



State of Utah

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DEQ Releases Annual Environmental Report for 2015

State of the Environment Report Spotlights Agency Successes

SALT LAKE CITY – The Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) released its annual [State of the Environment Report](#) today. This end-of-year report provides a comprehensive look at agency activities and initiatives that protected and enhanced the quality of Utah’s environment in 2015.

“Our employees work tirelessly to improve the lives of all Utahns and safeguard Utah’s air, land, and water to support human health, a vibrant economy, and our unsurpassed quality of life,” said Alan Matheson, executive director at DEQ. “This year’s report provides a synopsis of what we do every day to ensure the health and wellbeing of the people of Utah.”

The report highlights DEQ successes the past year that included:

- Air quality research projects funded by the legislature to improve scientific understanding the complex conditions that lead to elevated pollution levels during Utah’s winter inversions and summertime ozone episodes.
- Water quality financing and assistance over nearly seven years that helped Coalville break ground on a state-of-the-art wastewater treatment plant in 2015.
- Funding of \$576,000 for drinking-water system master plans and engineering studies, and another \$14.6 million for 14 drinking-water construction projects that ensure safe, clean drinking water for Utah residents.
- Distribution of 700 free radon test kits in local hospitals through DEQ’s newborn radon program to protect infants and their families from the dangers of radon gas, an indoor threat that is present in unhealthy levels in one in three Utah homes.
- Oversight of the detection and removal of unexploded ordnances in areas with increased urban development near Camp Williams.

“One of the defining characteristics of Utah is our stewardship ethic—a drive to leave the world better for those who follow,” says Matheson. “We at DEQ share that drive and pledge to continue our work to create a cleaner, healthier, more prosperous Utah.”

The report is available on DEQ’s web site:

<http://www.deq.utah.gov/NewsNotices/annualreport/docs/2015/Utah-DEQ-State-of-the-Environment-2015.pdf>

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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.