



North Central Texas
Council of Governments

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Amanda Wilson
(817) 695-9284
awilson@nctcog.org

or

Jason Brown
817-704-2514
jbrown@nctcog.org

AirCheckTexas Vehicle Replacement Winding Down for 2011

Friday is last day to apply for \$3,000 vouchers toward newer, cleaner cars

July 27, 2011 (Arlington, Texas) – A significant reduction in state funding has led the North Central Texas Council of Governments to refocus the AirCheckTexas Drive a Clean Machine Program for the rest of the year. The program has helped thousands of qualifying residents replace or repair their high-emitting vehicles over the past several years, but it will now concentrate on aiding North Texas vehicle owners with repair costs.

The final day to apply for a replacement voucher this year is Friday, July 29. Residents with vehicles that have failed the emissions portion of the state inspection or are more than 10 years old are encouraged to apply if they meet the income criteria. Completed replacement applications, with income verification, must be received by 5 p.m. Friday.

The redesigned AirCheckTexas Program will focus year-round on providing repair assistance. Qualifying motorists may receive vouchers worth up to \$600 to help them fix vehicles that have failed the emissions test in the past 30 days.

The replacement component of the program is being scaled back following the 82nd Texas Legislature's decision to cut funding 88 percent to help balance the state budget. Applications submitted before the deadline Friday will be processed, and those who qualify for assistance will receive \$3,000 vouchers (\$3,500 for hybrids) toward the purchase of newer, cleaner vehicles.

Early in 2012, the program is expected to reopen for a limited time to vehicle owners seeking help with replacement costs of their cars and trucks.

More than 25,000 high-polluting vehicles have been replaced with newer, cleaner-burning cars and trucks with the assistance of AirCheckTexas. This has helped the area move closer to compliance with federal ozone standards. Nine Dallas-Fort Worth area counties (Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall and Tarrant) are designated by the Environmental Protection Agency as nonattainment for ozone pollution.

Applications and income verification must be submitted by fax (817-608-2315 or 817-695-9292) or mail. The mailing address is AirCheckTexas Program, P.O. Box 5888, Arlington, TX 76005-5888. NCTCOG is not able to assist walk-ins because of limited resources.

For an AirCheckTexas application or to review program requirements or frequently asked questions, visit www.nctcog.org/airchecktexas.

About the North Central Texas Council of Governments:

NCTCOG is a voluntary association of local governments established in 1966 to assist local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit and coordinating for sound regional development. NCTCOG's purpose is to strengthen both the individual and collective power of local governments and to help them recognize regional opportunities, eliminate unnecessary duplication and make joint decisions.

NCTCOG serves a 16-county region of North Central Texas, which is centered on the two urban centers of Dallas and Fort Worth. Currently, NCTCOG has 240 member governments including 16 counties, 170 cities, 24 school districts and 30 special districts.

#