



State of Utah

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Governor

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Lieutenant Governor

## Department of Environmental Quality

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## NEWS RELEASE

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## DEQ Releases Annual Environmental Report for 2019

*State of the Environment Report Spotlights Continuous Improvement, 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 in 2019 that improved Utah’s environment and quality of life and created new economic opportunities.

“Our employees work tirelessly to accomplish our mission — safeguarding the state’s air, land, and water through balanced regulation,” said Scott Baird, executive director at DEQ. “This year’s report demonstrates how DEQ’s initiatives have increased efficiencies, saved taxpayer dollars, and made significant improvements to the environment and our quality of life.”

Highlights of this year’s report include:

- The Environmental Protection Agency issued a Clean Data Determination for the Salt Lake and Provo nonattainment areas. The Wasatch Front now meets the federal standard for PM 2.5 pollution.
- The Division of Water Quality and Utah Department of Agriculture and Food partnered to allow DWQ to “buy down” the principal interest rate of half of the Agricultural Resource Development Loans, effectively making them zero-interest loans.
- Improved communication, streamlined processes, and consistent follow-up by the Division of Drinking Water yielded impressive results: 300,000 more residents are now served by approved drinking water systems.
- The Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control worked with the owners of a 100-year-old foundry to develop a plan to address site contamination and bring the property back to beneficial use.
- The Division of Environmental Response and Remediation assisted a real-estate developer with documents to help clean up the old Mayflower Mine in Park City through the Voluntary Cleanup Program.

The web-based report is easy to access from desktop or mobile devices. View the 2019 State of the Environment report at [report.deq.utah.gov](http://report.deq.utah.gov).

### 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](http://www.deq.utah.gov), follow DEQ on Facebook ([utahdeq](https://www.facebook.com/utahdeq)) and Twitter ([UtahDEQ](https://twitter.com/UtahDEQ)).