ADEQ is Requesting a Continuation of 8 Years or More

Citizens expect a clean, safe, healthy environment and a strong economy. At ADEQ we deliver environmental protection with innovation, speed and great customer service that supports environmentally responsible economic growth. Since the last sunset review in 2013, and with the support of the legislature, ADEQ has aggressively transformed its operations in pursuit of our vision to deliver balanced, leading-edge environmental protection through operational and technical excellence and radical simplicity for customers and staff.

Innovative, Efficient, Effective Government

Launched the myDEQ Permitting & Reporting Portal

50% of agency-provided services are available online through myDEQ – a TurboTax®-like platform, where customers answer questions that seamlessly guide them through permitting and reporting requirements. myDEQ radically simplifies the permitting process, reduces application errors, automates complex calculations and integrates compliance reporting, all in one application. ADEQ partnered with the legislature to fund myDEQ through legislative transfers – no new revenue was required. Today, we are helping customers conduct over 40,000 transactions per year, faster and with better outcomes for the environment – online reporting allows ADEQ and our customers to address problems faster!

ADEQ’s Mission is Vital and Large

Although we are not a large Department, our vital mission spans the entire state. Our mission is to protect and enhance Arizona’s environment – the air, water and land that sustains us.

Groundwater Treated & Pollution Cleaned Up by WQARF Since FY2014:

"The myDEQ online tool is a perfect example of government streamlining their processes to meet the needs of businesses and other stakeholders. The increase in permitting speed and the ease of doing business makes myDEQ portal invaluable to our membership and we look forward to additional features in the future."

Mike Huckins, Vice President of Public Affairs, Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce

We deliver our mission with innovation, efficiency, great financial stewardship, and results. We also make sure to serve all Arizonans everywhere they live.
Launched My Community • Demographic & Environmental Data Dashboard

Anyone can access environmental data that’s important to them with ADEQ’s easy-to-use, online tools including interactive e-maps, outreach program information, demographic and environmental Geographic Information System dashboard, along with personal assistance from an ADEQ Community Liaison contact.

Predictive Analytics for Prevention of Compliance Issues

ADEQ developed and deployed a predictive analytics tool to focus our efforts on systems most likely to experience compliance issues and to proactively collaborate with systems to prevent exceedances before they happen. Since developing and applying the predictive analytics tool for arsenic, ADEQ has prevented five public water systems from exceeding the arsenic limit, reduced the amount of time it takes for water systems to return to compliance by 325 days, and provided technical assistance to four public water systems to address potential arsenic issues.

Enhanced Air Quality Forecasts

Delivering hourly air quality forecasts, high pollution watches/advisories online, by email and through the Air Arizona mobile app so people can better plan their days to protect their health and limit their pollution footprint when it matters most.

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"What I love about these pages are:

1. They show the worst times of days for different pollutants,
2. I can compare levels in different cities,
3. There are different colors on the charts to indicate low, medium, high, and extreme pollution levels (more informative than numbers alone), and
4. The discussion of weather and the impact on air quality. This section is one of the best write-ups of our local weather I can find on the web and the connection with air quality is so informative! It is written in a way that is easily understood without insulting the intelligence of the reader—which I know is difficult to do."

Jackie Rich, Community Member
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ADEQ Works With Underserved Communities
We’ve taken actions to better engage and serve all Arizonans including those in rural Arizona.

Drinking Water in Disadvantaged Communities
ADEQ expanded its compliance assistance program and linkages to funding options available to small drinking water systems enabling them to make necessary infrastructure upgrades.

“We were between a rock and a hard place running out of water and without the financial means necessary to fix the water system. Without this Small Water Systems Fund grant, our families would not have the safe and reliable essential water we have today.”

Paul Rivas, Community Member, Three Points Area, Pima County

Community Liaisons
To better assist the public and regulated community all across the state, ADEQ has geographically dedicated staff serving the following regions:

- Apache, Navajo and Gila Counties
- Cochise, Graham, Greenlee and Santa Cruz Counties
- Coconino and Yavapai Counties
- Mohave, La Paz and Yuma Counties
- Pima and Pinal Counties

Brownfields
More Arizona communities are leveraging brownfields grants to revitalize blighted properties statewide. Brownfields grants help municipalities and nonprofits identify and reduce environmental hazards, mitigate public health threats, create new business opportunities, increase tax revenues and restore impacted properties to beneficial reuse. ADEQ has supported more than 72 brownfields projects in more than 34 communities across the state since FY2014.

Border Team
Our Border Team focuses on cross-border issues that impact Arizona’s environment and citizens. We work in a binational and bicultural setting to promote efforts aimed at improving air quality, waste management and water quality conditions within Arizona’s border communities. The Border Team regularly meets with the Arizona-Mexico Commission to develop action plans for projects or activities done in collaboration with the State of Sonora.

