





# 2024 SmartWay Excellence Award Truck Carrier Semifinalist Application Instructions and Evaluation Criteria

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Your company has qualified as a SmartWay Excellence Award semifinalist and is invited to apply for Award consideration. Partners are Award semifinalists because they meet the SmartWay Excellence Award performance criteria. Carriers that qualify as 2024 Award semifinalist meet a set of emissions-based criteria that clearly distinguish the environmental performance of their fleets. Review the [2024 SmartWay Excellence Award Criteria](#) for details on truck carrier Partners.

Award semifinalists are also in good standing and have two years of data on file with EPA SmartWay, including an on-time Partner Tool submission in the current and prior calendar year.

In addition to meeting these performance-based criteria, to qualify as a SmartWay Excellence Awardee, a truck carrier Partner also demonstrates leadership and engages in programs and activities that align with SmartWay's goals to make freight more sustainable, including the following:

-  Leadership in freight emissions accounting, disclosure, and sustainability achievements
-  Technology and operational excellence
-  Stakeholder collaboration
-  Integrated freight management

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This application is an opportunity for your company to highlight, share, and potentially be recognized for its leadership in these activities as a 2024 SmartWay Excellence Awardee.

## SEMIFINALIST APPLICATION EVALUATION CRITERIA:

In addition to the environmental performance results derived from the **2023** Truck Carrier Tool submission (note that this submitted data is from **the 2022 calendar year**), the **2024** SmartWay Excellence Awards will consider semifinalist application responses and associated supporting documentation.

The semifinalist application will be judged on a point system that evaluates leadership based on specific categories that include:




-  Make freight and freight emissions a part of your company's environmental disclosures, sustainability reports and plans. Use SmartWay's freight performance reports to develop strategies and set targets to mitigate and reduce freight emissions. Achieve goals, share, and celebrate freight efficiency gains.
-  Implement best practices, strategies and technologies that effectively reduce freight emissions, including carbon, particulate matter, and nitrogen oxides.
-  Collaborate with shippers, logistics companies, suppliers, and other stakeholders in support of your company's freight sustainability goals.
-  Wholistically address freight emissions from all fleets and operations across company business units, including other fleets or different divisions, brands, and direct subsidiaries.

For Truck Carriers, there is a total of 95 possible points for the Award semi-finalist applications. The possible total credit for each question is presented below:



Truck Carriers	Scoring
Q1: CSR/ESG REPORTING FOR FLEETS AND COMPANIES (ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT)	20
Q2: FLEET TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION	20
Q3: FREIGHT STRATEGY INNOVATION AND IMPLEMENTATION	20
Q4: STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION	25
Q5: COMPREHENSIVE TOOL (DATA) REPORTING	10
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	<b>95</b>

## DETAILED APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

For all items that you check off in the application questions:

-  Describe and summarize your company's leadership activities and outcomes the company achieved during **2022 - 2023**.
-  Limit responses to a maximum of **1,000 words**. All responses must be addressed and submitted via this application.
-  In addition to your response (as only a secondary means to support typed statements in this application), provide web links to clearly identified sources that support and/or document your company's efforts wherever appropriate.
  - Please test the web links prior to submission to SmartWay.
  - When including web links is not possible, clearly identified digital attachments will be accepted. **Identify supporting documentation with the Partner name, question number, and checkbox letter.**
  - Please email attachments to [smartway\\_transport@epa.gov](mailto:smartway_transport@epa.gov). No hard copies of documentation will be accepted or considered.

## PREPARATION NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE SMARTWAY EXCELLENCE AWARD SEMIFINALIST APPLICATION:

-  Preview the application in its entirety before you begin to determine:
  - You have the information or knowledge required to complete the application.
  - The people at your company best suited to assist you with responding to specific application questions.
-  Identify the person who completed the **2023** SmartWay Shipper Tool at your company. This individual should be consulted as a resource or reference when completing the application.

- Determine which staff at your company is best suited to respond to a section of the application. Some suggestions regarding appropriate staff to consult are offered below:

Truck Carriers	Role
Q1	Sustainability or Environmental Manager
Q2	Transportation or Fleet Manager
Q3	Logistics Manager
Q4	Sustainability Director, Community Liaison
Q5	Company SmartWay Contact

- Gather your data and examples before beginning the narrative in response to each question. Before submitting your application please be sure that your descriptions include the following:

- clear, concise and complete summaries (1000-word limit) when requested, providing details to checked responses;
- actual achievements and outcomes, as well as activities and efforts that have taken place during 2022-2023;
- evidence, proof or documentation which substantiates submissions with specific application questions cited; **clearly identify all sources with your company name, the question number and checked item from the application for digital attachments**; and
- quality and substantive summaries, descriptions, and documentation.

### ONLINE APPLICATION FORM INSTRUCTIONS:

Please review your responses before submitting your application to SmartWay. Click the "Edit" button on the review page to return to revise responses. You must click the "Submit" button to send your application to EPA.






To save your progress, please click the "Save Draft" button. You will have **15 days** to complete the application using the same computer and browser.

The "Reset" button will delete a saved or partially completed application.

Please complete and submit the application by the due date of Monday, April 29, 2024, 5 pm PT.

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

In addition to Partner and contact information, you can expect the following questions about your company's efforts in calendar years 2022-2023:

-  **Q1:** What does your company do to include greenhouse gases, freight emissions reductions, and SmartWay in its sustainability planning and reporting program? Please provide an overview. Cite specific efforts identified above.
-  **Q2:** What innovative fleet technology policies, fuel and equipment purchases, and/or research efforts did your company make to improve fuel efficiency and reduce pollution from freight operations?
- Please provide an overview of your company's fleet technology actions. Cite specific efforts identified above.
-  **Q3:** What innovative practices, policies, strategies and efforts has your fleet made to help improve freight efficiency or mitigate environmental impacts?
- Please provide an overview of your company's freight strategy and implementation efforts. Cite specific efforts identified above.
-  **Q4:** How has your company demonstrated leadership and collaborated with stakeholders?
- Please identify the entities and provide an overview of the interactions that your company coordinated or influenced.
-  **Q5:** Does your SmartWay Truck Tool capture or include freight movement from all business operations?
- If yes, please elaborate and provide the names of the business units.