

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

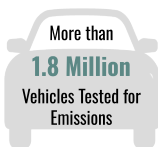
Our Mission and Vision

- To protect and enhance public health and the environment in Arizona.
- Through consistent, science-based environmental regulation; and clear, equitable engagement and communication;
- With integrity, respect, and the highest standards of effectiveness and efficiency;
- Because Arizonans treasure the unique environment of our state and its essential role in sustaining well-being and economic vitality, today and for future generations.

State of the Agency



570 People
Size of Agency



More than
1.8 Million
Vehicles Tested for
Emissions



20,000+
We Serve



4,348
On-Site Facility
Inspections (FY24)

- To fulfill our mission and meet our state and federally mandated responsibilities, it is critical that the agency receives adequate state funding in addition to federal fund sources by establishing permit fees that are sufficient to cover direct and indirect costs of permit issuance and administration, and securing other funding sources with long term stability to cover costs of agency activities not related to permits, such as setting quality standards or writing rules.
- ADEQ's budget is comprised of 9% federal funds, 33% non-appropriated state funds, and 58% appropriated state funds.

Created in 1987 by the Arizona State Legislature, ADEQ is the state's cabinet level environmental agency and administers the state's environmental laws and delegated federal programs to prevent air, water and land pollution and ensure cleanup



Air, Water, Waste

- ADEQ is composed of three environmental programs: Air Quality, Water Quality, and Waste, with functional units responsible for technical, operational and policy support.
- To ensure protection of public health and the environment, ADEQ helps oversee compliance with the following federal environmental laws: the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act. ADEQ also implements **14** state-level Programs: Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF), Aquifer Protection, Surface Water Protection, Voluntary Remediation, Recycling, Brownfields, Drinking Water Monitoring Assistance, Voluntary Vehicle Repair, and Air Quality Flag.
- ADEQ's core functions include planning, permitting, compliance management, monitoring, assessment, cleanups and outreach.

Executive Summary

ADEQ has focused on five strategic issues that led to the creation of five year tangible outcomes that benefit public health and the environment:

1. Dozens of drinking water systems are not meeting federal safe standards today and are increasingly threatened by emerging contaminants such as per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS).
2. Air quality issues negatively impact public health and the environment in Arizona and have the potential to negatively impact the economy.
3. Protecting water quality in Arizona can be enhanced by eliminating cross contamination paths for surface water, groundwater and wastewater.
4. The multi-decade drought has created stakeholder demand to strengthen opportunities and guidance associated with water quality and reuse.
5. ADEQ will need to increase the number of program funds that are sustainable for the next five years.



Five-Year Outcomes, Annual Objectives & Initiatives



Clean and Healthy Drinking Water

Five-Year Outcome 1

By June 2029, 100% of public drinking water systems will serve water meeting federal safe drinking water standards.

35 public drinking water systems are serving water today that does not meet federal safe drinking water standards and many more are being threatened by drought, failing infrastructure and emerging contaminants such as Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS).

FY25 Annual Objective

By June 2025, Restore water to federal safe drinking water standards at seven small drinking water systems.

Annual Initiatives

- Restore water to federal safe drinking water standards at seven small drinking water systems
- Finishing the PFAS sampling for small drinking water systems
- Continue mitigation of PFAS in drinking water systems serving water above safe drinking water standards



Clean Air

Five-Year Outcome 2

By June 2029, increase the percentage of people breathing air that meets national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) by submitting to the EPA all required plans and documentation to achieve attainment with NAAQS.

Many people in Arizona's largest metropolitan areas are breathing air that does not meet federal clean air standards. Diminished air quality is negatively impacting public health and the environment and may negatively impact continued economic growth as a result of mandates in the federal Clean Air Act.

FY25 Annual Objective

By June 2025, submit to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5 boundary recommendations.

Annual Initiatives

- Submit the 2015 ozone serious SIP for the Phoenix-Mesa NAA as early as April 2025
- Address required elements for the Phoenix-Mesa 2015 ozone moderate NAA SIP stemming from a finding of failure to submit for this plan, which started a sanctions clock
- Submit the PM 2.5 boundary recommendations to the EPA by February 2025





Sustainable Water

Five-Year Outcome 3

By June 2029, ADEQ will identify 100% of transmission paths from onsite wastewater systems and abandoned mines that are causing safe drinking water exceedances.

