



AIR CURRENTS

Wisconsin Partners for Clean Air Newsletter

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WPCA Message from the Chair

We are nearing the end of another summer and ozone season. A fitting time to reflect and share information on a successful voluntary program that helps reduce air emissions in the area of transport.

In this issue of *Air Currents*, we feature the SmartWay program, including the experience from one Wisconsin company who is a member of the program. I'm proud to say that both the Wisconsin Partners for Clean Air and the organization I represent, Wisconsin Clean Cities, are Affiliate Members of SmartWay.

Lorrie Lisek, WPCA Chair

SmartWay Program & Successes

Between 1990 and 2013, freight activity grew over 50 percent and is projected to nearly double by 2040 and by 2050, global freight transport emissions will surpass those from passenger vehicles. To address these trends, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed the SmartWay program in 2004. This voluntary public-private program started with 50 companies and participation has grown to over 3,500 partners and affiliates.

Trucking and freight transportation are vital to the U.S. economy. In 2015, transportation and logistics contributed \$1.48 trillion to our economy with 70% of all freight tonnage moving on trucks. Over 7 million people are employed in trucking-related jobs. EPA's SmartWay program has proven that saving fuel from goods movement strengthens supply chain performance, positively affects the economy and improves the environment. To date, the program has saved 196.5 million barrels of oil, cut \$27.8 billion dollars in fuel cost, and reduced 94 million tons of air pollutants.

The SmartWay program consists of three core components; transport partnership, branding, and global collaboration. Freight shippers, carriers, logistics operations and other partners measure, benchmark, and improve logistics to reduce their environmental footprint. EPA has accelerated technology verification and SmartWay branding has assisted market penetration of fuel-saving technologies and operational practices. The SmartWay program provides support for national and global organizations and policy makers to harmonize sustainable methods in the freight sector, making it the smart way to go.

(Resource: <https://www.epa.gov/smartway>)

SmartWay Partners

3,500 companies representing many industries including trucking, rail, barge, and air freight participate in the SmartWay program. Wisconsin alone has 158 Partner and 9 Affiliate member organizations, including the following Wisconsin Partners for Clean Air members:

Frito Lay

Johnson Controls

Kohl's Department Stores

Kohler Company

MillerCoors

Oshkosh Corporation

Rockwell Automation

SC Johnson and Son, Inc.

**Wisconsin Clean Cities
(Affiliate)**

**Wisconsin Partners for
Clean Air
(Affiliate)**





**Success Spotlight:
SmartWay Partner- Kohler Co.**

Kohler uses a smarter way to transport goods

Since its earliest days, Kohler Co. has exhibited a commitment to environmental awareness and sustainability. Nearly 10 years ago, the global company established a goal of NetZero and a strategy to reduce or offset greenhouse gas emissions and send zero solid waste-to-landfill by 2035.

“Environmental sustainability is in Kohler’s DNA,” said Michael Nasif, Director – Corporate Transportation and Logistics. “Partnering with the EPA SmartWay program is a natural extension of our strategy.”

Kohler became a SmartWay partner in 2008. The company has found SmartWay carriers to provide better service and performance through newer equipment that offers increased fuel-efficiency and lower maintenance and repair costs. As a result, SmartWay carriers are often the most cost-competitive.

Currently, 98 percent of Kohler’s U.S. plumbing shipments are transported by SmartWay certified carriers. According to Nasif, SmartWay certification is a standard requirement for long-haul partner carriers. As a SmartWay Carrier, Kohler operates a 65-truck, 205-trailer private fleet operation, Kohler Transport Inc. (KTI). The fleet logs over 7 million miles per year.

“KTI operates under Kohler’s guiding principles,” Nasif said. “Our associates and drivers are focused on gracious customer service as well as the responsibility to work toward a better environment. It’s a bit more difficult when you operate diesel engines to move freight, but through our focus and investment we are doing our part.”

From 2014 to 2016, Kohler invested \$19 million in fleet upgrades. KTI’s SmartWay-certified trucks feature 2015 engines that remove particulate matter and nitrogen oxides from truck exhaust. Automatic transmissions and aerodynamic body packages contribute to the fleet’s sustainability, as do low-rolling resistance tires with light-weight aluminum wheels. Rather than relying on the vehicle’s main engine for cabin heating and air-conditioning, on-board auxiliary power units are supported by KOHLER diesel engines.

Composite walls in KTI SmartWay-certified trailers reduce overall weight. On-board tire maintenance systems ensure proper air pressure, and tracking telematics help the team quickly address issues. The trailers also feature aerodynamic side skirts.

These improvements have allowed KTI to increase overall fleet fuel-efficiency from 6.1 to 7.65 miles per gallon (mpg). According to Nasif, several drivers achieve above 8.0 mpg. In its first year, the upgraded fleet reduced emissions by 12 percent, or approximately 1,000 metric tons.



Photo Credit:
Kohler Company

**Want to be featured in the WPCA Air Currents Success Spotlight?
Send us your environmental and emission success story.**

Wisconsin Partners for Clean Air is a coalition committed to improving air quality through voluntary action. Comments, suggestions, and successes, contact: Peter McMullen phone: 414-263-8751 or email: peter.mcmullen@wisconsin.gov