

SmartWay e-update

*News for EPA SmartWay Partners and Stakeholders
January 2021*

Welcome New Partners!

EPA Welcomes Vernon Transportation Company to the SmartWay Partnership! Vernon Transportation runs a fleet of 130 tractor-trailer rigs that specialize in hauling liquid and granulated bulk sugar products. Since its founding in 1985, Vernon has embraced “green technologies” and its power units are spec’d for performance, efficiency and driver comfort. Its tankers provide for maximum payloads and are equipped with a proven system specially designed to meet stringent requirements to ensure food safety and security. Vernon joined SmartWay as a way to support greater sustainability in the freight industry and plans to share its participation in the partnership with its drivers, customers and peers. Its found that the tools SmartWay provides are easy to use and helpful for monitoring its environmental performance. To learn more about other carriers, shippers and logistics companies participating in SmartWay, visit our [website](#).

COVID-19 Vaccination Program Ramps UP

As the U.S. COVID-19 Vaccination program ramps up, EPA SmartWay extends its appreciation and deep thanks to all healthcare, transportation, logistics, and government partners working to safely deliver the COVID-19 vaccine. EPA is especially grateful for the leadership demonstrated by its SmartWay Partners that are providing the distribution and logistics support so critical to the program. Their supply chain expertise, proven processes and command of the technology needed to transport and deliver the vaccine are key to the program’s success. Again, thank you to our SmartWay Partners and all those in the transportation and logistics community that have pulled together to get the U.S. and the world, through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) 2021 Request for Applications

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced the availability of approximately \$46 million in Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) grant funds to support projects aimed at reducing emissions from the nation's existing fleet of older diesel engines. Under this competition, between 40 and 70 awards are anticipated.

Eligible applicants include regional, state, local or tribal agencies, or port authorities, with jurisdiction over transportation or air quality. Nonprofit organizations may apply if they provide pollution reduction or educational services to diesel fleet owners or have, as their principal purpose, the promotion of transportation or air quality. Though private fleets and truck manufacturers are not eligible to apply for funding, EPA encourages them to partner with eligible entities for the implementation of diesel emissions reduction projects.

The deadline to apply is March 16, 2021. Supporting information, including the full RFA, a Q&A document, sample application materials, a schedule of informational webinars and other materials can be viewed and downloaded on DERA's [website](#).

U.S. Vehicle Inventory and Use Survey Reinstated

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), U.S. Department of Energy and Census Bureau have partnered to reinstate the national Vehicle Inventory and Use Survey (VIUS). The VIUS is the only public data source serving to identify a range of physical and operational characteristics of the U.S. truck population. Survey results are widely used by the public and private sector for purposes of understanding the longevity of trucks, their usage and vocation, fuel economy, highway safety, proposed investments in new roads and technologies, and user fees, among others. The Census Bureau will administer a VIUS pilot starting this month and a full national survey between February and October 2022. A data release is scheduled for Fall 2023. The first VIUS was conducted in 1963 and was conducted every five years thereafter through to 2002. It has not been conducted since. The new survey will be conducted electronically. For more information on the 2021 VIUS pilot and the 2022 national VIUS program, visit www.bts.gov/vius.

NACFE Guidance Report on Hydrogen Fuel Cell Tractors Now Available

A new report on the use of hydrogen as a fuel source for heavy-duty trucks is now available from the North American Council for Freight Efficiency (NACFE), a long-standing SmartWay Affiliate. *Making Sense of Heavy-Duty Hydrogen Fuel Cell Tractors* is NACFE's sixth report in a series examining developments in truck electrification.

The report emphasizes that hydrogen fuel cell trucks are just beginning to see real-world use and that their adoption will be driven by economic, environmental and other related considerations that are much different than what exists for the trucking industry today. Among the report's key findings:

- Battery electric trucks should be the baseline for hydrogen fuel cells electric vehicle (HFCEV) comparisons, rather than any internal combustion engine alternative.
- As for all alternatives, fleets should optimize the specifications of HFCEVs for the job they should perform while expecting that the trade cycles will lengthen.
- The future acceleration of HFCEVs is likely not about the vehicles and fueling but resides mostly on the creation and distribution of the hydrogen itself.
- The potential for autonomous fuel cell trucks to operate 24-hours a day adds significant opportunity for making sense of capital and operational investment in hydrogen.

For a copy of *Making Sense of Heavy-Duty Hydrogen Fuel Cell Tractors* and other NACFE guidance reports on electrification and other truck technologies visit NACFE's [website](#).

