

# GEORGIA'S CLEAN AIR FORCE STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE OF CLEAN AIR FOR HEALTHY LUNG MONTH

October is Healthy Lung Month, a month dedicated to lung health awareness, and a good time to consider the importance of clean air.

Studies show that air pollution can have serious health risks, including respiratory irritation, loss of lung capacity, and diseases such as asthma, bronchitis, and emphysema.

## HOW IMPORTANT IS CLEAN AIR?

Nearly **40%**

of Americans live where the air is unhealthy to breathe<sup>1</sup>

**9.3M**

U.S. adults were diagnosed with chronic bronchitis in the past year<sup>2</sup>

Approximately

**25M**

people live with asthma, including

**18.4M**  
adults

**6.2M**  
children<sup>3</sup>

The annual cost of asthma in the U.S. is approximately

**\$11.5B**

To do your part, consider these four steps to limit emissions pollutants while driving:



Carpool to work, and set up a car pool for school drop offs and pickups.



Avoid aggressive driving, which increases fuel consumption, exhaust emissions.



Don't idle. If your car will be idling for 30 seconds or more, turn your engine off.



Keep your vehicle maintained, which helps keep vehicle emissions in check.

## About Georgia's Clean Air Force

Georgia's Clean Air Force (GCAF), in 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, Georgia's Inspection and Maintenance Program has prevented more than 1.6 million tons of harmful ozone-forming pollutants from entering the air we breathe, the equivalent of removing 13,400 vehicles from the road, or planting more than 400 million trees. It is also estimated that Georgia residents have saved \$311 million in utility bills since 1996 due to cleaner air. The program has also identified and repaired more than 3.2 million heavy-polluting vehicles. For more information, please visit [www.cleanairforce.com](http://www.cleanairforce.com)

