

EPA's SmartWay Program: Partnering with Freight Movers to Cut Fuel Consumption and Emissions



SmartWay, launched in 2004, is a partnership between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the freight industry to reduce fuel consumption and air pollution. Through this program, EPA has worked with more than 3,500 freight shippers, carriers, logistics companies, and other stakeholders to save almost 200 million barrels of oil.¹ The program has spurred the adoption of fuel-saving technologies and operational practices, helping companies lower costs and meet sustainability goals.

“The SmartWay program is a demonstrable success with measurable results,” *Glen Kedzie, Vice President, American Trucking Association (ATA)*

GROWING INDUSTRY

Freight shipping in the United States is increasing, and trucking continues to dominate. Truck shipments are expected to increase more than 40% by 2040, as shown in Figure 1.² While trucks are becoming more efficient under fuel efficiency and emissions standards, the increased miles traveled explains why total freight truck fuel use is projected to remain fairly constant over the coming decades.³ Moreover, trucks remain major emitters of

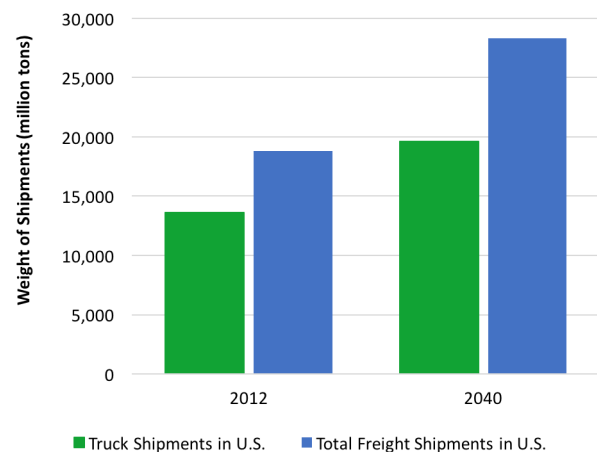


Figure 1: Growth in truck freight and total freight shipment in US.²

dangerous air pollutants. Reducing the energy costs and health impacts of goods movement is a US priority.

SMARTWAY BENCHMARKING

SmartWay promotes efficiency in freight shipping by designating efficient equipment and helping partners use them. SmartWay verifies and provides listings of the performance of aerodynamic devices, tires, and idle reduction equipment.⁴ The program

designates tractors with up-to-date engines and a specified package of fuel efficiency add-ons and similarly for trailers. A SmartWay Designated tractor-trailer combination uses 15-20% less fuel than standard models.⁵ Shippers, carriers—including truck, rail, barge, air, and multimodal carriers—and logistics providers become SmartWay Partner by using SmartWay-provided tools to track and analyze fuel consumption and emissions associated with their operations.

“Participation in SmartWay as both a shipper and carrier gives us a tool to measure our own, as well as our carriers’, progress toward reducing our footprint and helps us identify where and how we can continue to progress,” *Tracy Rosser, Senior Vice President, Walmart Transportation LLC*

SMARTWAY BENEFITS

SmartWay helps grow the market for more efficient equipment and freight operations. SmartWay helps manufacturers and suppliers demonstrate the real-world emissions and fuel savings of products. It gives fleets confidence to invest in trucks featuring those technologies. Businesses throughout the industry can use SmartWay Partner status to attract customers seeking to improve their own environmental performance and reduce energy costs.



In an effort to reduce fuel consumption and achieve ozone attainment in the freight industry-heavy Dallas-Fort Worth area, the

North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) joined the SmartWay program in 2006. NCTCOG has created programs for freight companies to help promote the benefits of SmartWay technologies and applications such as Saving Money and Reducing Truck Emissions (SMARTE). NCTCOG reported a reduction of 23 million gallons in fuel consumption through SmartWay projects in 2015.¹³

SmartWay saves money for businesses and consumers. American shippers and carriers have saved almost 200 million barrels of oil, lowered fuel costs by \$28 billion and reduced emissions of harmful air pollutants by 94 million tons through the SmartWay program.⁶ Savings from freight operations lower costs for consumers and a stronger economy.



Georgia-based Brown Trucking Company operates as a short-haul

carrier in nine Southeastern states, with more than 1,000 tractors and nearly 5,000 trailers. Since joining the SmartWay program in 2008, Brown Trucking improved its fuel economy from 5.7 mpg to 6.4 mpg and reduced idle fuel consumption by 35% by using SmartWay designated products, certified strategies, and driver training.¹²

SmartWay supports energy independence. The oil saved by SmartWay partners is equivalent to almost three months of oil imports from the Persian Gulf.^{7,8} Saving oil reduces American dependence on foreign oil, which enhances national security.

SmartWay protects Americans’ health. Since its launch in 2004, SmartWay has helped to prevent emissions of 1.7 million tons of nitrogen oxides and 70,000 tons of fine particulate matter (PM 2.5), which improves Americans’ health.⁹ This is especially critical for the well-being of people living near ports, truck stops, and major trucking corridors and for the millions of US truck drivers.¹⁰ SmartWay also works with local governments to reduce truck emissions and improve air quality.

SmartWay offers international leadership. SmartWay works with other countries, international banks, and major international organizations to reduce emissions and oil consumption from freight movement on a global scale.¹¹ This helps to establish American leadership in green freight globally and promotes US manufacturers’ products to the rest of the world.

NOTES

1. <https://www.epa.gov/smartway/learn-about-smartway>
2. https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-05/documents/smartway_2020_vision_report.pdf
3. https://www.eia.gov/outlooks/aeo/tables_ref.cfm Table 7.
4. <https://www.epa.gov/smartway/learn-about-smartway-verified-technologies>
5. <https://www.epa.gov/smartway/learn-about-smartway-tractors-and-trailers>
6. <https://www.epa.gov/smartway/how-smartway-advances-sustainable-transportation-supply-chains>
7. Ibid 6
8. https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/pet_move_impqus_a2_nus_ep00_im0_mbb1_m.htm
9. <http://fuelmarketernews.com/penske-truck-leasing-collects-fifth-straight-u-s-epa-smartway-affiliate-challenge-award/>
10. <https://www.epa.gov/smartway/smartway-program-successes>
11. Ibid 10
12. <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-05/documents/420f17010.pdf>
13. https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-08/documents/smartway_featuredpartner_texas.pdf