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Georgia's Clean Air Force Offers Four Expert Tips for Buying a Pre-Owned Car

ATLANTA (December X, 2014) – Atlanta is the seventh most congested city in the U.S. and is tied for third place nationwide in terms of commute times. Because Georgia drivers rely so heavily on their cars, it's important that they have the resources to find the right one.

[Georgia's Clean Air Force](#) (GCAF), a partnership with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD), offers four key tips for motorists to help them purchase a reliable vehicle.

Knowing what to look for and taking your time before purchasing are the main goals, according to Pamela T. Earl, Air Protection Branch Program Manager, Environmental Protection Division (EPD).

"Buying a car is a big financial investment and can be a bit stressful -- particularly when it comes to buying cars that have had previous owners. It's important to get as much information about the vehicle and any repairs it has had in the past, because that can really come back to haunt you when it comes time to get your next vehicle emissions test," noted Earl.

- 1. Research the Dealer or Seller.** Read the reviews for any dealerships from which you are interested in making a purchase. This can weed out dealers that are untrustworthy or have negative comments about the cars they sell. Private sellers can be tricky; they are less obligated to work with you if there are any issues after the sale is made. It is a good idea to take a trusted mechanic with you to make sure you're not getting a lemon.
- 2. Find the Vehicle Inspection Reports.** Research to see if the vehicle has a valid, passing emissions inspection conducted within the last 12 months prior to purchase. If the vehicle does not, and the seller resides in Atlanta's 13-county metro region, tell the seller that he/she is required to provide a passing test at the time of sale. To view a vehicle's inspection history using the vehicle identification number (VIN), visit <http://www.cleanairforce.com/motorists/emissions-testing/vir-reprints/>.
- 3. Get a Pre-purchase Inspection.** Have a pre-purchase inspection performed by a trusted third party. Most new car dealers offer this service for about \$100.
- 4. Perform an On Board Diagnostic (OBD) Test.** An OBD test scans the vehicle for specific codes that can let you know when the vehicle has had certain repairs or if it has undergone recommended preventative maintenance services. This can be helpful when determining what kind of damage or work has been done to the vehicle in the past. The device can be used manually or purchased as a Bluetooth OBD unit that connects to a

smartphone through the use of an app. If the “Check Engine” light is on, be certain you understand the cause before purchasing. This might only indicate a minor problem, but could also equate to costly repairs.

For additional information, visit the Georgia’s Clean Air Force website at <http://www.cleanairforce.com> or contact the GCAF Call Center at 1.800.449-2471.

About Georgia’s Clean Air Force

Georgia's Clean Air Force, part of the Environmental Protection Division (EPD), is responsible for the management of the Enhanced Vehicle Emissions 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 Enhanced Vehicle Emissions Inspection and Maintenance Program has prevented tons of ozone-forming pollutants from entering the air we breathe, by identifying and repairing more than two million heavy-polluting vehicles. For more information visit <http://www.cleanairforce.com>.

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