



State of Utah

Department of  
Environmental Quality

Amanda Smith  
*Executive Director*

Brad T Johnson  
*Deputy Director*

GARY R. HERBERT.  
*Governor*

GREG BELL  
*Lieutenant Governor*

**NEWS RELEASE**

**Friday, May 3, 2013**

**Contact:**

Donna Kemp Spangler  
Communications Director  
(801) 536-4484 desk  
(801) 554-4944 cell  
dspangler@utah.gov

## **DEQ Wants You to Participate in Ozone Video Contest**

Salt Lake City, Utah – Forget about MTV. It's time to get your YouTube groove on.

The Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and its Division of Air Quality (DAQ) is encouraging Utahns to participate in a YouTube contest that offers cash prizes for the winning entrees of 30-second videos that demonstrates what we can do to improve air quality during summer ozone periods.

In conjunction with Governor Gary R. Herbert's declaration of May "Clean Air Awareness Month," the contest hopes to inspire Utahns to 'do something to improve air quality.'

Ozone, often referred to as smog, is Utah's problem pollutant from June to August. It's a combination of vehicle and industrial emissions that mix in the atmosphere on hot, sunny days. It can cause health impacts but is easy to avoid for those looking to exercise and play outside.

The largest contributor of ozone comes from vehicle exhaust, said Bryce Bird, director of DAQ. "Not driving is the best way to prevent ozone pollution, but other things help as well."

"I ride my bike once a week to cut down on pollution during the summer," added Amanda Smith, executive director of DEQ. "But there are other simple things people can do to help protect air quality and our health. For instance, switching to water-based paints, replacing old metal gasoline cans, and not mowing lawns on hot, sunny days make a difference in lowering our ozone levels."

DAQ is now monitoring for ozone pollution and posting a three-day forecast at: [airquality.utah.gov](http://airquality.utah.gov). To learn more about the contest, visit:

[http://www.deq.utah.gov/What\\_You\\_Can\\_Do/ozonecontest.htm](http://www.deq.utah.gov/What_You_Can_Do/ozonecontest.htm).

###