SmartWay®
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Overview Of Shipper Strategies

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.

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 pickup and delivery scheduling reduces excess idling and improves the **on-time efficiency** of freight operations.

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."**

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.

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.

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.

(continued)

Overview Of Shipper Strategies *(continued)*

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.

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.

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.

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.**

ABOUT U.S. EPA SMARTWAY

SmartWay is a market-driven initiative that empowers businesses to move freight in the cleanest, most energy-efficient way possible. It provides shippers and carriers with the tools and support they need to track, document, and share information about transport modes, equipment, and operational strategies that can reduce fuel use and emissions across the supply chain.

SmartWay®
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency