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Air Quality Conditions Come with a New, Free App

SALT LAKE CITY — The Utah Division of Air Quality (DAQ) has teamed up with Weber State University to launch a new, free smartphone app that delivers real-time air quality information.

“Utah Air” app, developed by students at Weber State University as part of the National Center for Automotive Science and Technology (NCAST) in partnership with the DAQ, displays both ozone and small particulate matter (PM 2.5) data collected by DAQ monitors throughout the state. The app is available for both iOS and Android users.

“By making air quality data more accessible, we are helping residents actively participate in keeping Utah’s air clean,” said Joe Thomas, director of NCAST. “This app empowers individuals to make the small changes that make the biggest difference to help reduce pollution all year.”

Utah residents can check into the app daily to know when not to use wood and coal burning stoves or fireplaces, the best times to exercise outdoors, or make one consolidated trip for errands based on current conditions and trends. The three-day forecast can help individuals plan ahead to adjust their travel plans or work schedule to avoid adding harmful emissions during winter inversions.

The app employs DAQ’s new air quality alert system that consists of action alerts, represented by three basic symbols that signify the voluntary or mandatory actions (e.g., carpooling, wood burning) the public needs to adhere to for the current pollution levels, and health guidance, based on the EPA’s Air Quality Index (AQI) that helps determine how the highest pollution level of the day will affect people with various health conditions.

The Utah Air app is available for free download in both the Apple and Android apps stores. In addition to the new app, DAQ’s air quality alerts are available on its website (www.airquality.utah.gov), by calling toll-free (1-800-228-5434), and through regular email updates (www.deq.utah.gov/ListServ). Visit www.airquality.utah.gov for more information.

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About NCAST

The National Center for Automotive Science and Technology at Weber State University is an education, industry and government partnership created to develop a better understanding of vehicle emissions, advanced emission control technology, fuels and transportation issues among academic, regulatory and private sectors. NCAST's goal is to increase public awareness and involvement through applied research, science and education so that action can be taken to create and maintain a better way of life. Visit <http://ncast.weber.edu> for more information.

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