“We appreciate your leadership in reenergizing and reengaging in the [Border 2025] program to make the most of the benefits to the environment and quality of life to border residents. We look forward to continuing our efforts along the U.S.-Mexico Border with you.”

Lisa Almodovar, Deputy Director, USEPA Office of International and Tribal Affairs
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Award-Winning Innovation, Performance and Connection

Since 2018, ADEQ has been recognized and honored with 15 awards for dramatically increasing positive environmental outcomes, technical excellence and innovation, civic engagement and online services for customers. National leaders among ADEQ’s products and programs include the myDEQ online permitting and reporting portal, the automated surface water quality assessment tool, the Arizona Water Watch Citizen Science Program, the Wildfire Smoke Forecast, and more.

Great Financial Stewardship

ADEQ achieved significant mission results and has done so with 235 fewer people and 15% less budget than in 2008.

In addition, we have:
- Returned $2.32 million to the State from vacated and sold buildings in Phoenix (2017) and Tucson (2020).
- Consolidated office space in Phoenix in 2015 and 2021, reducing total square feet by nearly 78,000 square feet with more to come.
- Reduced vehicle emissions inspections fees saving motorists more than $81.8 million since 2014.
- Highly outsourced – in FY2021, almost 60% of ADEQ’s budget went to private enterprises, non-profit organizations and local governments.
- Reduced the number of ADEQ fleet vehicles by 32% from 96 in 2015 to 66 in 2021.
- Implemented a gas cap replacement program to immediately replace failing gas caps at Vehicle Emissions Inspections stations at no cost to the consumer or state.
You Can Trust ADEQ for the Long Run

By integrating the Arizona Management System into every element of our work, ADEQ has dramatically increased efficiency, improved customer service and convenience, and delivered award-winning online services and breakthrough environmental outcomes for Arizona. And we have put specific processes and measures in place to ensure this high level of service continues.

We have 19 performance metrics to keep us on track and that let us know how we are doing and where we can improve. We also track 62 performance metrics by program.

To ensure the agency is positioned to serve Arizona today and for our future, ADEQ has a succession plan in place to develop and cultivate future leaders. ADEQ also tracks single points of failure so that they can be avoided and addressed.

To ensure we work efficiently and provide timely service, we document and use standard work for our processes, with more than 1,000 standard works in place.

We Serve Your Constituents and Arizona’s Environment Well

Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Registry (State Superfund)

The WQARF is the State’s Superfund program, which cleans up the most polluted hazardous waste sites in Arizona. This program provides Arizona businesses with a more equitable approach than the Federal Superfund program, which can hold one entity accountable for all cleanup costs regardless of their small contribution to the site. Since the last sunset review, ADEQ has removed four sites from the WQARF Registry.

Groundwater Treated & Mass Removed by WQARF Since FY2014:

- **14.9 BILLION** Gallons of contaminated groundwater treated
- **25,000** pounds of volatile organic compounds
- **11.5 MILLION** pounds of metals and other hazardous wastes

Drinking Water

ADEQ regulates more than 1,500 public water systems statewide that provide Arizonans with essential drinking water. Greater than 99% of the population continues to receive drinking water that meets state and federal requirements.

ADEQ has assisted more than 1.4 million additional people with receiving healthy drinking water through helping 245 public water systems to return to compliance with safe drinking water regulations since FY16.

“SRP supports the leadership of Governor Ducey and Director Cabrera in advocating for full funding of Arizona’s WQARF Program. Full funding will help ADEQ accelerate efforts to clean up legacy contaminants.”

Kelly Barr, SRP Associate General Manager and Chief Strategy, Corporate Services and Sustainability Executive

“Thank you so very much for allowing us to observe your MBR [Monthly Business Review], I have been amazed at the breadth and depth of your analysis.”

Lynn Juett, USEPA Superfund Remedial/Removal Branch Chief
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Dramatically Increased the Number of Underground Storage Tank (UST) Cleanups

Implemented a new UST Program that has accelerated the discovery and mitigation of releases, increased the number of UST cleanups from 79 to 158 and resulted in the lowest number of open sites since the 1980s.

“I only wish there were more we could do to show just how much you’ve done for my family in removing these fuel tanks from our property.”
Joe & Edie DeSoto, Owners, Kaibab Repair, Ashfork, AZ

Arizona Has Seen a 68% Reduction of Emissions, Even as Our Economy and Population Have Grown

Although there is more to do, ADEQ has partnered with counties and facilities to design and implement State Implementation Plans that improve our air quality and avoid Federal Implementation Plans and sanctions.

In the context of a growing economy and population, Arizona has succeeded in improving air quality all across the state.

