

DEQ Clean Utah Policy

Scope

This policy provides guidance for the implementation of the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) *Clean Utah* Program.

Program Structure

Clean Utah is a voluntary program designed to recognize and reward facilities or entities that are willing to take steps, beyond those required by rule or statute, to prevent or reduce pollution.

The program is divided into three tiers. Requirements, recognition and incentives are tier-based.

1. Tier One – Entry (Bronze or Silver) Level:

Participants may remain in Tier Three as long as they are actively working on approved projects, are following their EMS implementation, and are meeting all eligibility requirements.

- **Bronze Level:** Entity completes an initial application and identifies one potential environmental improvement project and identifies the associated metrics for measuring reduction or prevention of pollution. Participants will be required to submit an annual report documenting their progress. Incentives at this level are limited to technical assistance in developing an environmental improvement project and designation on the DEQ website and other publicity as one who is interested in and has started the *Clean Utah* process. Participants may remain in the Bronze Level as long as they are actively working on approved projects and are meeting all eligibility requirements.
- **Silver Level:** Entity completes an initial application and, once accepted, develops and implements an Environmental Management System (EMS). An EMS must be completed and operational within two years of being accepted into the program. Incentives at this level are limited to technical assistance in developing an EMS and to designation on the DEQ website and other publicity as one who is interested in and has started the *Clean Utah* process.

2. Tier Two – Partner Level - Applicant is accepted, based on a compliance review, on the fact that the EMS has been implemented for one full cycle¹, and on the strength of projects to improve environmental performance. A multi-interest review panel makes recommendation for advancement into this tier based on defined criteria. Applicant is eligible for the incentive package, including the use of the Clean Utah Partner logo.

Advancement to Tier Three is not necessary. Participants may remain in Tier Two as long as they are actively working approved projects, are following their EMS, and are meeting all eligibility requirements.

Participants will be required to submit an annual report documenting their progress. Participants are required that the applicant work on two approved projects to maintain Tier Two status. Once a project is logically completed, a new project must be proposed and approved. DEQ reserves the right to conduct site visits and/or to request additional documentation to verify a project's status. DEQ may also request appropriate documentation of an EMS and/or make site visits to verify its implementation.

¹ An EMS is a full or continual cycle of planning, implementing, reviewing and improving the processes and actions that an organization undertakes to meet its business and environmental goals. Most are built on the "Plan, Do, Check, Act" model which leads to continual improvement based upon: (1) Planning, including identifying environmental aspects and establishing goals [plan]; (2) Implementing, including training and operational controls [do]; (3) Checking, including monitoring and corrective action [check]; and (4) Reviewing, including progress reviews and acting to make needed changes to the EMS [act].)

3. Tier Three – Leader Level - Applicant is accepted, based on a compliance review, on the fact that the requirements of Tier Two have been met for at least three years and on the strength of a proposed leadership environmental project. In addition, Tier Three participants are encouraged to participate as a mentor in a mentoring program. A multi-interest review panel makes recommendation for advancement into this tier, based on defined criteria.

Participants may remain in Tier Three as long as they are actively working on approved projects, are following their EMS implementation, and are meeting all eligibility requirements.

Participants will be required to submit an annual report documenting their progress. Once a project is logically completed, a new project must be proposed and approved to maintain Tier Three status. DEQ reserves the right to conduct site visits and/or to request additional documentation to verify a project's status. DEQ may also request appropriate documentation of an EMS and/or make site visits to verify its implementation.

Eligibility

Any facility or entity governed by applicable federal, state, or local environmental regulations is eligible to participate provided they:

A - have not been in Significant Noncompliance, had a High Priority Violation, had a Severity Level I, II, or III Violation, or the equivalent violation for one year or three in three years.

B - have not had any criminal violations of environmental regulations for the past five years and are not currently the focus of an environmental criminal investigation.

C- have no other open or unresolved violation(s).

