State of Utah

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*Utah Report on the Environment 2012*

# DEQ Highlights Achievements in 2012

Salt Lake City, Utah – The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) today released its annual state of the environment report that shows significant achievements in protecting and enhancing Utah's air, land and water.

A highlight of DEQ's 2012 achievements has been the near completion of the State Implementation Plan for winter particulate pollution, known as (PM2.5). This plan, developed over three years, will bring several areas along the Wasatch Front and Cache Valley into compliance with federal air quality standards to protect human health. The effort involved more than 100 stakeholders in Utah's most affected counties. Some of Utah's air quality concerns are the result of natural chemical reactions during the winter months. But with about 10,000 individual sources of pollution, our solutions will require meaningful participation from everyone.

"This plan, which includes a host of new rules, will mean we will begin to see better air quality as early as 2013," said Amanda Smith, executive director of DEQ. "It also means we all have a responsibility to do our part to improve the air our children breathe."

At the forefront of the effort to protect Utah's air quality statewide is Gov. Gary Herbert, who this year launched U-CAIR (Utah Clean Air Partnership). This is the first statewide air quality initiative that encourages all Utahns to do their part voluntarily to improve Utah's air. Businesses, industry, individuals and governmental entities are now pledging to make substantive efforts to reduce air pollution.

The e-report is available at: http://www.deq.utah.gov/envrpt/index.htm.

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