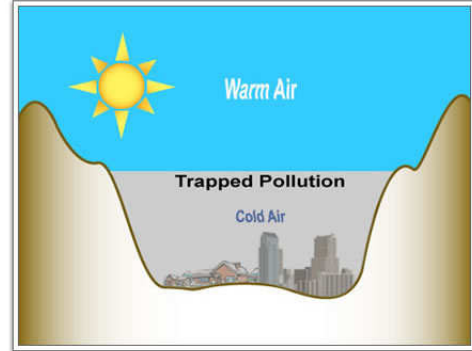


Salt Lake Solutions - Winter Air Quality Fact Sheet

The mountains surrounding Salt Lake County combined with cold winter temperatures and inactive weather patterns cause inversions, which trap cold air and pollution in the valley. Because fuel consumption increases during cold weather, vehicle emissions have a significant impact on winter air quality. During winter inversion periods, vehicle emissions could contribute up to 50 percent of the emissions that form fine particulate pollution, according to the Utah Department of Environmental Quality.



The Environmental Protection Agency has set an air quality standard that requires Utah to impose pollution control regulations if it is exceeded.

- When pollution levels near the standard, a “yellow” air quality action day is issued to encourage people to take voluntary actions to reduce air pollution.
- When pollution levels are likely to exceed the standard, a “red” air quality alert is issued. On “red” days wood burning is prohibited and voluntary actions are encouraged. Sensitive people, (those people with respiratory disease or heart disease, the elderly, and children) should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion outdoors. See www.airquality.utah.gov for a three-day forecast of air quality conditions and associated health advisory statements.
- Action to improve air quality on “yellow” days will reduce the number of “red” days.
- Sign up to receive alerts for “yellow” and “red” days at www.cleanair.utah.gov.

1. **Choose clean air by changing travel habits during winter months** (especially on “yellow” action and “red” alert days).

Drive less – Use alternative transportation.

- Skip the trip – carpool, walk, bike or telework.
- Use mass transit – visit www.rideuta.com or call 888-RIDE-UTA (7433-822).

Drive smarter – Simple steps can be taken to improve fuel efficiency and air quality.

- Avoid peak drive times from 7 a.m. – 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.
- Consolidate errands into one trip.
- Maintain your vehicle properly.

Be idle free – Excessive idling is hard on our air quality and your engine.

- If you know you’re going to wait, turn your vehicle off - www.idlefree.utah.gov
- Newer vehicles need no more than 30 seconds of idling time before driving in cold temperatures. The best way to warm up your car engine is to drive it.

2. **Improving air quality will benefit individuals, families and communities within our state.**

Health benefits – Better air quality equals better personal and community health, including respiratory and heart disease issues.

Environmental benefits – Improved air quality will safeguard our blue skies, reduce pollution, and protect wildlife and plant habitats.

Quality of life benefits – Utah should remain a place where people want to live and visit.

Cost savings – Individuals can save money on healthcare as well as vehicle-related costs by driving smarter and keeping vehicles properly maintained.

3. **We’re all in it together.** Whether you are a business owner, religious organization, community group, family or individual, we each need to do our part to improve air quality. Led by Gov. Huntsman, Mayor Becker and Mayor Corroon, 20 private, public and non-profit organizations have partnered to create this message. More info can be found online at www.cleanair.utah.gov, www.travelwise.utah.gov and www.slcgov.com/slsolutions