In addition, the facility or entity will not have a continuing pattern of noncompliance that would reflect past practices that are inconsistent with the aims of this program. To make this determination, the following will be considered:

- Prior attitudes of willfulness and/or negligence with regards to compliance with environmental requirements. Factors to be considered include how much control the facility or entity had over the foresee-ability of events and whether representatives made or could have made reasonable efforts to prevent violations.

- Lack of good faith efforts to resolve issues. Good faith takes into account the openness in dealing with violations, the promptness in correction of problems, and the degree of cooperation with the State to include accessibility to

information and the amount of State effort historically needed to bring the source into compliance.

- Failure to meet environmental improvement goals and make necessary corrections to ensure that adequate progress is being made to meet designated goals.

A company with multiple facilities may apply as a single entity or application may be made for each individual facility. If the application is made on behalf of an individual facility, the *Clean Utah* designation and the corresponding incentives will only apply to that one facility and not to the company as a whole.

Compliance status will be determined by the appropriate DEQ program(s) and in consultation with EPA and the Local Health Department.

Once accepted into *Clean Utah*, the participant agrees to remain in compliance and demonstrate significant progress towards environmental improvement goals. Failure to meet A and B above or environmental improvement goals will be grounds for removal. Eligibility may be continued while properly exercised contests to or appeals of violations are being considered. Action for other violations may also be taken, including a suspension of incentives until the issue is resolved, based on a recommendation by the appropriate DEQ program.

In making a determination of an appropriate action, the nature of the violation and the circumstances surrounding it will be taken into consideration. The DEQ Deputy Director or Director's designee must approve the action taken with regard to *Clean Utah* status.

Application Process

Applications will be reviewed on a semi-annual basis, with the exception of the Entry (Bronze) Level.

Applications will be submitted to the DEQ Office of Planning and Public Affairs where they will be reviewed for completeness and for program impact. Copies will be made and distributed to each impacted program. Each program will check compliance status and, where appropriate, will review the proposed project. To be accepted, each program must be in agreement.

EPA and the Local Health Department will be consulted to determine compliance status and to comment on proposed projects. EPA approval will be needed to receive EPA incentives.

The levels of application include:

- 1. Initial Application to Tier One** - Application will include a statement of what the company does, what permits they hold, if applicable, what their compliance status is, and what they hope to accomplish in the program. DEQ will approve applications at this level.

2. Application to Tier Two - Application will document ongoing compliance status, the completion and implementation of an EMS for at least one full cycle, the two proposed projects for environmental improvement, requested incentives, and a recommendation for public participation. DEQ staff specialists will make recommendations on the proposed projects, on the EMS, and on the Public Participation proposal. A multi-interest review panel will also generally review applications and make a recommendation, based on defined criteria. DEQ will formally admit or reject an applicant, based on these recommendations.

3. Application to Tier Three – Application will document that the requirements of Tier Two have been met for at least three years. A leadership environmental project from one or all the three Core areas must be proposed. A recommendation for public participation and mentoring and the incentives requested will also be included. DEQ staff specialists will make recommendations on the proposed projects, on the EMS, and on the Public Participation and mentoring proposals. A multi-interest review panel will also review applications and make a recommendation, based on defined criteria. DEQ will formally admit or reject an applicant, based on these recommendations.

Environmental Management System (EMS)

Participants are required to develop and implement an Environmental Management System. Participants must document an implemented EMS to be considered for Tier Two and Tier Three. DEQ or its designee reserves the right to request documentation of the EMS and/or to make site visits for verification.

Several EMS models currently exist, including ISO-14001, and the applicant is free to select the model which best meets individual circumstances. However, any EMS selected must have the following components:

Environmental Policy

Environmental Policy - A statement of the organization's commitment to the environment. This policy is used as a framework for planning and action.

Planning

Environmental Aspects - Identify environmental attributes of products, activities and services. Determine those that could have significant impacts on the environment.

