



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Georgia's Clean Air Force Offers Six Back-to-School Tips for Metro Atlanta Commuters**

**ATLANTA (July 23, 2019)** – As the summer season winds down and the roads fill up with school-bound children, [Georgia's Clean Air Force](#), in partnership with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD), offers six easy tips for drivers looking to save time and money, while contributing to cleaner air in the metro Atlanta area.

- **Be Cool and (Car) Pool.** Utilize social media networks like Facebook to set up a back-to-school carpool with your neighbors. More families willing to contribute to carpooling means fewer trips to and from school. Looking to super-size your savings? Consider carpooling to work with nearby colleagues on the days you don't lead the kids' carpool.
- **Break From Tradition.** With the beginning of the school year just weeks away, Atlanta's increased traffic congestion is on the horizon. To avoid a standstill, try breaking free of the traditional 9-to-5 by staggering your commute. Ask your boss if you can arrive for work later in the morning to avoid traffic or if telecommuting is an option, work from home to be more productive.
- **Steer Clear of Idling.** Although idling in the pickup line at school might be the most convenient option, it is not environmentally friendly. Not only does idling waste gas and money, it's also extremely harmful to the environment. Every 10 minutes of idling cut from your daily driving saves one pound of carbon dioxide from entering and damaging the atmosphere. Need to idle for more than 30 seconds? Turn off your engine.
- **Use an App as a Map.** Avoid school traffic by using a smartphone app to reroute your drive and bypass trouble areas. With endless options for driving and mapping apps on Apple and Android products, every driver can discover the most efficient way to arrive at his or her destination. Many apps have an added bonus of in-navigation traffic updates that will redirect motorists to a less congested route.
- **Lighten Up.** Carrying around unnecessary cargo? Summer is the best time to see what may be hiding in your trunk or under your seats. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), fuel economy can be increased by 1 - 2 percent for every 100 pounds removed from the trunk of a vehicle. As gas prices steadily increase during the summer driving season, this can translate into significant fuel savings over time.
- **Even Cars Need Checkups.** Before the summer ends, check in with a local mechanic to have a car tune-up. Mechanics can check for malfunctioning oxygen sensors, underinflated tires, clogged filters, and other factors that can reduce fuel economy over time. Getting in the habit of regular maintenance can help identify issues that may cause a failing emissions test in the future.

“By planning ahead and implementing these common-sense tips this back-to-school driving season, metro Atlanta drivers can save time and money, while they minimize the effects of traffic congestion and most importantly, reduce the impact of harmful vehicle emissions,” said Michael Odom, Mobile & Area Sources Program Manager, Georgia EPD.

For additional information and to discover a helpful infographic on back-to-school commuting statistics, visit Georgia’s Clean Air Force at [www.cleanairforce.com](http://www.cleanairforce.com).

**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 1.9 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 3.6 million heavy-polluting vehicles. For more information, please visit [www.cleanairforce.com](http://www.cleanairforce.com).

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