
AIR QUALITY AND THE WASATCH CHOICE VISION

The choices we make in building our infrastructure and designing our communities have a direct impact on Utah's air quality. By giving people more transportation choices to take transit, bike, and walk, we reduce auto emissions. By designing walkable communities with a mix of housing types, jobs, and shopping -- bringing key destinations together in neighborhood centers -- we reduce the length and need for driving trips, and reduce emissions from our homes. As Utah continues to grow, if we coordinate the location of development with transportation facilities, we can provide real choices for residents to travel differently, reducing emissions and improving our air quality. The [Wasatch Choice Vision](#) — our region's blueprint for growth — embodies this coordinated approach.

While our homes, buildings, and industry contribute emissions in our airshed, vehicles remain the largest contributor to our air quality challenges along the Wasatch Front. During a typical winter day, vehicles make up nearly half of all emissions in our region -- so reducing vehicle emissions is an important factor in improving our air.

THE WASATCH CHOICE VISION IMPROVES AIR QUALITY BY:

- **Providing transportation choices.** When Utahns have quality walking, bicycling and transit options to pick from, they can make transportation decisions that in turn reduce our vehicle emissions.
 - In the Vision the percentage of people who live within walking distance to a bus route or transit station grows from 21 percent today to 36 percent in 2050.
- **Placing housing, transportation and job or educational opportunities closer together, in city and town centers, results in more walking and biking, more transit use and, as a result, fewer vehicle trips -** and fewer vehicle trips improves our air.
 - A large part of our transportation pollution comes from simply starting our cars, so a short trip by bike or walk rather than driving matters a lot!
 - The percentage of people who are close to a family-friendly bike route grows from 43 percent today to 79 percent with the Vision.

If we work to implement the Wasatch Choice Vision, and anticipated improvements to emission reduction technology in vehicles continue, we expect a 59 percent decrease in vehicle emissions over the next 30 years. This reduction can happen even as our population increases.

- This reduction comes from improved technology in our vehicle fleet, the transportation choices we make, and the way we develop our communities.

In summary, when we employ the key strategies of the Wasatch Choice Vision, including providing more transportation choices to more people, we reduce vehicle trips and decrease emissions, resulting in cleaner air.