



State of Utah

GARY R. HERBERT  
Governor

SPENCER J. COX  
Lieutenant Governor

Department of  
Environmental Quality

Amanda Smith  
Executive Director

Brad T Johnson  
Deputy Director

**NEWS RELEASE**  
Tuesday, January 17, 2013  
**Contact:**

Donna Kemp Spangler  
Communications Director  
Office: 801-536-4484  
Cell: 801-554-4944  
[dspangler@utah.gov](mailto:dspangler@utah.gov)

*State of the Environment Report highlights accomplishments, challenges*  
**DEQ Releases Annual Environmental Report for 2013**

Salt Lake City, Utah –Today, the Department of Environmental Quality released its [State of the Environment Report](#) showcasing agency accomplishments to protect and enhance Utah’s air, land, and water.

The report highlights improvements to Utah’s environment, provides updates on important environmental issues, and shares stories about the ways agency programs protect the public’s health and quality of life.

DEQ made significant progress this year in its efforts to reduce air emissions and improve public awareness about the causes and health impacts of Utah’s air pollution. The PM<sub>2.5</sub> State Implementation Plan was finalized this year and will bring the state into attainment with federal health-based standards for fine particulate pollution by 2019. The Division of Air Quality teamed up with Weber State to develop an air quality app that provides real-time information on air quality conditions. The Communications Office partnered with the Utah Health Department to raise public awareness about summer ozone.

“Our citizens have made it clear that air quality is a top priority for our state,” explains Amanda Smith, executive director of DEQ. “We are committed to finding solutions to our seasonal air pollution challenges.”

The report also describes agency programs that protect drinking water, oversee cleanup of contaminated areas, assist businesses with compliance with environmental regulations, partner with local health departments, and provide important information to the public on environmental hazards.

“We are proud of our accomplishments, but much remains to be done,” adds Smith. “We are unwavering in our commitment to protect Utah’s air, land, and water.”

To access the report, visit: <http://www.deq.utah.gov/envrpt/index.htm>.

###

**About DEQ**

Established in 1991, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) mission is to safeguard public health and quality of life by protecting and enhancing the environment. DEQ implements state and federal environmental laws and works with individuals, community groups and businesses to protect the quality of Utah's air, land and water. For more information, visit [www.deq.utah.gov](http://www.deq.utah.gov), follow DEQ on Facebook ([newseq](#)) and Twitter ([@UTDEQ](#)), or call 1-800-458-0145.