunter <thomasgunter@utah.gov>

Division of Air Quality- Public Comment on air quality in Salt Lake Valley

1 message

gmail [REDACTED]
To: thomasgunter@utah.gov

Fri, Oct 26, 2018 at 5:45 AM

Hello Thomas,

I am writing to give my input about air quality strategies in the Salt Lake Valley. I have lived in Cottonwood Heights with my wife and two young children since 2013. We love the area for all the outdoor opportunities, as well as the economic and cultural ones. My wife is a Nurse Practitioner with the U of U, while I am in the property management industry.

Despite the beauty and job opportunities in the area, there are times we contemplate moving away. Those times always occur during the winter inversions when the area quality is so bad we can't even send our children (6 and 8) outside to play. It's truly discouraging, and worrisome, for us as parents to think our children (and us) are breathing in all the toxic junk that comes with bad air quality days. As you know, science is proving just how dangerous this smog can be to human health.

As you also know, there are no easy solutions to this problem.

However, there are steps I believe that could push the Salt Lake Valley in the right direction toward much cleaner air.

1. Much higher EV tax credits- Give Salt lake valley residents a strong financial incentive to drive electric vehicles. Electric vehicles are the future and they are ready for mass implementation right here, right now! Bonus idea- Fund the program through a green lottery of some kind, so we don't have to fight anti-tax increase groups trying to kill the program.
2. Encourage companies to let employees work from home during inversion days. Keeping people off the road should be priority #1 during inversions. If people could work from home, which many are in tech jobs where that's possible, it would take a big chunk of cars off the road. Companies could get a tax break of some kind if they implemented a work from home system.
3. Make UTA buses free during the winter months. Public transportation would be much more appealing to the average person if it were free. Again, fund this through a green lottery.
4. Tougher emission standards for diesel trucks- I see it all the time. Light Duty diesel pick up trucks spewing dark smoke as they roll down the road. Whether it's unintentional or intentional (rolling coal as they say) it's frustrating to witness. Many of these diesel trucks have the catalytic converter torn out of them to make them "perform" better. That should be illegal and a major fine if caught. During emissions testing, have all these trucks checked for catalytic converters. Don't allow the truck to be driven if it doesn't have one. Also, instead of checking emissions through the port under the dash, hook the truck up to a sniff tester at the tailpipe. Test what's actually coming out of the tailpipe! Finally, require diesel trucks to be emission tested every year.

Thanks for your time. I hope the DAQ does all it can to protect the air we all breathe.

Justin Vietor
[REDACTED]