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Georgia's Clean Air Force Offers Insight into Emissions Testing's Positive Impacts During Clean Air Month

ATLANTA (May 21, 2021) – This May marks the 27th year of Clean Air Month, and according to the [Georgia Environmental Protection Division](#) (EPD), since the passing of the Clean Air Act in 1970, the six most common air pollutants have declined by 77%. Those pollutants include carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen oxides, ground-level ozone, particle pollution and sulfur oxides.

“We cannot recognize and celebrate Clean Air Month without acknowledging the air quality improvements many areas of the country have made,” said Michael Odom, Mobile & Area Sources Manager, Georgia EPD. “These significant strides in reducing common air pollutants have allowed Americans to breathe cleaner air, face lower health risks and reverse environmental damage.”

In honor of Clean Air Month, [Georgia's Clean Air Force](#), in partnership with the Georgia EPD, offers insight into the positive impacts Georgians create each year by completing their emissions testing.

- **Reversing Climate Change.** The quality of air we breathe is directly related to our planet's overall health, and cars, trucks and other transportation methods emit pollutants that greatly impact climate change. Reducing these emissions through manufacturing transportation options such as higher fuel efficiency and implementation of CO₂ testing are proven solutions to reversing climate change.
- **Improving Health.** Air pollution is viewed as a primary threat to respiratory health and can cause cardiovascular diseases, immune system disorders and more. Georgia's motorists play a significant role in improving the state's overall health by testing their vehicles annually to ensure they meet air quality standards.
- **Creating a Biodiverse Environment.** According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the rise in global temperature is causing serious and unforeseen impacts on species. Georgia's emissions testing program is essential

for reducing CO2's effects on plant and animal life, prioritizing nature conservation and enhancing species survival.

To learn more, visit Georgia's Clean Air Force's website at <http://www.cleanairforce.com>.

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

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