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**Three Ways to Champion Air Quality Awareness Week**

*Communities Encouraged to Take Proactive Steps To Enhance Air Quality Not Just In May,  
But Year-Round*

**ATLANTA (May 6, 2024)** - Each May, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) leads Air Quality Awareness Week, aimed at informing the public about initiatives to safeguard and enhance air quality. This year's Air Quality Awareness Week runs May 6 to May 10, coinciding with the onset of ozone season, wildfire season, and World Asthma Day on May 7. Thanks to the EPA, there are numerous avenues and resources available to inspire and empower our communities to take proactive steps and raise awareness to protect our air.

"Air Quality Awareness Week presents a prime opportunity to involve our community in air quality awareness and improvement," said Michael Odom, Mobile & Area Sources Manager, Georgia EPD. "Resources are available to educate people about the specific air conditions in their locales and the potential health implications for their communities. This empowers them to make informed decisions, such as determining optimal outdoor playtimes for children during Code Orange air quality days and rescheduling activities to periods of improved air quality."

There are many ways for people to learn about the conditions that impact air quality, as well as how to prepare for, and respond to, events and environments with poor air quality. This knowledge is useful not only during the month of May, but year-round.

1. **Host a Virtual Community Health Fair or Public Event:** Showcase air quality awareness resources and insights. Collaborate with your local health department, healthcare providers, and other health-focused organizations to curate informative exhibits and educational sessions and distribute essential materials.

2. **Forge Partnerships with Schools:** Educate students and faculty about air quality awareness. Reach out to high schools' and middle schools' science and health departments to arrange presentations highlighting the significance of air quality awareness. Offer real-time demonstrations on accessing current Air Quality Index (AQI) readings. Explore interactive activities for students, parents, and educators on EPA's AirNow website ([www.airnow.gov](http://www.airnow.gov)).
3. **Organize an Air Quality Awareness Poster Contest:** Rally local schools, daycares, and after-school programs for a vibrant poster contest celebrating Air Quality Awareness Week. Team up with local businesses or non-profit entities to co-sponsor the event, participate in judging panels, and provide exciting incentives or prizes for the winning entries.

For further information, visit [www.epa.gov/air-quality/air-quality-awareness-week](http://www.epa.gov/air-quality/air-quality-awareness-week).

To download an infographic, visit the Georgia's Clean Air Force website at <https://cleanairforce.com/common/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 more than 2.1 million tons of harmful ozone-forming pollutants from entering the air we breathe. The program has also identified and repaired more than 4.5 million heavy-polluting vehicles. For more information, please visit <https://cleanairforce.com/>.

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