



State of Utah

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## ***Northern Utah's Inversion Season Comes to a Close***

*Actions by residents and regulators are paying off*

SALT LAKE CITY – On March 31, The Utah Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Air Quality (DAQ) called an end to the 2019-20 inversion season and stopped issuing its Action Forecasts for PM2.5 pollution.

Between November 2019 and March 2020, only two spots in Utah's air monitoring network jumped above The US Environmental Protection Agency's standard for fine particulate pollution. In January 2020, Cache Valley reached the "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups" range twice. In December 2019, Salt Lake City passed the limit once.

Utah residents have taken air quality seriously. Efforts by citizens and regulators alike, have resulted in improved air quality in Northern Utah. This culminated in 2019, when the Wasatch Front was designated by EPA as attaining the federal air standards for PM2.5 pollution—the source of our wintertime smog. As federal standards have become more protective of human health, Utah has continued to work to meet these standards and protect air quality for our residents."

"During the past 10 years, Utah has seen fewer and fewer days in exceedances of the federal air quality standards and lower concentrations of pollutants," said Scott Baird, Executive Director of Utah's Department of Environmental Quality. "As Utah's population has continued to grow, we have seen great reductions in emissions per capita."

In the winter, the Division of Air Quality issues two types of forecasts: Action Forecasts and Health Forecasts. The air quality Action Forecasts outline actions residents can take to limit the effects of air pollution. These include not burning solid fuel and using TravelWise strategies to help reduce automobile emissions.

In the summer months, these forecasts return to make residents aware of ozone pollution and the steps they can take to limit summertime air pollution.

The DAQ air quality forecasting and alert system, developed with input from the public, aims to better communicate the complex health implications and activity restrictions related to air pollution. A phone app, UtahAir, that employs DAQ's air quality alert system is available for both Android and iOS users at [air.utah.gov](http://air.utah.gov). App users will receive action alerts and three-day forecasts

to help plan the best times to exercise outdoors, or when to make consolidated trips for errands based on current conditions.”

**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)).