



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Georgia's Clean Air Force Celebrates 20 Years of Cleaner Air**

*More than 1.6 million tons of pollutants removed from Georgia's air since 1996*

**ATLANTA (October 7, 2016)** – Georgia residents are breathing easier thanks to [Georgia's Clean Air Force](#), which is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in October.

Since its inception in 1996, Georgia's Clean Air Force, in partnership with the Environmental Protection Division (EPD), has removed more than 1.6 million tons of harmful pollutants from the air that we breathe, thanks to the Enhanced Vehicle Emission Inspection and Maintenance Program throughout Atlanta's 13 metro counties.

This has had a significant impact on the quality of life for Georgia's residents. Air pollution is a serious health issue, and studies have shown that air pollution can worsen allergies and asthma symptoms. This is a particular concern for vulnerable populations, including seniors and young children.

"In 20 years, the Enhanced Vehicle Emission Inspection and Maintenance Program has proven effective in removing harmful pollutants from the air in the Atlanta metro area," said Pamela Earl, Mobile & Area Source Program Manager, Environmental Protection Division. "We are proud of the efforts of motorists, the vehicle testing industry and the tag offices to work together to make this program successful."

In total, Georgia's Clean Air Force and the Enhanced Vehicle Emission Inspection and Maintenance Program has helped to remove 1.4 million tons of carbon monoxide, 138,800 tons of nitric oxide and nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) and 97,800 tons of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from the air that Georgians breathe.

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For additional information on Georgia's Clean Air Force, visit [www.cleanairforce.com](http://www.cleanairforce.com).

**About Georgia's Clean Air Force**

Georgia's Clean Air Force, 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, the Georgia EPD has worked to reduce harmful vehicle emissions. Georgia's Inspection and Maintenance Program has prevented 1.6 million tons of ozone-forming pollutants from entering the air we breathe, by identifying and repairing more than three million heavy-polluting vehicles. For more information, visit [www.cleanairforce.com](http://www.cleanairforce.com).

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