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Six Tips to Help Your Car Beat Georgia's Summertime Heat

ATLANTA (August 10, 2020) – According a survey performed in June by MMGY Travel Intelligence, due to the coronavirus pandemic, sixty-seven percent of travelers are likely to travel by personal car during the next six months, more than doubling the percentage of travelers planning to travel by air during the same time period.

Since more drivers are likely to carry through with summer travel by car than by plane, [Georgia's Clean Air Force](#) (GCAF), in partnership with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD), encourages motorists to keep in mind six useful tips to boost their car's performance, decrease its maintenance costs and reduce damaging vehicle emissions during warmer temperatures.

"With the arrival of summer, it is important to make sure that your vehicle is prepared to face the hostile environment that increasing temperatures bring," said Michael Odom, Mobile & Area Sources Manager, Georgia EPD. "By following these car care tips, drivers can prolong their vehicle's life while contributing to cleaner air in Georgia."

- 1. Keep It Cool.** Keep your car's air conditioning (A/C) on a steady, low temperature to increase fuel efficiency. Also, it's important to ensure that there is no refrigerant leaking from your vehicle's A/C unit. Fix any leaks with products from your local auto parts store or visit a professional mechanic.
- 2. Tires Need TLC.** The increase of summer road trips serves as an opportune time to inflate your tires to the correct PSI. Hot weather causes the air in your tires to expand, which increases your chances of a blowout. The recommended tire pressure is listed on a sticker found on the driver's side doorjamb.
- 3. Test Your Battery.** High temperatures can cause battery fluid to evaporate, reducing a vehicle's battery life and causing further corrosion. Stop by your local mechanic for a battery inspection if you suspect it is nearing the end of its life.
- 4. Wiper Warning.** While summer brings sunshine and warm weather, large storms occur and it is important to make sure your wipers are working properly. Inspect

them to ensure they are not damaged or cracking, and that they're firmly against the windshield. To prevent glass damage and guarantee clear visibility, use approved cleaning solutions.

5. **Check Your Fluids.** Make sure the engine oil and coolant fluids are at peak performance levels. When temperatures increase, fluid levels work overtime, causing corrosion and overheating.
6. **Secure Shade:** Summer heat takes a toll on your vehicle's paint and interior, especially if it is parked in direct sunlight. To preserve the paint and interior, use a UV-protectant wax, park in a shady area, and invest in a sunshade to protect against UV rays.

To download an infographic on summer car care, visit the Georgia's Clean Air Force website at www.cleanairforce.com/press/.

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 nearly 1.9 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 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 3.8 million heavy-polluting vehicles. For more information, please visit <http://www.cleanairforce.com/>.

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