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### **FREE CAR CARE CHECK UP DURING APRIL CAR CARE MONTH**

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL—April is car care month and the Palm Beach County Health Department, Pollution Prevention Coalition and Lincoln Technical University have joined together to remind everyone that proper vehicle maintenance reduces air pollution and improves fuel economy.

Beginning on April 10 and continuing Thursdays throughout the month, Lincoln Technical is offering a free fuel efficiency check up and emission inventory at the school located on 1126 53<sup>rd</sup> Court N in West Palm Beach. Technicians will look over the vehicle and make expert recommendations that will save money and reduce air pollution by making maintenance adjustments.

Air pollution personnel from the Health Department have found that a properly tuned engine improves fuel economy 4-40% and that other simple car care items like changing air filters, proper tire inflation, replacing air filters and tightening a gas cap improve fuel economy up to 10%.

In addition to car care environmental health officials have some operating tips that can improve gas mileage.

- Jack rabbit starts and stops lower gas mileage 33% on the highway and 5% on city streets
- Sitting idle gets ZERO miles per gallon--a one or two minute warm-up is sufficient
- The fuel dispensed from topping-off often doesn't make it into the tank it backs-up into the pump and can damage the vapor recovery system which in turn creates air pollution
- Gas mileage decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 MPH maintaining a constant speed is most fuel efficient.

Further information on car care month can be obtained by calling the Health Department at 561-355-3070

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