



State of Utah

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DEQ Releases Annual Environmental Report for 2018

State of the Environment Report Spotlights DEQ Values in Action

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 in 2018 that improved Utah’s environment and quality of life and created new economic opportunities.

“This year’s report not only provides a synopsis of what we do every day to ensure the health and well-being of the people of Utah, it also highlights the many ways we work collaboratively with stakeholders to find reasonable and effective solutions to environmental problems,” said Alan Matheson, DEQ executive director.

The report also features the many ways DEQ put its values — exceptional service, commitment to employees, credibility and trust, and continuous improvement — into action.

“Our dedicated employees respond quickly and professionally to meet customer needs. They ensure that decisions are based on the best available science,” explains Matheson. “Our employees put in the extra time and effort needed to achieve performance improvements because they know that today’s investment in innovation will pay big dividends tomorrow.”

Highlights of this year’s report include:

- Logan PM_{2.5} Nonattainment Area: EPA determined this fall that the Logan nonattainment area meets the conditions for attainment, making it the first PM_{2.5} nonattainment area in the state to reach attainment since the standard was tightened in 2006.
- Harmful Algal Blooms: DEQ led a collaborative, multi-entity response to over 25 reported HABs across the state — conducting and coordinating sampling, working with local health departments and affected stakeholders, and keeping the public informed of changing conditions. Thanks to legislative funding the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) was able to visit over 60 waterbodies, take samples at more than 800 sites.
- Drinking-Water System Funding: The Division of Drinking Water provided \$16.9 million in financial assistance to drinking-water system construction projects across the state in 2018.

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- Wastewater Treatment Funding: DWQ provided approximately \$200 million in financial assistance for construction, upgrades, and advanced treatment systems for wastewater treatment plants in Provo, Logan, South Salt Lake, Salem City, Kane County, and Central Valley, the largest wastewater treatment facility in the state.
- Land Cleanups: DEQ facilitated the cleanups of contaminated or potentially contaminated lands that paved the way for construction of the Ogden Business Exchange, Alta Gateway, Centro Civico senior housing, Liberty Boulevard Apartments, and View 72 at the former Sharon Steel Superfund Site.
- Superfund: EPA delisting of two Utah Superfund sites this year—Eureka Mills and Davenport and Flagstaff Smelters — was facilitated by DEQ oversight of cleanup operations.

The web-based report is easy to access from desktop or mobile devices. User-friendly navigation takes readers directly to specific topics, and its multi-media design features a video introduction by DEQ Executive Director Alan Matheson, interviews with DEQ employees, colorful infographics, and engaging photos.

“We invite members of the public to read the 2018 report to learn more about the ways we work to protect both you and our environment,” said Matheson. “Our values are a commitment we make to you, the people of Utah, and we welcome your ideas on how we can serve you better.” View the 2018 DEQ State of the Environment report at report.deq.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.