



MARICOPA COUNTY
Environmental Services
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VEHICLE REPAIR PROGRAM CONTINUES TO HELP CITIZENS WHO FAIL EMISSIONS *County Extends Program to Help Bring Older Vehicles Up To Standards, Reduce Pollution*

(Phoenix)— A failed emissions test doesn't have to hurt your wallet and the environment. The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors extended the contract today for a program that can repair your vehicle and get you safely back on the road for little out of pocket cost and a lot of benefit to air quality.

The Board agreed to extend the County's contract with Arizona Department of Environmental Quality for the Voluntary Vehicle Repair and Retrofit Program until 2002. This program has already helped more than 2,700 high polluting vehicles meet State of Arizona emissions standards, reducing air pollution by 700 tons.

"Since 1999 this program has served as one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce air pollution," said Supervisor Don Stapley. "Thanks to the diligent work of Maricopa County and additional funding appropriated by the Arizona State Legislature, the Voluntary Vehicle Repair and Retrofit Program will continue to give citizens the help they need in repairing their cars."

Residents participating in the program will pay the first \$150 of the repair or retrofit as a co-payment. Maricopa County will pay up to an additional \$550 for repairs or an additional \$650 for the retrofit kit and installation. The County plans to repair and/or retrofit at least 2,550 vehicles over the next two years, using \$2.6 million of grant money appropriated by the Arizona State Legislature.

The following criteria are qualifications for the program:

- Vehicle must be functionally operational;
- Vehicle must be at least 12 years old;
- Vehicle must be registered for the immediately preceding 12 months and not unregistered more than 60 days;
- Vehicle must be titled in Arizona;
- Vehicle failed an emissions test in the last 60 days.

People interested in participating in the program should call (602) 506-6016 to verify qualifications and get information about one of the six participating garages. The participant takes their title, registration and failure notice to the repair facility for the repair and/or retrofit to the vehicle. The technician will verify that the vehicle is able to pass the emissions test and take it to an emission station for a re-test.

The emissions reduction is achieved by placing a retrofit emission upgrade kit on 1975-1980 vehicles, adding feedback computer technology, and replacing the old catalytic converter with a new three-way catalytic converter. Newer vehicles may be brought up to emissions standards without installing a retrofit kit.

For more information about the program, including a list of participating garages, call Maricopa County's Voluntary Vehicle Repair and Retrofit Program at (602) 506-6016 or visit the web site at www.maricopa.gov/sbeap/vehretro.htm.

About the Community Services Division

The Community Services Division of the Maricopa County Environmental Services Department oversees the Voluntary Vehicle Repair and Retrofit Program and other programs, including the Small Business Environmental Assistance Program, the Trip Reduction Program, the Smoking Vehicles Program and the Complaints Hotline. For more information on any of these programs, call (602) 506-6750.