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**For Clean Air Month, Georgia's Clean Air Force Offers Five Tips
for Better Air Quality and a 'Greener' Wallet**

ATLANTA (May 8, 2014) – May is Clean Air Month and [Georgia's Clean Air Force](#) (GCAF), a partnership with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD), is encouraging motorists to take positive steps that help improve air quality in the state.

“Making some very small changes or adjustments in the way you drive and maintain your vehicle can have a powerful impact on our overall air quality. Clean Air Month is the perfect time to communicate the simple ways that you can make a difference in improving the environment,” noted Pamela T. Earl, Air Protection Branch Program Manager, Environmental Protection Division.

In honor of Clean Air Month, Georgia's Clean Air Force offers five tips to improve air quality and save money.

- **Don't Be an American Idle.** An effective way to improve both air quality and the life of your car's engine is to avoid idling. Americans waste nearly four million gallons of gas annually by unnecessarily idling, which is hard on the environment and our wallets. Idling uses more fuel than turning off and restarting an engine. Idling can allow harmful deposits to form, contaminating oil and damaging engine components. If you will be idling for more than 30 seconds, and it is safe to do so, turn your engine off.
- **Soles, Pedals and Pools.** Now that it's getting warmer, pledge to walk or ride your bike to work once or twice a week. If you have a longer commute, team up with some of your colleagues and carpool to work. According to The Rideshare Company, the average vehicle releases 10,000 pounds of carbon dioxide annually, which contributes to global warming.
- **Fuel in the Cool.** Hot temperatures and gasoline fumes combine to create harmful ground-level ozone. Plan to refuel your vehicle at night, when temperatures are cooler and gasoline evaporates less rapidly. Also, don't forget to tighten your gas cap. Each year, loose, damaged, or missing gasoline caps allow 147 million gallons of gasoline to vaporize.
- **Plan a Summer Staycation.** Instead of planning a long road trip this summer, take a short trip to enjoy the natural beauty of one of Georgia's 48 state parks. Georgia state parks offer areas for hiking, biking, fishing, boating, picnicking, golf, disc golf, horseback riding, birding and more. Camping opportunities also abound, ranging from modern and primitive campsites to cottages, lodge rooms and yurts. Make sure to pack lightly and don't overload your car. For a list of Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites visit www.gastateparks.org.

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- **Make the 'Right' Choice.** UPS, a leading global package delivery and logistics company based in Sandy Springs, Ga., conducted groundbreaking research concluding that eliminating left turns conserves fuel, lowers emissions and increases safety. Since 2004, UPS has saved 10 million gallons of gas and reduced CO2 emissions by 100,000 metric tons – equivalent to taking 5,300 passenger cars off the road for an entire year – by instructing its drivers to avoid left turns.

For additional information, motorists are encouraged to visit the GCAF website at <http://www.cleanairforce.com> or contact the GCAF Call Center at (800) 449-2471.

About Georgia's Clean Air Force

Georgia's Clean Air Force, a partnership with the Environmental Protection Division (EPD), is responsible for the management of the Enhanced Vehicle Emission Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) Program throughout Atlanta's 13 metro counties. Since 1996, the Georgia EPD has worked to reduce harmful vehicle emissions. Georgia's Inspection and Maintenance Program has prevented tons of ozone-forming pollutants from entering the air we breathe, by identifying and repairing nearly two million heavy-polluting vehicles. For more information visit www.cleanairforce.com.

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