

The SmartWaySM Transport Partnership is a voluntary public-private initiative designed to improve the environmental performance of the freight delivery system in the United States through money saving, market-based approaches.

The Challenge

From ports to manufacturing facilities and distribution centers to your front door, trucks and rail systems are part of a sophisticated, fast moving ground freight delivery system that delivers products safely and on time. Ground freight is an integral part of the United States economy. According to government and industry statistics, 85 percent of the total value of United States cargo is trucked, accounting for 66 percent of all freight by weight. Trucking-related occupations employ about 10 million people. Railroads represent four percent of the total value of all freight by weight, carrying another 16 percent of the nation's freight by weight.

However, ground freight is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, responsible for approximately 20 percent of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from all transportation sources. Ground freight is also a significant source of smog-forming emissions and other harmful air pollutants that impact public health, particularly the young and the elderly. Ground freight accounts for 40 percent of the oxides of nitrogen emissions (NO_x) and 31 percent of the particulate matter emissions (PM) from transportation sources. These emissions can impact air quality and contribute to climate change.

The Solution

The U.S. EPA's SmartWay Transport Partnership is a voluntary public-private partnership that addresses greenhouse gas emissions, fuel consumption, criteria pollutants (NO_x and PM), and operating costs associated with ground freight transportation operations. The SmartWay Transport Partnership addresses other key national concerns: energy security, energy savings, and environmental justice.

- Freight vehicles consume approximately 20 percent of energy consumed by the U.S. transportation sector. By conserving fuel from these vehicles, we reduce our dependence on imported oil, thereby safeguarding our nation's energy security.
- Promoting new strategies and technologies that improve fuel economy will improve efficiency and reduce fuel costs for freight fleets.
- Reducing idling at truck stops addresses community health and environmental justice issues prevalent in certain urban areas.

Through this voluntary partnership, EPA and its partners expect to eliminate 33 to 66 million metric tons of CO₂ emissions and up to 200,000 tons of NO_x emissions per year by 2012. This represents savings of as much as 150 million barrels of oil per year – equivalent to taking about 12 million cars off the road.

Working together, SmartWay Transport Partners can incorporate various strategies and technologies to achieve these goals.

Carriers can integrate cost saving, fuel efficient technology and strategies into their fleet:

- Idle Reduction
- Improved Aerodynamics
- Improved Freight Logistics
- Automatic Tire Inflation Systems
- Driver Training
- Advanced Lubricants
- Advanced Powertrain Technologies

Shippers can implement facility measures that improve efficiency and reduce emissions:

- Intermodal Shipping
- Pick-up and Delivery Scheduling
- Full Truck Loads
- Preferential Docking
- Warehouse Improvements
- Electric Forklifts
- Driver Comfort Stations
- Idle-Reduction at Docks

Partnership Design

SmartWay Transport Partners are progressive corporations and organizations that recognize they can improve their business and the environment at the same time. Companies that provide and hire freight delivery services (carriers and shippers, respectively) become SmartWay Transport Partners by committing to improve the environmental performance of their freight delivery operations. SmartWay Transport Carriers commit to integrate innovative cost saving strategies into their fleet operations. SmartWay Transport Shippers commit to ship the majority of their goods with SmartWay Transport carriers. Companies that meet SmartWay Transport Partnership requirements will benefit from reduced operating costs and enhanced visibility.

Partners that demonstrate superior performance will earn the right to display the SmartWay Transport logo.

By defining clear and achievable goals and committing to ambitious strategies, participants in the SmartWay Transport Partnership are actively addressing concerns about greenhouse gas reductions and air quality.

Partner Enrollment

To become a SmartWay Transport Partner, carriers must:

- Measure current environmental performance with the SmartWay Transport F.L.E.E.T. (Fleet Logistics Energy and Environmental Tracking) Performance Model for carriers.
- Commit to improve that performance within three years.
- Sign the SmartWay Transport Partnership Agreement.

To become a SmartWay Transport Partner, shippers must:

- Assess the current proportion of goods dispatched with SmartWay Transport Partner Carriers using the FLEET Performance Model for shippers.
- Commit to ship at least 50 percent or more of their goods with SmartWay Transport Partner Carriers.
- Assess and commit to improve their facility transportation emissions within three years.
- Sign the SmartWay Transport Partnership Agreement.

To meet their goals, all Partners must:

- Create and submit an Action Plan describing how shipper or carrier will achieve commitment.
- Report progress toward achieving the goal to EPA annually.

The complementary relationship between shippers and carriers maximizes the opportunities for Partners to support one another in achieving mutual environmental goals. To join the SmartWay Transport Partnership, simply send the completed FLEET Performance Model and signed Partnership Agreement to EPA.

Partner Benefits

Participation in the SmartWay Transport Partnership provides tangible benefits for companies:

Shippers can:

- better understand their environmental transportation impact.
- reduce the environmental impacts of freight operations by simply choosing to do business with SmartWay Transport Carriers.
- join a community of leaders and enhance their public image by joining the SmartWay Transport Partnership.

Carriers can:

- better understand the environmental impact of their fleet operations.
- reduce their environmental impact by using recommended technologies and strategies.
- save money by incorporating fuel saving strategies into their fleet operations.
- become preferred carriers of SmartWay Transport Shippers.
- join a community of leaders and enhance their public image by joining the SmartWay Transport Partnership.

Using the SmartWay Partner Logo

Shippers and carriers that demonstrate superior environmental performance will be able to advertise their status as SmartWay Transport Partners using the official SmartWay Transport Partner logo.

Logo eligibility is determined based upon results of the FLEET Performance Model for either carriers or shippers.

The FLEET Performance Model for both carriers and shippers generates a score, which EPA uses to determine if a company qualifies to use the SmartWay Transport Partner logo.

To qualify to use the SmartWay Transport Partner logo:

- **Carrier Partners** must have a FLEET Performance Model Composite score of 1.0 or higher.
- **Shipper Partners** must have a FLEET Performance Model score of 50 percent or higher.

Companies that qualify must adhere to EPA's SmartWay Graphics Standards and Use Guide (available at www.epa.gov/smartway), as well as sign and return the Logo Use Signature Page before using the SmartWay Transport Partner logo.

EPA Assistance

EPA provides software models to assist carriers and shippers with assessing the current emissions and fuel efficiency of fleets and freight operations (e.g. the SmartWay Transport FLEET Performance Model). These tools also allow fleets and companies to evaluate the efficiency improvements and emission reductions available through application of various technologies and strategies. EPA staff is available to answer questions concerning the models and to provide technical assistance.

For More Information

Visit www.epa.gov/smartway for more information on the Partnership.