Legal and Other Requirements - Identify and ensure access to relevant laws and regulations, as well as other requirements to which the organization adheres.

Objectives and Targets - Establish environmental goals for the organization, in line with the policy, environmental impacts, the views of interested parties and other factors.

Environmental Management Program - Plan actions necessary to achieve objectives and targets.

Implementation and Operation

Structure and Responsibility - Establish roles and responsibilities for environmental management and provide appropriate resources.

Training, Awareness and Competence - Ensure that employees are trained and capable of carrying out environmental responsibilities.

Communication - Establish processes for internal and external communications on environmental management issues.

EMS Documentation - Maintain information on the EMS and related documents.

Document Control - Ensure effective management of procedures and other system documents.

Operational Control - Identify, plan and manage operations and activities in line with policy, objectives and targets.

Emergency Preparedness and Response - Identify potential emergencies and develop procedures for preventing and responding to them.

Checking and Corrective Action

Monitoring and Measurement - Monitor key activities and track performance. Conduct periodic assessments of compliance with legal requirements (self-audit).

Nonconformance and Corrective and Preventive Action - Identify and correct problems and prevent their recurrence.

Records - Maintain and manage records of EMS performance.

EMS Audit - Periodically verify that the EMS is operating as intended.

Management Review

Management Review - Periodically review the EMS with an eye to continual improvement.

Environmental Improvement Projects

Participation in Tiers Two and Three requires that the applicant work on two approved projects designed to significantly reduce or prevent pollution. In addition, participants in Tier Three must also work on a leadership project. A project is defined as something that is not required by statute or by rule and that falls within the guidelines listed below.

“Significant” will be determined in relation to the industry sector and to previous environmental improvement efforts of the applicant.

To be eligible, the Tier One – Entry (Bronze or Silver) Level applicant must propose at least one project from the Core or Suggested Project Areas. The Tier Two – Partner (Gold) Level applicant must propose a project that benefits at least one of the Core areas and a project from one of the Suggested areas. A Leadership project should benefit one of the Core areas. “Significance” must be demonstrated by the applicant. The Tier One – Entry (Bronze or Silver) Level applicant must propose at least one project from the Core or Suggested Project Areas.

DEQ staff specialists will review the project to determine whether it goes beyond compliance, is viable, and whether the timeframe makes sense. The multi-interest review panel will also generally review and make a recommendation on the proposed projects.

Core Project Areas

Waste Reduction - The overall goal of the project would be to either reduce the amount of waste being generated or to substitute more harmful products with those that are less harmful to the environment. Projects may fall within any of the following categories:

1. Solid Waste
2. Hazardous Waste
3. Waste Management

Water Management - The overall project focus should be on protecting water sources and/or using water more efficiently. Projects may fall within any of the following categories:

1. Storm Water
2. Waste Water
3. Surface Water
4. Ground Water
5. Wetlands
6. Water Conservation
7. Water Efficiency

Air Emissions - The focus of projects proposed in this area should be the reduction of pollutants below standards outlined in the permit.

In addition, the applicant must select at least one project from the Suggested list to compliment and augment the Core project. This list is not comprehensive. Other projects may be considered, based on the applicability and environmental benefit.

Suggested Project Areas

Transportation Management

1. Clean fuels and related technology – may include dedicated CNG and zero

emission vehicles

2. Fleet management
3. Trip reduction and consolidation
4. Commuter trip reduction
 - Support use of mass transit
 - Flex schedules, compressed work week
 - Telecommuting

Recycling/Reuse

1. Paper/Office
2. Cardboard
3. Metal
4. Plastics
5. Electronics
6. Others

Procurement

1. Buy recycled products
2. Purchase less toxic products
3. Look at where production materials are coming from and favor lowest environmental impact
4. Purchase more efficient, more environmentally protective products

Energy Conservation

1. Purchase or generate renewable energy
2. Energy efficiency measures and buildings
3. Reduce use of electricity/natural gas
4. Reduction of greenhouse gases
5. Reduction of peak power use

Land Use Management

1. Brownfield or USTfield development
2. Voluntary cleanup project
3. Establish a conservation easement
4. Quality Growth Community
5. 21st Century Community

Incentives

All *Clean Utah* participants will be eligible to participate in publicity and an annual meeting with DEQ policy leaders.

