

State Makes Decisions for Electric Vehicle Charging Equipment Projects Funded Through Volkswagen Settlement Monies

SALT LAKE CITY – The Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has selected 18 government entities to receive funding for electric vehicle (EV) charging projects through the State’s \$35 million share of the Volkswagen (VW) Clean Diesel Settlement.

Governor Gary R. Herbert designated the DEQ to oversee the settlement involving the automotive manufacturer, Volkswagen Group (Volkswagen, Audi and Porsche), for violations of the Clean Air Act. After careful evaluation, including receiving public input and recommendations from the State VW Advisory Committee, the DEQ allocated 11 percent, or approximately \$3.8 million of the settlement monies, for EV charging equipment.

“The VW settlement allows the DEQ to fund mitigation projects in nine eligible categories which are expected to mitigate the excess nitrogen oxides (NO_x) emissions from the illegal VW vehicles that were operating throughout the state,” said Lisa Burr, environmental planning consultant for Division of Air Quality. EV charging equipment is an example of projects that are eligible for funding under the settlement. Burr said there was strong support from the public for focusing on EV charging equipment projects.

Last fall, the DEQ invited federal, state, and local governments to submit applications for funding potential EV charging equipment projects. “Allowing government entities the opportunity to invest in emerging vehicle technologies at no cost to tax payers while improving air quality provides a double benefit to tax payers,” said DEQ Executive Director Alan Matheson. “This is a unique opportunity for the state to participate in the worldwide trends to electric vehicle technologies,” he added.

The DEQ is pleased to announce that they have been able to fund the projects proposed by all government entities that submitted complete applications. Those entities are:

- City of Saratoga Springs
- Clinton City
- Davis Technical College
- Kamas City
- Kaysville City
- Murray City Power
- Orem City
- Price City Municipal Corporation
- Provo City
- Salt Lake County Health Department; Environmental Health Division
- Sandy City
- South Salt Lake City
- Timpanogos Cave National Monument
- Utah Department of Transportation
- Utah Division of Facilities Construction and Management
- Utah Valley University

- Weber State University
- West Valley City Corporation

The selections are based on projects that achieve the highest NO_x reductions at the lowest cost, assist the state with its ongoing goal of reaching attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, and provide other community benefits. The DEQ received funding requests for EV charging equipment projects that exceed the amount allocated to this category and will award the full \$3.8 million during this round of selections.

The Department will award the remaining VW settlement funds to government-owned vehicle/engine replacement projects for the Class 4-8 local freight truck, shuttle bus, transit bus, and school bus categories later this spring. Funds dedicated to these vehicle categories make up 73.5 percent, approximately \$25.5 million of the state's VW settlement.

The DEQ has until October 2, 2027, to obligate the VW settlement funds through grant awards, but plans to award all funds in 2019. Successful awardees will have three years to complete their projects.

The public may learn more about the VW Settlement from the DEQ's VW website, vw.utah.gov.

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About DEQ

Established in 1991, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) mission is to safeguard and improve Utah's air, land and water through balanced regulation. DEQ implements state and federal environmental laws and works with individuals, community groups and businesses to protect the quality of Utah's air, land and water. For more information, visit www.deq.utah.gov, follow DEQ on Facebook ([utahdeq](https://www.facebook.com/utahdeq)) and Twitter ([UtahDEQ](https://twitter.com/UtahDEQ)), or call 1-800-458-0145.