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How You Can Reduce Air Pollution from Vehicle Emissions

ATLANTA (April 5, 2024) – As metro Atlanta heads into the period known as “Ozone Season,” there are a number of ways for citizens to reduce pollution from vehicle emissions.

Along with testing of the vehicle emissions in the 13 metro Atlanta counties, EPA recommends that citizens **drive less, drive wise, choose fuel efficient vehicles, and avoid idling.** [See additional recommendations.](#)

Two recent initiatives from the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) also aim to make it easier for citizens to reduce dangerous pollutants.

“Georgia has experienced significant air quality improvement through enhanced vehicle inspections and maintenance,” said Michael Odom, Mobile & Area Sources Manager, Georgia EPD. “Cleaner transportation means healthier air and healthier people. Georgia’s Clean Air Force is delighted that the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) has announced measures to further reduce transportation-related pollution.”

The City of Atlanta and ARC are partnering to offer an **e-bike rebate program** designed to provide affordable transportation options for moderate and low-income individuals. Added benefits of the incentive program include reducing traffic and improving air quality.

Other regions have had success with similar programs. According to a press release from ARC, “Denver’s \$3 million e-bike program has put 7,600 e-bikes on the road and reduced vehicle miles traveled by about 165,000 per week, avoiding about 3,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year.”

In addition, ARC plans to implement **the installation of 300-400 electric vehicle charging ports** in Atlanta communities where EV charging opportunities are scarce.

Motorists who drive non-electric vehicles can also help reduce air pollution in the metro area. Driving fewer total miles means fewer pollutants enter the air. By combining errands, working remotely, and choosing commuting options other than single-occupant vehicles, Georgians can contribute to a healthier environment. Following a vehicle's recommended maintenance schedule is another great way to reduce noxious exhaust and ensure a passing emissions inspection.

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/>.

Sources: <https://atlantaregional.org/news/>; <https://www.epa.gov/transportation-air-pollution-and-climate-change>

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