



## Governor Herbert, UCAIR Executive Director Report Air Quality Milestones At Annual UCAIR Summit

**SALT LAKE CITY**—February 26, 2020—At its fifth annual UCAIR (Utah Clean Air Partnership) Summit, Gov. Gary Herbert and UCAIR Executive Director Thom Carter addressed our progress toward improving Utah’s air quality.

Governor Herbert, whose vision seven years ago brought about the Utah Clean Air Partnership, discussed Utahns’ individual efforts in working for the goal of blue skies and better air.

Thom Carter, UCAIR executive director said, “Governor Herbert, we have taken your vision and run fast with it. We hope that you are proud of what we are doing here. We hope that as you look back at your time leading our State, you will see UCAIR as part of a long-lasting legacy of profound success.”

In his address, Carter shared several clean air milestones in UCAIR’s annual progress report:

- First, for 13 years Utah has been working to bring air quality in compliance with the federal Clean Air Act. Last year Utah obtained compliance, representing a significant milestone.

- Second, wood smoke’s contribution to Utah’s air pollution has declined by about a factor of five from 2007 to 2017. This decline is significant to air quality as smoke from wood burning fireplaces and stoves can be a significant source of the fine PM2.5 particulate matter emissions. Historically it has contributed 5 to 10% of winter-time PM.

- Third, while Utah’s population has continued to increase at the rapid rate of 34% between 2002 to 2017, total emissions dropped 38%, a 53% per capita reduction in emissions over that 15-year period.

The annual progress report additionally demonstrated UCAIR successfully delivered this past year on its three foundational pillars: education, partnering and funding.

- **Education** efforts continued to focus on information about emission sources, the health and economic impacts of poor air quality and suggestions and programs for Utahns to actively participate in improving Utah’s air.

- **Partnering** included a water heater rebate with Chevron and Marathon, a partnership with Lime scooters and the installation of 16 EV chargers in partnership with Leaders for Clean Air at doTERRA headquarters.

- **Funding** through this year’s UCAIR grants program enabled 10 organizations to make their innovative ideas reality. These projects have produced measurable progress toward better air across this state. More than \$160,000 in grant funding was shared with Utah Clean Energy, Park City Municipal Corporation and the Salt Lake Chamber in support of the Clear the Air Challenge and other cities and foundations throughout the state.

Since the UCAIR grants program began six years ago, 69 grants have been awarded totaling nearly \$2 million dollars.

UCAIR also announced its Clean Air Awards. This year’s recipients included Dr. Seth Lyman from Utah State University as UCAIR Person of the Year; Rio Tinto Kennecott as the UCAIR Business Partner of the Year; and Utah Clean Cities as the UCAIR Community Partner of the Year.

**Dr. Seth Lyman** and his team have contributed to tremendous progress in air quality by conducting groundbreaking science and developing a reliable, working model of wintertime ozone in the Uintah Basin, which can help alert the public so they can avoid certain actions that can exacerbate the ozone problem.

After 75 years of operation, **Rio Tinto Kennecott** retired its power plant located in Magna, Utah this year. The plant retirement and acquisition of renewable energy certificates will remove more than 1 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> from Kennecott's Wasatch Front operations and reduce its annual carbon footprint by as much as 65 percent.

Currently working with the federal government and National Parks Service, **Utah Clean Cities** is removing vehicle emissions in Zion National Park by implementing a park and ride system powered by electric buses.

The UCAIR Summit hosted a Governor Candidate Forum where the six Republican Candidates for governor laid out their plans for increasing the momentum on air quality solutions. The panel was moderated by Natalie Gochnour, director of the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute.

"I often say there are no perfect answers, but there are practical solutions," said Carter. "It's rewarding to increase the success of improving our air year over year. Enjoying blue skies, our amazing landscape and supporting our thriving economy with clean air is extraordinary. This aggregate improvement of everyone doing something has truly added up to something remarkable."

#### **About UCAIR**

UCAIR is a statewide clean air partnership created to make it easier for individuals, businesses and communities to make small changes to improve Utah's air. Every small change adds to a collective bigger step toward better health, a better economy and better overall quality of life for all of us. Find out more about how you can make a difference by visiting [UCAIR.org](http://UCAIR.org).

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