

Featured Partner: Saddle Creek Logistics

About Saddle Creek Logistics Services

Saddle Creek Logistics Services provides third-party logistics services—warehousing, transportation, packaging and fulfillment. By leveraging these capabilities, Saddle Creek delivers integrated solutions to help customers increase speed to market, accommodate business fluctuations, control supply chain costs, improve service to customers, and support corporate sustainability programs.

For more information on sustainability at Saddle Creek, visit www.sclogistics.com/sustainability.



“Saddle Creek is committed to making sustainability an integral part of its supply chain strategies. Our partnership with SmartWay is a natural extension of this commitment. We’ll continue to work together to find ways to reduce our environmental footprint.”

— Mike DelBovo, president, Saddle Creek Transportation Inc.

Why SmartWay?

Saddle Creek’s commitment to sustainability and goal of operating a green fleet are well-aligned with SmartWay’s focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution caused by freight transportation. Partnering with SmartWay was a natural next step in Saddle Creek’s commitment to increasing supply chain efficiency.

Investing in a Smaller Carbon Footprint

As part of its commitment to sustainability, Saddle Creek has invested in compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles for its for-hire fleet. CNG is a clean-burning alternative fuel option with exhaust emissions that are relatively low, compared with diesel-powered vehicles.

In 2012, Saddle Creek began operating a small fleet of 40 Freightliner CNG trucks from its Lakeland, Florida (FL), headquarters, and the company has continued to add new vehicles. Today, the fleet is comprised of nearly 200 CNG tractors, which represents more than 40 percent of Saddle Creek’s total for-hire fleet. Over the past few years, the company has expanded the fleet to its operations in Jacksonville, FL, Atlanta and Valdosta, Georgia, and Fort Worth, Texas.

To provide CNG fuel for the trucks, Saddle Creek constructed a \$2.2 million facility at its Lakeland campus and in 2015, the company invested an additional \$1.5 million to upgrade its CNG fueling station and increase the availability of more efficient time-fill stations.

Benefits and Results

The CNG trucks decrease emissions for both the company and its customers. To date, the fleet has traveled more than 60 million miles on CNG and lowered its carbon footprint significantly. By using CNG trucks instead of diesel, Saddle Creek has replaced more than 6.5 million gallons of diesel with natural gas.

Customers appreciate the opportunity to make deliveries while reducing their environmental footprint. The natural gas vehicles are also significantly quieter than their diesel counterparts, which is particularly helpful when trucks are delivering in residential areas.

In 2014, Saddle Creek embarked on the first cross-country trip with a for-hire CNG truck, showcasing CNG’s ability to reduce carbon emissions. The trip raised the visibility of CNG as a fuel option for long-haul goods movement trucking and helped generate excitement and encourage broader use of this alternative fuel technology.

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Saddle Creek Transportation was recognized by SmartWay for the efficiency of its truckload services in 2013. At this level of performance, Saddle Creek ranked in SmartWay's top 20th percentile for producing fewer carbon emissions than other SmartWay truckload carriers. *Commercial Carrier Journal* featured Saddle Creek Logistics as one of its top 250 Profiles in Success in 2014. In addition, Fleet Owner magazine named Saddle Creek Logistics the 2014 Green Fleet of the Year.

What's Next?

Saddle Creek will continue growing its CNG fleet to meet customer demand. The company will consider expanding into new geographic areas as the fueling infrastructure evolves.

Saddle Creek is also converting two diesel tractors into dual CNG-diesel fuel vehicles to reduce emissions. Plans are in place to convert more tractors to this eco-friendly, mixed-fuel platform.

Going forward, Saddle Creek will continue innovating to increase its sustainability. The company is working with CNG vehicle manufacturers to improve length of haul and develop vehicles that work on more varied terrain. Saddle Creek also plans to explore and encourage national and regional policy options that will help expand the use of alternative fuels.

Please visit the SmartWay website at www.epa.gov/smartway for more information about our partners.

