

What is the SmartWay Transport Partnership?

The SmartWay Transport Partnership is an innovative collaboration between the US Environmental Protection Agency and the freight industry designed to implement creative approaches to reducing the environmental and energy impact of transport. The Partnership currently focuses on freight transport and helps companies reduce their transportation supply chain carbon footprint.

What are the goals of the SmartWay Transport Partnership program?

The goals of the SmartWay Transport Partnership are to increase the use of cleaner, more efficient technologies and operational strategies that reduce the environmental impacts of goods movement while helping companies save fuel and money. Using cleaner, more efficient technologies and strategies can reduce emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂), a greenhouse gas; oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), which is linked to adverse respiratory effects; and particulate matter (PM), a pollutant that can affect lung and heart functioning.

What does it mean for our company to be a SmartWay Transport Partner?

SmartWay Transport partners commit to reduce emissions and fuel use through more sustainable business practices. SmartWay partners like your employer commit to ship 50 percent or more of their goods using SmartWay Transport Carriers (freight carriers that commit to reduce their emissions). SmartWay shipper partners also agree to implement supply chain efficiencies that can include using less packaging, finding ways to reduce routing miles, fitting more freight into a rail car or truck trailer, reducing truck idling at loading docks, encouraging their freight carriers to adopt fuel-saving practices and equipment, and adopting other operational efficiency improvements.

Why does our company care about their supply chain?

Your company's supply chain includes all the materials and goods that it ships, receives or otherwise moves via barge, rail, truck, ocean vessel, coastal ship, pipeline, or other mode of freight transport. The supply chains of companies throughout the world comprise a vast and complex goods movement network, handling nearly everything that is manufactured, produced, distributed, bought or sold. Corporate America's supply chains move goods across our country and through our ports and borders. Your employer is working to improve the emissions performance and energy efficiency of its freight transportation supply chain, to create a more healthy and sustainable environment.

What is our carbon footprint and how will being part of SmartWay help us reduce this footprint?

Carbon dioxide is emitted by combusting carbon-containing fuels. This can include fossil fuels like coal used to generate electricity, natural gas used to heat buildings, propane used in equipment, and diesel and gasoline used to power vehicles and equipment. A carbon footprint can include carbon dioxide emissions from all these sources - electricity use, buildings, transportation, and other activities and operations. As a SmartWay partner, your employer has committed to implement strategies that will lower its greenhouse gas emissions, i.e., lower its carbon footprint – from its freight transport operations.

Why is this good for business and the environment?

Any company looking to assess their supply chain and make it more sustainable will need to understand and define the environmental and business impacts of its supply chain. Reducing the carbon intensity of a company's supply chain will reduce environmental impacts and more than likely will save fuel, which reduces costs and improves profitability. Reducing the carbon intensity of goods movement provides environmental benefits and improves our nation's energy security.

Since reducing carbon is so important, what can I do to reduce my own transportation carbon footprint?

Choose a Cleaner, More Fuel-efficient Vehicle. A vehicle with better gas mileage can travel further on a single tank of fuel. That means less pollution and less carbon dioxide are added to the atmosphere. To help you select a cleaner and more fuel efficient vehicle, visit the Green Vehicle Guide at: www.epa.gov/greenvehicles. Look for the EPA "SmartWay" and "SmartWay Elite" leaf logos, which designate passenger vehicles earning the highest environmental marks.

Drive Fewer Miles. Transportation contributes almost one-third of the country's carbon dioxide emissions, and is a significant source of NO_x, PM, and other pollutants. The most effective way to reduce greenhouse gas and other emissions from passenger transportation is to drive fewer miles. Whenever possible, cut trips by combining multiple trips into a single, well-routed trip, take public transportation, rideshare, ride a bicycle, or walk.

Maintain Your Vehicle Properly. Your vehicle is designed to perform best when properly maintained. A poorly maintained vehicle can pollute more than one that is well maintained. Keeping your tires properly inflated is very important. It improves fuel economy, helps to maintain tire safety and handling performance, and helps tires last longer.

Refuel Wisely. When the weather is warm, try to refuel early in the morning or late in the evening. This will reduce the release of smog-forming gas emissions during the heat of the day when smog forms easiest. Don't overfill the tank; spilled fuel wastes money and creates pollution.

Where can I go to get more information?

Visit www.epa.gov/smartway