

## Background

### Q: What is the SmartWay<sup>SM</sup> Transport Partnership?

**A:** The SmartWay Transport Partnership is a collaborative voluntary program between EPA and the freight industry. The Partnership creates strong market-based incentives that challenge companies shipping products, and the truck and rail companies delivering these products, to improve the environmental performance of their freight operations. SmartWay Transport partners improve their energy efficiency, save money, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality.

### Q: Why is the SmartWay Transport Partnership important?

**A:** The ability to ship goods is vital to the US economy, and essential to our quality of life. However, freight trucks and locomotives consume 35 billion gallons of diesel fuel each year. Burning this fuel produces over 350 million metric tons of carbon dioxide each year.

By 2012, based on current trends, ground freight transportation will consume over **45 billion gallons of diesel fuel** and produce over **450 million metric tons of carbon dioxide**. These levels represent an increase of over 25% compared to today's levels.

The SmartWay Transport Partnership aims to significantly reduce these emissions. By 2012, the Partnership will cut carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions by 33 to 66 million metric tons per year, and nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) emissions by up to 200,000 tons per year. It will save the equivalent of up to 150 million barrels of oil per year. This is the same as removing up to 12 million cars off the road each year.

### Q: What are the goals of the SmartWay Transport Partnership?

**A:** The goals of the Partnership are to reduce:

- Fuel consumption from trucks and rail delivering freight;
- Operating costs associated with the delivery of freight;
- Emissions of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas; and
- NO<sub>x</sub> emissions and particulate matter, and air toxics that adversely affect air quality and contribute to health problems, especially in densely populated urban areas.

Specifically, by 2012, the SmartWay Transport Partnership aims to save between 3.3 and 6.6 billion gallons per year which translates to **eliminating at least 33 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions** and up to 200,000 tons of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions per year.

### Q: What is ground freight industry's contribution to air pollution?

**A:** Ground freight is a significant source of emissions that create smog and other harmful air pollutants that lead to related health concerns, especially among the young and the elderly.

Ground freight:

- contributes about 40 percent of the NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from transportation sources
- contributes about 31 percent of the PM emissions from transportation sources
- is a major source of greenhouse gases, responsible for approximately 20 percent of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from transportation sources.

### Q: How will EPA calculate the benefits from this Partnership?

**A:** EPA developed the *Freight Logistics Environmental and Energy Tracking Performance* model (FLEET Performance model) to help individual fleets assess current efficiency, and quantify the environmental and cost-saving benefits of various technologies and practices. The FLEET Performance model provides baseline environmental performance data (carbon dioxide and other emissions) and will be used to track improvements on an annual basis. EPA will aggregate this information to calculate the overall environmental benefits of the Partnership.

## For Potential Partners

### Q: Why should companies join the SmartWay Transport Partnership?

**A:** This Partnership is attractive to businesses for many reasons. Fleets save fuel and money. Companies can optimize their use of fuel-efficient strategies, by using the FLEET Performance model to evaluate the business case for these strategies, as it applies to their operations. Fleets have new opportunities to retain and attract business, since participating shippers need participating carriers.

The Partnership helps each Partner determine its environmental footprint, set environmental stewardship goals, and track progress, which may be important to shareholders and customers. All Partners receive national recognition. EPA will work with Partners to support and promote the Partnership, and to highlight their participation in it. All Partners have the benefit of EPA technical tools and assistance. Partners may also qualify to use the SmartWay Transport Partnership logo on packaging, advertising, and corporate communication.

### Q: Who can join the SmartWay Transport Partnership?

**A:** Virtually any company that ships products can join – from independent owner operators to large truck fleets; from big chain stores to small business owners. SmartWay Transport Partners are a true cross-section of America, working together to protect our natural resources and improve our economy.

### Q: How does a company join the SmartWay Transport Partnership?

**A:** Companies join by performing an environmental assessment of their freight operations and by committing to improve that performance within three years. EPA will provide the needed tools and materials to help companies determine their current environmental performance and help develop their individual improvement targets. Carriers will meet their goal by improving the efficiency of their fleet operations. Shippers will meet their goal by using participating carriers to ship the majority of their goods.

### Q: Are there costs associated with the SmartWay Transport Partnership?

**A:** The Partnership costs nothing to join. Partners determine their own improvement goals, based upon their business and environmental objectives. The costs of the strategies Partners may use to achieve their goals vary, although several strategies have no cost, or a low cost. Even options with an initial cost generally “pay back” within two or three years, since fuel savings (often augmented by lower maintenance costs and/or less vehicle downtime) can be substantial.