



Idling Reduction

Company Profile

Headquarters Location
San Antonio, Texas

Contact:
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Number of Employees:
60,000

Strategy Category:
Idling reduction

Number of Trailers:
2,400

Number of Power Units:
400



H-E-B Grocery

H-E-B is committed to conducting their business in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner. A bi-national company serving Texas and northern Mexico with over 300 stores, manufacturing plants, and warehouse and distribution centers, environmental ethics is interwoven directly into H-E-B's retail business strategy. "The public expects companies to be environmentally focused. Because of this, H-E-B continues to raise the bar on environmental quality and standards," notes Susan Ghertner, environmental affairs manager of H-E-B. Aside from internal commitments to environmental growth, H-E-B has extended their environmental ethic into the communities they serve. In honor of their 100th anniversary in 2005, the company donated environmental GIS software to 40 middle-schools throughout Texas and planted 100 historic trees. In addition, they support environmental organizations and programs in the communities they serve. H-E-B has also focused their attention on recycling initiatives, water and energy conservation, energy efficiency measures, and green building.

On average, each truck in the H-E-B fleet travels 150,000 miles per year. Conserving fuel and cutting emissions are high priorities for H-E-B. "Our anti-idling efforts have been the most appreciated by the public," claims Ghertner. Aside from anti-idling efforts, H-E-B has implemented wide based tires on their entire fleet of trucks and trailers, installed automatic tire inflation devices, utilized low-friction lubricants, and have developed a speed management program for drivers. Currently 60% of their Houston fleet is fueling their trucks on liquefied natural gas. In addition, H-E-B has implemented aerodynamic features such as reduced cab-trailer distance as well as cab, roof, and side fairings on their fleet vehicles. H-E-B's use of aerodynamic technology is expected to save 830,786 gallons of fuel and reduce CO₂ outputs by 9,222 tons in 2006. In total, H-E-B projects to save 5,471,434 gallons of fuel and reduce 60,733 tons of CO₂ in 2006 due to their implementation of SmartWay strategies. "HEB continues to stay progressive by educating their drivers of new policies and fuel reduction strategies," notes Ghertner.

SmartWay has had a valuable impact on H-E-B's business. "The SmartWay FLEET model is a valuable tool for evaluating the fuel we are saving as well as the emissions we are cutting, which offers us a competitive advantage," notes Ghertner. "SmartWay is a wonderful opportunity to learn from other businesses as well as unify them towards a common goal," proclaims Ghertner. Environmental efforts have also been embraced by their employees. "Our commitment to the environment is the right thing to do and it makes sense economically," concludes Ghertner.

