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Roehl Transport Leads Trucking Industry Down Environmental Road

MARSHFIELD, WI—Roehl Transport of Marshfield, WI was among a handful of trucking companies honored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) last month for its leading efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from truck exhaust. The company received the agency's first SmartWaySM Award of Excellence.

The EPA SmartWay initiative aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from freight transportation exhaust by 33 – 66 million metric tons within six years. At the same time the initiative would save up to 150 million barrels of oil annually.

With over 7 million trucks on the road, ground freight transportation (truck and rail) consumes 35 billion gallons of diesel fuel a year, according Roehl Transport Vice President of Maintenance Phil Trierweiler. Burning that much fuel releases over 350 million metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) as well as pollutants such as nitrogen oxide and particulate matter, he added.

“If individual motorists can make a difference by choosing more fuel-efficient cars, just think of the impact the trucking industry could have,” Trierweiler said, explaining why Roehl was one the nation's first major commercial carriers to join the EPA SmartWay program. “Environmental responsibility goes hand-in-hand with our award for being one of the safest carriers in the nation,” he added. “It's all part of being a socially-responsible company, a good corporate citizen.”

As a SmartWay partner, Roehl commits to reducing fuel consumption and environmentally harmful exhaust emissions from its fleet of 1,550 semi-tractors, one of the top 100 largest trucking fleets in the nation. “Roehl was already a leader in fuel-efficient operations before joining the SmartWay program. In the year since, we've become even more environmentally friendly,” Trierweiler said. The company has improved truck mileage by changing from conventional to synthetic motor oil, switching a significant portion of its fleet to wide-based single tires and equipping all new tractors with components that make the tractor-trailer unit more aerodynamic.

The company also is a leader in reducing idle time, a common fuel inefficiency in trucking operations. Roehl wastes less fuel and thereby reduces harmful exhaust by training drivers to drive efficiently, avoid and monitor idle periods, and by providing drivers tools like EZPassSM, which, based on Roehl's industry leading safety record, allows its trucks to bypass weigh station/DOT inspection lines.

The Award of Excellence recognizes Roehl's ongoing commitment to the environment and is another example of how the company's sustainable growth practices lead the industry. Roehl offers truckload dry van, flatbed and curtainside service throughout the U.S. and Canada.

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