In addition, and although ADEQ does not regulate greenhouse gases (GHGs), Arizona is a leader in actual CO₂ emissions reductions in the West. Today, roughly a third of Arizona’s energy production comes from non-fossil fuel alternative sources: Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (a zero emissions source), solar plants and hydroelectric plants. In addition, Arizona is ahead of schedule for the now defunct Federal Clean Power Plan goals for CO₂ emissions reductions.

Comparison of CO₂ Emissions Reductions by State (2008-2018*)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>CO₂ Emissions Reduction</th>
<th>Population Growth</th>
<th>Per Capita CO₂ Emissions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>-11.89%</td>
<td>15.90%</td>
<td>-22.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>-7.48%</td>
<td>11.91%</td>
<td>-17.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>-4.77%</td>
<td>7.94%</td>
<td>-11.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>4.50%</td>
<td>16.04%</td>
<td>-8.85%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 2018 is the most current published data

Data Sources:
Energy Information Administration Data (Energy-Related Carbon Dioxide Emissions by State 2005-2018):
eia.gov/environment/emissions/state-analysis/

Population:
census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/datasets/2000-2010/intercensal/state/ and
census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2010s-state-total.html#par_textimage
ADEQ is Requesting a Continuation of 8 Years or More

Addressing Forever Chemicals When The Federal Government is Slow To Act

ADEQ is addressing the threat of PFAS in groundwater, preventing PFAS contamination and keeping the public and stakeholders informed.

- Dedicated $3.3 million to stop a PFAS plume from reaching the City of Tucson's central wellfield. In less than one year we have characterized the extent of contamination, designed a pilot plant and begun remedial construction.
- Screening high-risk public drinking water systems statewide.
- Established the Arizona PFAS Resources Information Clearinghouse: azdeq.gov/pfas-resources.
- Advised fire departments, local emergency planning committees and relevant industries about adverse impacts to public health and the environment.
- Worked with the Governor’s office to grant $2 million to Tucson Water so they could re-start the Tucson Area Remediation Project Treatment (TARP).

ADEQ is There When You Need Us

- ADEQ’s Emergency Response Unit is on call 24/7 and worked with first responders and local emergency response authorities to respond to 104 incidents since FY2018. These include the 2021 Friedmans’ six-alarm recycling fire – the largest in City of Phoenix history – and the Union Pacific Railroad rail car derailment at Tempe Town Lake in 2020.
- We lead the Arizona Water Emergency Team (WET) and have responded to 82 water emergencies since inception. Established in 2016, the WET helps improve the state's response to water emergencies. WET consists of representatives from state government and the water industry and is designed to facilitate immediate relief to water providers and their customers in cases where a water emergency poses an imminent threat to public health and safety. WET also provides guidance and support to all engaged organizations involved in a water emergency.
- ADEQ developed and deployed a state Wildfire Smoke Forecast in 2020 – the first of its kind in the country – to provide Arizona communities with early and ongoing information about potential air quality impacts and help individuals make informed decisions for their health. The tool provides an hourly (not just daily) Air Quality Indicator forecast. ADEQ issued 72 forecasts in 2020 and 52 in 2021 thus far.
Assessed Arizona’s School Facilities Statewide

Screening for Lead in Drinking Water and Flooring Evaluation for Mercury Vapor
Collaborated with the Arizona Department of Health Services and the Arizona School Facilities Board (AZSFB):

— Led by ADEQ, Arizona was the first state in the nation to complete a comprehensive statewide screening program for lead in public school district drinking water. **Over 16,000 drinking water samples collected at more than 1,400 schools confirmed that Arizona’s public school district facilities are not a common source of lead in Arizona within six month’s time.** Where problems were found, ADEQ worked with the AZSFB and school districts to address the localized issue.

— ADEQ served a key role in the multi-agency task force to conduct a statewide assessment for potential health effects to children, school staff and the public associated with possible exposure to mercury vapor from rubberized flooring in school buildings. This first-of-its-kind statewide assessment of **220 Arizona school districts** produced a comprehensive database of school floors, including current condition, potential concern and recommended actions to mitigate potential exposure risk.

Tough When We Have To Be

When polluters do not work within ADEQ’s collaborative approach to resolve non-compliance, ADEQ escalates. In the last five years, in cooperation with the Attorney General’s Office, ADEQ has settled over **$50 million** in enforcement cases and has supported criminal cases that resulted in jail time for two criminals.

ADEQ has collaborated with our stakeholders and customers and engaged our employees to achieve amazing results for Arizona as shown at: azdeq.gov/ams

And We Respect You

Our goal is to implement the laws that you pass effectively, steward the budget you provide diligently, and respond to all legislative inquiries within 24 hours or less to help you serve your constituents.