

*Truck and rail operators are using a multitude of strategies to reduce the environmental impacts of carrying America's freight. Shippers are working to do their part too, not only by implementing measures at their own facilities that improve efficiency and lead to emissions reductions, but also by hiring the most environmentally responsible carriers. The following technologies and strategies are just some of the measures shippers can adopt to facilitate reductions in fuel consumption and emissions associated with freight shipping activities.*

## Intermodal Shipping

*Many goods and materials may be delivered to distribution hubs more efficiently by rail than by truck.*

- Intermodal shipping combines the fuel efficiency of rail with the logistical strengths of trucking.
- Standardized containers are easily transferred between rail and truck.
- Intermodal shipping can minimize overall fuel consumption, reduce emissions, and lower the costs of freight delivery.

## Driver Comfort Stations

*Drivers may spend a great deal of their work day idling their trucks to stay comfortable at shipping and receiving docks.*

- Shippers can provide climate controlled comfort stations at dock facilities so that drivers won't need to idle their trucks to stay warm or cold.
- Eliminating idling provides significant fuel, emissions and maintenance benefits, and the improved driver comfort enhances safety.

## Preferential Loading and Unloading

*SmartWay Transport Shippers can support the goals of the Partnership by providing special shipping and receiving privileges for SmartWay Transport Carriers.*

- Deliveries by Partner carriers may be given prime shipping and delivery times and positions.
- Selected docks may be designated as "SmartWay Transport Docks."

## Idle Reduction Policies

*Shippers usually have control over access to their docking facilities including any parking or waiting areas.*

- A shipper may implement a "No Idling" policy for any truck that picks up or delivers freight to its facilities.
- "No Idling" policies may best be combined with driver comfort stations, so drivers have an alternative to idling their trucks while waiting.
- Idling reductions offer immediate air quality benefits for local communities, especially in urban areas where environmental justice may be a concern.

## Improved Pickup and Delivery Scheduling

*Excess waiting time for drivers often leads to excess idling and the increased fuel use and emissions.*

- Shippers can improve scheduling with enhanced communications or logistics software.
- Improved pick up and delivery scheduling reduces excess idling and improves the on-time efficiency of freight operations.

## Full Truckloads

*Goods and materials are sometimes shipped on partially loaded trucks in the interest of expediency, increasing overall fuel use and shipping costs.*

- Shippers can improve truckload scheduling with logistics software that helps to ensure full loads.
- Full truckloads not only improve efficiency, but also help reduce congestion on the roadways and at shipping and receiving facilities.

## Shipper Corporate Fleet Improvements

*Shippers often have small fleets of light duty vehicles (cars and light trucks) used around their facilities or for staff travel.*

- Reducing older vehicles with more fuel-efficient and lower emitting vehicles reduces a company's overall environmental impact.

## Warehouse Improvements

*Shippers should consider any improvements in and around warehouses that will facilitate improved efficiency and emissions reductions.*

- Warehouse operations can have a direct impact on the efficient loading and unloading of delivery trucks.
- Shippers should explore any efficiency gains that can be made with improved storage and warehouse logistics techniques.

## Electric Forklifts

*Many freight facilities still use diesel-powered forklifts to carry pallets, crates, etc., between the dock and warehouse.*

- Electric forklifts are cleaner and more efficient to operate, producing no emissions at the facility.
- Utilizing electric forklifts reduces a company's environmental impact and improves ambient air quality in and around freight docking areas.
- Facilities might also consider alternatively fueled forklifts that run on compressed natural gas or propane.