

# Equitable Air Quality Task Force



Salt Lake County, UT

*Applying an equity lens to policies and programs related to air quality on the Wasatch Front*

Air quality is an urgent issue for many Salt Lake County residents. Associated health impacts are intensified for vulnerable individuals, such as those experiencing homelessness (both sheltered and unsheltered), the elderly, the young, geographically-vulnerable communities, communities of color, and additional under-represented populations.

## **Purpose:**

This proposed taskforce will be a diverse and inclusive group of individuals and organizations interested in promoting environmental justice by prioritizing the needs of the most vulnerable and susceptible populations. The group will examine how air quality impacts people of varying socio-economic status and recommend mitigation strategies and investments.



SLCO EQUITABLE AIR  
QUALITY TASK FORCE

# Why does Salt Lake County need an Equitable Air Quality Task Force?

For more detailed information on the proposed taskforce visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/slc-aq-taskforce>

Questions or Comments?  
Contact Rebecca Hardenbrook  
rebeccah@math.utah.edu  
360-913-3089

- ◇ In the next 20 years, the population of SLC will double.
- ◇ An individual making minimum wage would need to work approximately 134 hours a week in order to live in the average square foot apartment in SLC. Increasing housing competition increases homelessness.
- ◇ People experiencing homelessness must constantly inhale compounds and particulate matter, which can exacerbate or even cause various respiratory infections.
- ◇ Urban air pollutants are also disproportionately inhaled by Black and Hispanic minorities, resulting in a cycle of racial-ethnic disparities in air pollution exposure.
- ◇ SLC needs to continue its growth in international leadership on environmental policy by focusing on local environmental justice issues, particular with regards to the issue of air quality in the valley.

