

Department of Environmental Quality

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NEWS RELEASE

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Utah's Youngest Citizens Leading Radon Awareness Campaign With National Radon Poster Contest

SALT LAKE CITY – It's that time of the year when the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is encouraging schoolchildren to submit artwork for the 2016 National Radon Poster Contest by October 20.

DEQ's Radon Program is coordinating this year's contest in partnership with the Utah Department of Health, Utah Cancer Action Network and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Children ages 9-18 enrolled in a public, private, territorial, tribal, Department of Defense or home school are eligible to participate. Members of a sponsoring club, such as a scouting organization or an art, computer, science or 4-H club also are eligible.

The contest focuses on raising awareness of radon, an invisible gas that can cause lung cancer. One in three homes in Utah have elevated levels of radon gas and the only way to mitigate it is to test for it. State contest winners will receive cash awards, with three first-place winners receiving \$100 and his/her school/organization receiving \$100. Second- and third-place winners will receive \$100 each. There are 3 categories: Grades 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12.

There is no entry fee, but only one entry per student is allowed. The entry deadline is: Oct. 20, 2016. Poster contest submission forms, topics and rules may be found online at www.radon.utah.gov.

The public is invited to judge this year's state posters by voting online at www.radon.utah.gov. Online voting runs from Oct 27-31. All posters will be subject to the following judging criteria: Content-accuracy, visual communication of topic, reproducibility, and originality.

More information about contest eligibility, radon test kits, and radon contractors is available at www.radon.utah.gov or by calling Utah's Hotline at 1-800-458-0145.

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About DEO

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 (utah.deq) and Twitter (UtahDEQ), or call 1-800-458-0145.