



State of Utah

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DEQ Releases Annual Environmental Report for 2014

State of the Environment Report Spotlights Agency Successes, Efficiencies

Salt Lake City, Utah – The Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) released its annual [State of the Environment Report](#) today. The end-of-year report provides a concise, comprehensive look at agency activities and initiatives that protected and enhanced the quality of Utah’s air, land, and water in 2014.

This year’s report focuses on the agency’s implementation of Governor Gary Herbert’s SUCCESS Framework, a set of management principles designed to improve quality and efficiency in state government. Process improvements across the agency have resulted in cost savings, streamlined processes, and a healthier environment. The report is available on DEQ’s Website: <http://www.deq.utah.gov/NewsNotices/annualreport/index.htm>.

“We are leading the way by searching for more efficient ways to do our work,” explains Amanda Smith, executive director of DEQ. “In addition, our dedication to sharing information, working with stakeholders, and increasing our transparency with the public helps us engage in collaborative, solution-oriented problem-solving.”

DEQ made significant progress this year in its efforts to address air quality issues, thanks in large part to generous funding from the Utah Legislature for air quality research, a wood-burning education campaign, and the CARROT grants and loan program for engine retrofits. A new rule that limits phosphorus loading in Utah waters from wastewater treatment plants will help address one of the causes of nutrient pollution, a serious statewide problem that made headlines this year following the deaths of two dogs at Utah Lake. DEQ oversight of the cleanup of contaminated lands—such as the former Geneva Steel plant—helps return lands to beneficial and economic reuse.

The report also highlights a number of day-to-day activities at DEQ—X-ray inspections, compliance visits, sanitary surveys for drinking water, and electronic waste disposal—that sometimes go unnoticed, but play an important role in protecting the public and the environment. Success at DEQ, according to the report, is best achieved through a combination of quality service and environmental protection.

“Leaving a legacy of clean air, clean water, clean land, and economic prosperity is our true

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measure of success,” adds Smith, “and we believe we are well on our way.”

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