Contamination from failing septic systems, illegal cesspools and thousands of abandoned mine sites is posing an increasing threat to the quality of Arizona’s surface and groundwater resources. Cesspools have been prohibited since 1976; however, ADEQ has no authority to enforce the prohibition. The septic system regulatory structure is grossly insufficient to ensure that systems are maintained and not releasing harmful contaminants such as *E. coli*. Arizona has an estimated 600,000 cesspools and septic systems in place.

The State Mine Inspector estimates that Arizona has over 100,000 abandoned mine sites and only a very small fraction have been surveyed to determine if they are releasing harmful contaminants into soil, surface water and groundwater. Remediation of one site can cost millions of dollars. ADEQ requires \$1.5M in FY26 to complete an inventory, prioritize sites requiring remediation and begin to assess those that may pose a current threat to public health and the environment.

FY25 Annual Objectives

By June 2025, complete 80% of a statewide septic systems inventory.

By June 2025, conduct 15% of a survey to identify abandoned mine lands.

By June 2025, complete 100% of Gila County cesspool pilot initiative.

Annual Initiatives

- Continue inventory of septic systems in the state and identify systems impacting groundwater or surface water
- Complete pilot with Gila county to remove cesspools and transition them to modern on-site wastewater systems or connect to centralized treatment
- Continue to inventory & prioritize abandoned mine lands impacting surface waters for remediation

Five-Year Outcome 4

By June 2029, facilitate water sustainability by 100% deployment of the Advanced Water Purification program.

Water scarcity is a major issue in the Southwest and ADEQ expects the new Advanced Water Purification (AWP) rule to be in place and effective in the first quarter of 2025. AWP converts recycled water, or treated wastewater, into safe, reliable drinking water and can reduce Arizona’s dependence on traditional surface and groundwater sources, ensuring a consistent, drought-proof supply of clean water for everyone in our state. AWP will give water providers another tool to diversify and expand Arizona’s water portfolio, deliver safe drinking water to their communities and support the state’s growing population and economy.

FY25 Annual Objective

By June 2025, complete 100% of the regulatory framework for the Advanced Water Purification Program. (Breakthrough)

Annual Initiatives

- Completed advanced water purification program rulemaking
Support the pilot of advanced water purification systems
- Conduct advanced water purification program outreach





Sustainable Funding

Five-Year Outcome 5

To ensure the continuation of key ADEQ programs, ADEQ will increase the number of program funds that are sustainable from 57% to 100% by June 2029.

ADEQ’s regulatory scope and legislative mandates continue to expand. ADEQ is currently seeking primacy for two new federal programs, was mandated to create a new Advanced Water Purification Program by the legislature last year, and is working to implement numerous new and expanded federal mandates such as the drinking water system lead and copper rule. Each of these new mandates, along with the increase in the number of facilities for which ADEQ has regulatory oversight, have significantly strained the existing fee, general fund and federal funding resources available.

In addition, the State’s share of liability for cleanup of contaminated sites listed on the Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Registry increases with each passing year, surpassing \$220 million in 2023. Annual general fund allocations of \$15 million, exacerbated by past fund sweeps, are grossly inadequate to address the need to remediate contaminated soil and groundwater sites.

FY25 Annual Objectives

By June 2025, complete 100% of the agency revenue analysis.

By June 2025, develop a comprehensive revenue strategy for the agency.

Annual Initiatives

- Complete an agency revenue analysis
- Identify appropriate fees



bit.ly/ADEQstratplanFY25



Engaging Communities

ADEQ has enhanced community engagement activities and prioritized listening to and serving all residents, where they are and in the manner they prefer.

- Five Community Liaisons bridge the gaps between Arizonans, local communities, non-profit organizations and ADEQ.
- An Environmental Justice Coordinator facilitates efforts to ensure pollution does not disproportionately impact any group.
- By developing mutually respectful relationships with Tribes, a Tribal Liaison represents Tribal interests related to potential impacts from ADEQ's water and air permitting and land management actions.
- The Border Team works closely with environmental and public health partners on both sides of the border.
- ADEQ’s AZ Community Science Alliance provides comprehensive training and resources for volunteers to gather high-quality, credible data crucial for environmental protection, as well as environmental educational opportunities and curriculum.

Achievements

30 active volunteer groups | **150** volunteers
\$5 million total cost savings to ADEQ
7 waterbody segments delisted | **71,000** pounds of trash removed

