

Current Air Quality Initiatives (in alphabetical order)

Air Quality Media Campaign

Envision Utah and the Utah Clean Air Partnership (UCAIR) are collaborating to sponsor a “Let’s Clear the Air” public awareness campaign, starting this month. The cross-platform campaign is planned to include digital, radio, television, social media and billboard advertising to help Utahns understand what actions each of us can take to help clear our air, particularly during the winter and summer weather conditions that lead to poor air quality. Governor Herbert and members of the Legislature are demonstrating great support for this effort.

Breathe Utah

[Breathe Utah](#), a local 501(c)3, works to improve our air through education, collaboration and policy. Breathe Utah developed Air Aware, an air quality education program for K-12 utilizing science, social studies, art, math and other learning modes to teach Utah school kids about our air quality issues. The program has reached more than a dozen Wasatch Front Schools. Air Aware recently expanded its reach with a two-week intensive workshop at Hawthorne Elementary for ELP classes (K-6) and is looking to provide this workshop at other schools. Breathe Utah has collaborated with DAQ to bring temporary PM 2.5 monitors out to four Salt Lake Valley schools and one downtown location (GSBS Architects) during the 2014 inversion period and looks forward to gathering elevation-specific data from these locations, while fostering student investigations of the data and possible pollution contrasts between schools. Additionally, this winter Breathe Utah will begin Utah's first woodstove changeout program. Thanks to grant funding, Breathe Utah will fund the conversion of five Salt Lake Valley 'sole source' households from reliance on wood burning for home heating to natural gas heat. This is a pilot program intended to further necessary dialouge around creation of rebates and incentives for woodstove replacement.

Clean Air Action Team

In October, Governor Gary R. Herbert announced the “Your Utah, Your Future” initiative, led and facilitated by Envision Utah to establish a common vision for how Utah will accommodate the next 2.5 million people by 2050, while maintaining clean air, good jobs, an affordable cost of living, and a high quality of life. Part of that effort is the “Clean Air Action Team” (CAAT) that is charged with engaging all Utahns to consider choices and form recommendations for rapidly clearing the air. Envision Utah is currently facilitating the Clean Air Action Team, which has met three times and is exploring and analyzing numerous potential air quality strategies. More information on the CAAT can be found [here](#).

Salt Lake Chamber’s Inversion Mitigation

An emergency, business-led air quality initiative – an extension of the [Clean Air Champion Program](#)

The Salt Lake Chamber and UCAIR are asking Utah businesses to participate in a private sector-led inversion mitigation campaign. Many Utah businesses already do quite a lot to reduce emissions. This initiative, however, asks that companies commit to do a little more during the inversion season to improve air quality. Working with DEQ, the Chamber has come up with a list of strategies that should be possible for any Utah company to implement but also help to make a difference during the inversion season. [Please click here to view and download the Inversion Mitigation campaign commitment form.](#)

Utah Clean Air Partnership (UCAIR)

[UCAIR](#) is a statewide clean air partnership created to make it easier for individuals, businesses and communities to make changes to improve Utah's air. UCAIR has three focus areas: education, grants, and voluntary emissions reductions. Recently, UCAIR awarded \$350,000 in grants to 13 local organizations to catalyze new air quality efforts. These efforts range from wood burning stove conversions and electric vehicle charging stations to air quality educational kits and community involvement campaigns. UCAIR will continue to support the air quality endeavors of its partners with grants in the coming year, and has been chosen to administer a \$1.3 million dollar grant in cooperation with the Utah Department of Workforce Services to reduce emissions and protect Utah jobs.

UDOT's TravelWise Program

Better air quality is one of the three main goals of the Utah Department of Transportation's [TravelWise](#) program. TravelWise is actively promoting trip reduction during the inversion season by working with local governments, the business community and individuals to educate Utahns about TravelWise strategies, which include:

- Carpooling
- Trip chaining
- Taking public transit
- Teleworking
- Flexible work hours
- Skipping a trip
- Walking or biking

TravelWise is using mass media – including a TV spot that will run during the upcoming Olympic Winter Games – along with a grassroots approach, supported by a collaborative relationship with WFRC, to promote trip reduction leading to better air quality.

Utah Division of Air Quality

At the January 2014 meeting, the Utah Air Quality Board approved a new section of the State Implementation Plan to reduce PM_{2.5} emissions in the Salt Lake Area to meet federal air quality standards by 2019. This plan was three years in the making and involves a 52% reduction in vehicle emissions and new state rules to control emissions from diverse sources such as solvents, paints and surface coatings, restaurant grilling, and wood burning, to name a few. Learn more about the State Implementation Plan [here](#). While this plan puts in place some crucial emission controls, recent court decisions require that a different plan for PM_{2.5} emissions be prepared by December 2014 to satisfy provisions in the Clean Air Act known as "Subpart 4". Work on the new PM_{2.5} SIP begins immediately.

Utah Transit Authority

[UTA](#) is proactively engaged in all of the current efforts along the Wasatch Front to reduce the amount of mobile source emissions that contribute to the seasonal poor air quality. Transit is universally recognized as one of the key components of any larger mitigation strategy designed to address this issue. Over the past year, UTA has worked with its partners to implement several air quality programs, including:

- RideClear Pass Program – a public-private partnership with UTA and corporate sponsors to provide free transit passes during the summer ozone and winter inversion seasons
- Clear the Air Challenge – since 2011, as a company, UTA has saved more than 100,000 auto vehicle miles and more than 50 tons of emissions
- SLC BikeShare (GreenBike) Program Sponsor
- Salt Lake City (Hive) Pass – February 2014 – discounted UTA passes available for all Salt Lake City residents
- Assisting cities with UTA station area planning, especially with regard to access – a 2013 survey of stations along the Mid-Jordan TRAX line showed that 27% of all boardings were made by someone who either walked or biked to the station
- Promoting the Vanpool/Rideshare program – UTA’s Vanpool program is ranked 5th in the nation in terms of passenger miles.
- 6-year bus replacement program to reduce criteria pollutant emissions by 70% by 2015

WFRC Air Quality Committee

The [WFRC](#) Air Quality Committee identified a list of proactive transportation related strategies to improve air quality. From this list, several projects and programs were identified for implementation such as educating the public about transportation behavior changes, improving access to transit stations, and encouraging development around transit stations. Another strategy identified was to improve traffic signal timing to reduce delay and excessive vehicle idling. Additionally, WFRC has collaborated with UDOT’s TravelWise program to prepare a [Community Resource Kit](#) that is available to each city within WFRC. The Resource Kit includes instructions and examples for local government leaders to implement emission reduction strategies in their communities.

WFRC Congestion Mitigation / Air Quality(CMAQ) Funds

Each year WFRC administers about \$8million in CMAQ funds to be used for transportation projects that reduce emissions. These funds from WFRC have made possible the following projects:

- UTA Rideshare annual operating expenses
- Expansion vans for UTA vanpools
- TravelWise annual subsidies
- GreenBike expansion in 2014 and 2015
- Retrofits to clean 300 diesel school buses
- UTA ski buses in Ogden
- Numerous Park & Ride lots
- Pedestrian facilities
- Bike paths and Intermodal bike station
- Intersection and signal timing improvements

Technology for:

- Highway operation management
- Highway incident management
- Truck stop idle reduction equipment
- UTA ECO Pass subsidies
- UTA Depot District maintenance facility
- UTA Sugarhouse Trolley expansion