



State of Utah

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**NEWS RELEASE**

April 8, 2014

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## DEQ Employees Celebrate Earth Day at Work and Home During the “12 Days of Earth Day”

SALT LAKE CITY — To celebrate Earth Day this year, Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) employees will be participating in the “12 Days of Earth Day,” starting Thursday, April 10, to highlight simple, earth-friendly activities that can be done at work and at home.

During the 12 days leading up to Earth Day on Tuesday, April 22, DEQ employees will ride public transportation, carpool, walk and bike whenever possible to help reduce air pollution. In addition, they will also participate in daily activities to reduce, reuse and recycle, such as:

- Conduct a household hazardous waste inventory
- Stop junk mail delivery
- Reduce energy use
- Schedule car maintenance
- Conserve water

“I am constantly impressed with the commitment our employees have participating in earth day activities all year,” said Amanda Smith, executive director of DEQ. “This initiative is really a celebration of the simple, but significant choices DEQ staff make on a daily basis to help improve the quality of life for everyone in Utah.”

During the 12 Days of Earth Day, DEQ employees and the activities they are passionate about will be featured on DEQ’s new blog—[dequtah.blogspot.com](http://dequtah.blogspot.com) – which launched today, featuring Executive Director Amanda Smith. Ongoing, the blog will highlight DEQ programs, staff, current events and issues relevant to Utah’s environment.

The public is invited to join DEQ employees in the celebration and can find a full list of the 12 activities on DEQ’s website ([www.earthday.utah.gov](http://www.earthday.utah.gov)). Those on social media can follow DEQ’s Earth Day activities on Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest using the hash tag #12DaysOfEarthDay.

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### 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 ([utahdeq](https://www.facebook.com/utahdeq)) and Twitter ([@UtahDEQ](https://twitter.com/UtahDEQ)), or call 1-800-458-0145.