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MEDIA CONTACT: Sara Lips  
Director of Communications  
Georgia Environmental Protection Division  
470-524-0732  
[sara.lips@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:sara.lips@dnr.ga.gov)

### **Five Reasons We Test Emissions In Georgia**

**ATLANTA (July 22, 2022)** – For 26 years, [Georgia's Clean Air Force](#) (GCAF), in partnership with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD), has been a driving force in helping Georgians lead better lives.

"Georgia's Clean Air Force oversees the state's inspections and maintenance program, commonly referred to as vehicle emissions testing," said Michael Odom, Mobile & Area Sources Manager, Georgia EPD. "Air pollution affects every demographic group in our state. Improving quality of life measures is one of the main benefits of participation in emissions testing."

The program's mission is to minimize the amount of hazardous air pollutants released by motor vehicles, thereby reducing air pollution and its negative impact on human life and the environment. By testing and measuring exhaust emissions, Georgia's Clean Air Force ensures vehicles are not omitting high levels of hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide, and carbon dioxide into the air.

Five compelling reasons we test emissions in Georgia include:

- 1. Public Health.** Although the link between breathing unclean air and the incidence of respiratory illnesses such as asthma is well-known, the true impact of inhaling air pollutants is far more wide-ranging. Air pollution affects nearly every organ in the body, and is associated with an increased risk of cancer, birth defects, brain and nerve damage, and cataracts. Reducing pollution has a rapid and significant impact on health.
- 2. Environment.** Air pollutants form acid rain and ground-level ozone, damaging trees, wildlife, and water. Ozone high above the earth's surface provides protection from the sun's ultraviolet

(UV) light, but ozone at ground level, which is created by chemical reactions between oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>) and volatile organic compounds (VOC), is damaging to both human and environmental health. Georgia's vehicle emissions testing has led to the removal of 160,000 tons of nitric oxide and 102,000 tons of volatile organic compounds from the air.

**3. Economy.** Cleaner air and a growing economy go hand in hand. Fewer absences from school and work, and better performance on the job, lead to improved economic health. Additionally, the move toward cleaner technology to reduce the impact of climate change is a significant driver of economic growth in the United States.

**4. Efficiency.** Even before the current spike in fuel prices, better fuel efficiency has been a meaningful benefit of vehicle emissions testing. Repairing a vehicle that failed an emissions test [can increase fuel economy by an average of 4%](#).

**5. It's the law.** Georgia tests emissions in the 13 metro Atlanta counties because it's the law. The Clean Air Act requires states and the Environmental Protection Agency to work together to solve multiple air pollution problems through programs based on science and technology. Georgia's Clean Air Force continues to be in full compliance with the regulations of the Clean Air Act of 1990.

To download an infographic, visit the Georgia's Clean Air Force website at <https://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 2.1 million tons of harmful ozone-forming pollutants from entering the air we breathe. The program has also identified and repaired more than 4.1 million heavy-polluting vehicles. For more information, please visit <http://www.cleanairforce.com/>.

Sources: <https://www.epa.gov/clean-air-act-overview/plain-english-guide-clean-air-act>, <https://www.atsjournals.org/doi/10.1513/AnnalsATS.201907-538CME>, <https://www.epa.gov/clean-air-act-overview/plain-english-guide-clean-air-act>, <https://mitsloan.mit.edu/ideas-made-to-matter/psychological-economic-and-social-costs-air-pollution>, <https://www.epa.gov/clean-air-act-overview/clean-air-act-and-economy>

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