It's Electric!

The North American Council for Freight Efficiency's (NACFE) is calling for participants to apply to its *2021 Run on Less Electric (RoL-E)* demonstration. Different from previous *Run on Less* events, this year's *RoL-E* will feature electric trucks - electric vans, electric medium-duty box trucks and electric heavy-duty trucks! Recognizing that the technology supporting electric trucks is at an early stage of development, the goal of *RoL-E* is to showcase equipment that is representative of the truck builders' plans. Given the limited number of trucks in service, many in-production mode, *RoL-E* fleet participants will be made up of the fleet and their OEM partners. NACFE is a long-standing SmartWay Affiliate, and several SmartWay Partners have participated in past *Run on Less* events. If your company

operates or is testing electric trucks in its fleet, SmartWay encourages it to consider participating in *RoL-E!* Fleets and truck OEMs can complete an application using the form available at runonless.com. Contact Dave Schaller at david.schaller@nacfe.org or Mike Roeth at mike.roeth@nacfe.org with questions.

Upcoming Webinars

Informational Session Webinars Request for Applications 2021 DERA National Grants

Pre-registration is not required for these informational webinars.

Tuesday, January 26, 2021; 1:00-2:00 p.m. (ET)

[Join the Webinar](#)

Dial-In: (202) 991-0477

Participant Code: 863 530 573#

Wednesday, February 3, 2021; 3:00-4:00 p.m. (ET)

[Join the Webinar](#)

Dial-In: (202) 991-0477

Participant Code: 609 539 899#

Thursday, February 11, 2021; 2:00-3:00 p.m. (ET)

[Join the Webinar](#)

Dial-In: (202) 991-0477

Participant Code: 451 189 144#

Webinar Highlights

- Program Details
- Changes This Year
- Eligible Entities, Projects, Vehicles, Engines & Equipment
- Funding: Availability, Project Funding Percentage, Restrictions
- Proposal Submission
- Evaluation Criteria
- Potential Pitfalls
- Tools, Resources and Support
- Question & Answer Period

2021 SmartWay Truck Carrier Truck Tool - Advanced Instruction

2:00 - 3:00 PM (ET)

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Join SmartWay for a deep dive into the Truck Carrier Tool! This webinar is for Partners familiar with the Truck Carrier Tool that have questions regarding how to maximize the Tool reports and Tool data. It will explain how SmartWay processes the Tool data truck carriers provide and how carriers can use SmartWay Tool reports to assess and improve their environmental performance, efficiency and competitiveness. The webinar will cover how to get the most out of their SmartWay Truck Tool and reports, including:

- How specific data entry choices yield more useful insights and results
- How to read and understand SmartWay data reports
- SmartWay ranking: how we do it and why it's important
- How shippers use SmartWay data and the program's carrier ranking reports
- A more detailed understanding of the Truck Carrier Tool

Register [here](#).

2021 SmartWay Award Criteria

2:00 - 3:00 PM (ET)

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

SmartWay Partners! Join EPA for this opportunity to learn and ask questions about the SmartWay Excellence Award. The following topics will be addressed:

1. The 2021 Award eligibility criteria for relevant partner categories (e.g. truck carriers, multimodal carriers, shippers and logistics companies);
2. Expectations around what kinds of initiatives and specific actions that constitute freight sustainability leadership;
3. The Award recipient selection process; and
4. The timeline for the 2021 SmartWay Excellence Awards Program.

This webinar is for any Partner interested in understanding how Award candidates are selected. Register [here](#).

Upcoming Virtual Meetings and Conferences

TRB 100th Annual Meeting Education

2021 Virtual Event Dates

Committee Meetings: January 5-8 and 11-15

Sessions & Exhibits: January 21-22 and 25-29

The Transportation Research Board 100th Annual Meeting will be conducted as a virtual event over a series of dates throughout January 2021. The meeting program will cover all transportation modes, addressing topics of interest to policy makers, administrators, practitioners, researchers, and representatives of government, industry, and academic institutions. A number of sessions and workshops will focus on the spotlight theme for the 2021 meeting: *Launching a New Century of Mobility and Quality of Life*. This year's meeting also will feature dozens of sessions on how COVID-19 has impacted transportation and how transportation professionals and researchers are responding.

Register [here](#) and browse the dates and full 2021 online program [here](#) to get full details on sessions, workshops and committee meeting. Lower registration fees are available to those registering by November 30th.

Anyway you ship it, move it the SmartWay!

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | smartway_transport@epa.gov | <http://www.epa.gov/smartway/>