Incentives for Tier Two and Three will be negotiated, based on site-specific conditions and the ability of the DEQ program to provide them. The *Clean Utah* application will include a space for the applicant to indicate the incentives of interest. Incentives may include:

- Selected permit enhancements

- Facility specific incentives
- Recommendation for a reduced percentage or higher priority on loan funds. (This incentive is conditional, based on the approval of the appropriate Board) - Reduced Oversight and/or low inspection priority
- Self audit

The *Clean Utah* logo may be used by participants in Tiers One, Two and Three after acceptance to the program and demonstrating progress toward environmental improvement goals. Participation in these Tiers may also be considered by DEQ Boards under the compliance history and good faith components of civil penalty applications.

In the case of a multi-site company, the incentives – including logos and other designations - may only be used for those facilities that have formally been admitted into *Clean Utah*.

Multi-Interest Review Panel

DEQ will appoint a multi-interest public panel to review applications to Tier Two and Tier Three and make recommendations for advancement, based on defined criteria

The panel will consist of one representative from:

- Local Health Department
- Municipal or County Organization
- Industry
- Small Business
- Trade Association
- Environmental Group
- P2 Association
- Academia
- Civic Organization

Ex Officio Members

- DEQ
- EPA

The panel will be appointed by the DEQ Executive Director. In considering the panel make-up, DEQ will insure that the following expertise is represented:

- Members will have a broad media focus for the interest each represents
- One or more members will have experience with implementing EMSs.
- One or more members will have an understanding of environmental improvement projects.

The panel may request outside project- or industry-specific information to help it reach its recommendation. If the panel approves advancement but the decision is not reached by consensus, the recommendation back to DEQ should include a summary of concerns considered by the group and why the decision made was reached. If the panel does not recommend advancement into the next Tier, its reason why and what needs to be remedied to allow the application to be favorably considered must be included in its comments. The DEQ Executive Director or designee will make the final decision on *Clean Utah* Tier advancement.

Verification of EMS

Participants must document an implemented EMS to be considered for Tier Two and Tier Three. Participants are also required to submit an annual report to DEQ. The format will be simple and will certify ongoing compliance and will include a summary of the project commitments, accomplishments to date, major indicators of environmental improvements, and its plans for next year as they relate to this program. Participants must document an implemented EMS to be considered for Tier Two and Tier Three.

Public Participation

All participants in Tier Two and Three will be required to conduct public outreach activities. The nature and complexity of the activities will be determined by the size of the business, the nature of the projects being proposed, and the business' overall environmental impact on the surrounding community. Participants will make outreach recommendations that will be considered and approved as part of the overall application for each Tier.

In addition, DEQ will maintain a *Clean Utah* website that will include information about each participant, including applications and annual reports, as well as general information about the program and the progress being made. Public comments on posted applications will be taken for 30-days prior to a decision being made.

Mentoring

Tier Three participants are encouraged to design an environmental mentoring component as part of their project proposal. The mentoring proposal will be considered and approved as part of the overall application for Tier Three.

Program Review

DEQ is committed to a regular review of the effectiveness of the Clean Utah program. Changes will be made, as appropriate.

Participants will have the opportunity to provide feedback make recommendations for improvements as part of the annual report process. Other opportunities may be provided for feedback, including at the annual meeting with DEQ policy leaders.

Comments and feedback will also be sought from other DEQ stakeholders including members of the multi-interest review panel, DEQ Boards, DEQ staff, and interested stakeholders on an annual basis.