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World Environment Day: A Few Simple Changes to Make a Big Impact on Air Pollution *Recommendations from Georgia's Clean Air Force to help you reduce air pollution and live a better life*

ATLANTA (June 3, 2019) – June 5 is [World Environment Day](#), an initiative launched by the United Nations in 1974 to encourage worldwide awareness and action about the protection of our environment. Recognizing the importance of the 2019 theme, “Air Pollution,” [Georgia's Clean Air Force](#), in partnership with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD), reminds motorists to take a few simple actions to reduce air pollution.

Though air pollution is a complex subject with wide-ranging implications, everyone can play a role in the reduction of pollutants to help create a better environment. According to Michael Odom, Mobile & Area Sources Program Manager, Georgia EPD, “the 2019 World Environment Day theme of air pollution is a perfect reminder for everyone to make environmentally sound choices in their daily lives. Making a few simple changes to our routines can have a far-reaching positive effect on the quality of the air we all breathe.”

Some of the simplest ways to reduce air pollution also have the added benefit of saving time and money. Among them are the following suggestions:

- **Put Efficiency on Your To-Do List.** We all lead busy lives and becoming more efficient can help in a variety of ways. The best way to increase efficiency is to make a to-do list when you're planning to run errands. Combining errands into one trip will reduce the number of necessary trips and therefore ensure that you maximize your valuable free time.
- **Tune Up Your Ride.** Every vehicle needs routine maintenance, and a getting a routine tune-up will help to improve the fuel economy, power of acceleration, and battery life, among other things. Using less gas, which reduces emissions and prolongs the life of a lead-acid battery, has a net-positive effect on the environment and the quality of our air.
- **Clean Up Your Commute.** Splitting a carpool with a friend or coworker can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by as much as 2.3 metric tons per year, according to statistics from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). As an added benefit, carpooling can save you money on gas and also save you time through the use of HOV lanes. Another alternative could be using public transportation whenever possible.
- **Enjoy the Clean Air.** If you're staying local, consider enjoying the clean air to which you contribute. Walking or biking to your errands will ensure that you not only eliminate harmful emissions, but you also get some fresh air, enjoy some exercise, and save money on gas.

- **Breathe In That New Car Smell.** When shopping for a new or used vehicle, consider the impact that your selected make and model has on the environment. Today's vehicle market offers a wide variety of models that are more fuel-efficient than ever, including hybrid and fully electric cars. If you're going to buy a vehicle, you can reduce emissions, spend less on gas, and ride in style.

For additional information, visit Georgia's Clean Air Force at 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.

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