



State of Utah

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NEWS RELEASE

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State announces plan to purchase clean vehicles, expand electrical charging equipment with Volkswagen settlement funds

Salt Lake City, Utah — Today, Gov. Gary R. Herbert approved the State of Utah’s plan to use \$35 million in funds from a settlement with German automaker, Volkswagen (VW) Group to purchase cleaner government-owned trucks and buses, as well as expand electrical charging resources.

“We’re thrilled to put \$35 million dollars into cleaner trucks, buses, and electrical charging material throughout the state,” said Gov. Herbert. “While VW’s violation of the Clean Air Act was disappointing, we look forward to investing these funds in vehicles and resources that will reduce emissions, and help clean our air.”

The settlement was reached after it was discovered that the company had installed software that rigged results on vehicle emissions testing, therefore violating the [Clean Air Act](#). Gov. Herbert designated the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to administer these funds. The funds will go to offset the NOx emissions for 7,000 VW, Audi, and Porsche vehicles in Utah affected by VW’s violations.

The VW settlement included a prescribed list of categories for NOx mitigation projects. Using these guidelines, input from the public, and recommendations from an advisory committee, DEQ crafted an [Environmental Mitigation Plan \(EMP\)](#). The plan focuses the \$35 million on upgrading government-owned fleets of diesel trucks, buses and Electric Vehicle charging equipment.

“The projects we have selected will make the biggest impact on our air quality at the lowest cost, allowing Utah to maximize the air-quality benefits of this settlement,” says DEQ Executive Director Alan Matheson. “By targeting government-owned fleets, taxpayers receive a double benefit.”

Learn more about the VW Settlement 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](#)) and Twitter ([UtahDEQ](#)), or call 1-800-458-0145.