

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Region 5 SmartWay Partner Excellence Award Winners

For the first time, EPA recognized 24 companies and organizations that have made significant contributions to protecting the environment through their participation in the SmartWay Transport Partnership. EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson announced the awards at the American Trucking Association Management Conference and Exhibition in Dallas, Texas on October 30th.

Indicative of the impressive work to reduce fuel consumption and diesel emissions in the Midwest, six Region 5 Partners were the recipients of SmartWay Excellence Awards. The partners are: Langford Inc., Minnesota Trucking Association, Owens Corning, Quad/Graphics, Inc., Roehl Transport, Inc., and Schneider National, Inc.



Greg Langford (fourth from left), John Hausladen (fifth from left), John Drake (ninth from left), Rick Roehl (fifth from right), and Chris Lofgren (fourth from right) stand with EPA Administrator Steve Johnson at the 2006 ATA Management Conference and Exhibition in Dallas, Texas.



The Midwest Clean Diesel Initiative would like to congratulate these Partners on this significant achievement, and thank them for their work in reducing diesel emissions.

More information on SmartWay can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/smartway>

SmartWay Small Business Loan Announcement

The SmartWay Transport Partnership, a US EPA program to reduce fuel consumption in the freight sector, announced a partnership between EPA and the Small Business Administration (SBA) to make loans available to purchase SmartWay Upgrade Kits.

This loan initiative uses SBA Express Loans and partners with Bank of America, Business Loan Express, Superior Financial Group and other SBA lenders to help small trucking companies finance the purchase of SmartWay Upgrade Kits. The kits can include idle-reduction devices, low rolling resistance tires, aerodynamic equipment, and exhaust after-treatment devices. The kits can improve truck fuel efficiency by 15 percent and save more than \$8,000 in fuel costs annually, while significantly reducing emissions of particulate matter, oxides of nitrogen, and other pollutants.

Participating lenders will provide quick approval and affordable monthly payments. Small trucking firms can borrow from \$5,000 to \$25,000, with no collateral, an easy on-line or telephone application, and flexible loan terms.

More information can be found at: www.epa.gov/smartway/financing.htm

Wisconsin Idle Reduction Grant Program

On October 13th, 2006, Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle announced 58 Diesel Truck Idle Reduction Grants totaling \$1 million that will be used to reduce fuel usage by trucks, and the associated fuel costs, and diesel emissions.

The grants provide trucking companies a reimbursement of 70 percent of the cost of idling reduction equipment and installation. Idling reduction units provide an alternative source of power to heat, cool, or provide electricity to the cab and parts of the truck in lieu of operating the truck's main propulsion engine.

2007 Applications:

For those interested in applying for grant coverage in 2007, please be sure to review the rule and fact sheet on the Wisconsin Department of Commerce webpage (<http://commerce.wi.gov/dieselgrantprogram>). It is important that anyone applying for grant coverage review these materials to make sure they meet all of the eligibility criteria and to help when filling out the application.

The Department anticipates excess demand for funds again in 2007, so it is important that you submit your application by July 1, 2007. Applications are not yet available, but by visiting the aforementioned website, you can sign up to be notified when they become available.

Ohio EPA Grants Result in Cleaner Air for Students

Children in four Ohio school districts will benefit from grants Ohio EPA awarded to install pollution control equipment on 54 school buses. A total of \$197,647 was awarded to help reduce children's exposure to diesel exhaust.

Schools receiving funding include:

- Avon Local Schools, \$93,529.52 to retrofit 14 buses (Lorain County);
- Lancaster City Schools, \$16,637.40 to retrofit 15 buses (Fairfield County);
- Princeton City Schools, \$55,960 to retrofit eight buses (Hamilton County); and
- South Euclid/Lyndhurst City Schools, \$30,520.44 to retrofit 17 buses (Cuyahoga County).

Ohio EPA created the Clean Diesel School Bus Fund in 2006 to encourage school districts to install pollution controls on diesel school buses, and use cleaner fuel to reduce diesel emissions and improve air quality. A total of \$621,805 has been awarded in 2006 to 13 school districts, to retrofit 293 school buses. Ohio EPA reports that these retrofits will eliminate more than four tons of air pollution, including carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and fine particulate emissions.

Priority is given to applications from school districts in communities that do not meet federal air quality standards for fine particulates, and districts that employ additional measures such as anti-idling programs to reduce emissions from their school bus fleets. Grants are funded from civil penalties Ohio EPA collects from environmental violations.

The next grant application deadline is March 1, 2007. Applications are online at <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/oef> and more information is available from the Office of Environmental Education at (614) 644-2873.

New Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Guidance

New guidance for the CMAQ program as reauthorized under the Safe Accountable Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) has recently been issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). This document, which replaces the April 1999 guidance, discusses changes to the CMAQ program as a result of SAFETEA-LU and clarifies FHWA policy based on seven years of feedback since the last guidance document. This updated guidance includes comprehensive discussions and direction on a host of new or highlighted areas under SAFETEA-LU, and highlights the importance of CMAQ funding to the Secretary's Congestion Initiative.

The guidance is labeled "interim" since it will be published for comment in the Federal Register and final guidance will be issued thereafter. Copies are available online at the FHWA website at: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/cmaqpgs/index.htm>.

MCDI Partner Spotlight:

The Ohio Environmental Council's Clean Air for Kids Program



Thousands of kids in central Ohio are breathing a little easier on their bus rides to school this year. That's because hundreds of school buses have been outfitted with state-of-the-art diesel pollution controls. For the past three years, with the support of The Columbus Foundation, The Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) has been teaming up with fleet managers from eight school districts in central Ohio, which comprise the *Diesel School Bus Working Group*, to find effective and affordable solutions to reduce diesel emissions from school buses.

Through the working group, OEC is providing a vital service to school districts by educating them on the health effects of diesel emissions on the community and its children. By working with them, OEC tailors solutions to their specific needs. Cash-strapped transportation departments and over-worked fleet managers have little time to independently research the technology and funding options available to clean up their fleet. OEC is able to identify these resources, make industry and funding contacts and provide workshops and one-on-one meetings to further develop these possibilities.

Since the program's inception, ten attempts to secure funding have resulted in awards to five districts totaling approximately \$1.5 million in pollution controls, cleaner fuels, and bus replacements. The OEC has presented to bus drivers from the districts during in-service trainings on the important role they play in complying with district's idling policies. This past summer members collectively purchased "No Idling" signs to be posted on school grounds to serve as a reminder to bus drivers, parents and delivery vehicles to turn off their engines.

Since grants for clean diesel school bus projects are limited and competitive, OEC is looking for innovative ways to fund these projects. OEC is partnering with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission to launch an Adopt-A-School Bus Program for central Ohio. This project will utilize community and corporate sponsorship to assist cash-strapped school districts in purchasing pollution controls.

The OEC is a non-profit network of more than 100 local and state environmental conservation groups that advocates for clean air, clean water, and the protection of Ohio's natural resources.

For more information on OEC's clean diesel work, please visit: www.theoec.org
or contact Staci Putney McLennan at (614) 487-7506.



You are subscribed to the Midwest Clean Diesel Initiative e-mail list, a service brought to you by USEPA, Region 5 to inform you of news and related events on diesel programs in the Midwest. If you wish to have your name removed please email: nichols.jonathan@epa.gov