



State of Utah

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NEWS RELEASE

October 31, 2017

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Volkswagen Settlement Will Reduce Emissions, Improve Utah Air Quality

SALT LAKE CITY – Efforts to improve Utah’s air quality are getting a big boost thanks to a nationwide \$15.7 billion settlement with Volkswagen (VW) for violations of the [Clean Air Act](#).

Utah is set to receive approximately \$35 million from the settlement to offset nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions from the approximately 7,000 VW, Audi, and Porsche vehicles in the state affected by VW’s violations. Governor Herbert designated the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) as the lead agency to administer these monies.

Beginning Nov. 1 2017, the public has an opportunity to comment on how the money should be spent. DEQ will host a Facebook Live chat at 11 a.m. today, Oct. 31, 2017 on its [Facebook page](#).

DEQ Executive Director Alan Matheson views this as an opportunity to leverage resources and partnerships to achieve measureable improvements in air quality.

“While we continue to make progress at reducing emissions, we still have work to do to ensure we all breathe healthy air.” said Matheson. “We will direct funds from the VW settlement toward eligible strategies that give us the most air-quality benefit per dollar spent.”

DEQ’s responsibilities as lead agency include developing an [Environmental Mitigation Plan \(EMP\)](#). The VW settlement identified certain categories of vehicles and equipment that are eligible for funding under the agreement. Utah’s EMP will determine which categories the state will target for that funding. [Eligible engine or vehicle/equipment replacements](#) that are found in Utah include:

- [Class 8](#) local freight trucks (large trucks)
- Class 4-8 school buses, shuttle buses, or transit buses
- Freight switchers
- [Class 4-7](#) local freight trucks (medium trucks)
- Airport ground-support equipment

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- Forklifts

A portion of the funds may also go to build electric vehicle infrastructure.

DEQ is seeking public input for the EMP from Nov. 1-30, 2017.

“We actively seek feedback from the public about how we should invest these funds so we can take full advantage of this unique opportunity,” said Matheson.

The public can learn more about how the funds can be spent and access the public input process from DEQ’s VW website, vw.utah.gov.

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About DEQ

Established in 1991, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality’s (DEQ) mission is to safeguard and improve Utah’s air, land and water through balanced regulation. 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.