

2025 SmartWay Excellence Awards — EPA Criteria

WHAT ARE THE SMARTWAY EXCELLENCE AWARDS?

The SmartWay Excellence Awards are EPA's means to recognize Partners that have optimized the environmental performance and efficiency of their freight management operations.

The SmartWay Excellence Award program recognizes Partners with a **combination** of **superior environmental performance** and **freight sustainability leadership** for shippers and truck carriers.



To be eligible for consideration, all qualified shipper and truck carrier Partners must have:

- at least 2 consecutive years of Tool data submission with high quality data, clear explanations for alerts.
- timely and accurate submittal of required data in the 2024 reporting cycle for shipper and truck carrier Partner categories (i.e., be Partners in good standing).
- for truck carriers: EPA must also have received a timely submission of the 2025 Tool.



EPA makes a full review each year of shipper and truck carrier Partner's SmartWay Tool submission to assess qualifications for award consideration.



Semifinalists in shipper and truck carrier Partner categories will be contacted to submit an award semifinalist application that offers opportunities to highlight freight sustainability leadership.



All Excellence Award finalists will be screened for any adverse environmental actions that may prohibit public recognition for their SmartWay achievements.



EPA will notify those Partners that are selected as Awardees.

Please note that logistics company, air carrier, barge carrier, and rail carrier Partners are now eligible for the [SmartWay Profiles in Leadership](#), a new Partner recognition opportunity. Affiliates are eligible to apply as well.



WHAT ARE THE KEY DATES: TIMELINE AND NOTIFICATION?

JANUARY: The SmartWay Award process and data review commences. EPA identifies candidates using data submitted via the 2024 SmartWay Tool, from shipper and truck carrier Partner categories.

FEBRUARY: Shipper and truck carrier semifinalists are identified and invited to submit supplemental information.

APRIL 28, 2025: Submission deadline for supplemental information from shipper and truck carrier Award semifinalists.

JUNE: Final reviews and adverse environmental actions screening.

AUGUST: Notification of Awardees via private email (no public announcement until fall).

OCTOBER: Public announcement of SmartWay Excellence Award recipients.



HOW IS THE SELECTION MADE: EXCELLENCE AWARD TRUCK CARRIER CRITERIA ?

Partners in truck fleet categories that demonstrate top environmental performance will be selected as semi-finalists, as described below, and invited to submit supplemental, qualitative documentation that demonstrates leadership efforts important to the Partnership and in support of strategic SmartWay goals.

 **SEMIFINALIST CRITERION:** Performance is based on an equal weighting of all environmental metrics results from the SmartWay Carrier Tool.

$\frac{1}{6} \text{CO}_2\text{e g/ton-mi} + \frac{1}{6} \text{NOx g/ton-mi} + \frac{1}{6} \text{PM g/ton-mi} + \frac{1}{6} \text{CO}_2\text{e g/mi} + \frac{1}{6} \text{NOx g/mi} + \frac{1}{6} \text{PM g/mi}$

Awards will be given in the following truck fleet carrier sub-categories: TL/Dry Van, Tanker, LTL/Dry Van, Specialized, Refrigerated, Package, Moving, Mixed, Heavy/Bulk, Flatbed, Dray, Expedited, and Auto Carrier.

Truck fleet innovations must be clearly documented via the Truck Tool Innovation Questionnaire accessible in the Partner Portal for award evaluation points.


Awards are given in three fleet carrier size segmentations, based on miles traveled in one year.


- **LARGE TRUCK CARRIERS:** Annual miles traveled are **≥ one percent** of the total miles traveled for that category (Truckload Dry Van, Refrigerated: Large **at 0.75 %**).
- **MEDIUM TRUCK CARRIERS:** Annual miles traveled are between **0.25-0.75 %** (Truckload Dry Van, Refrigerated).
- **SMALL TRUCK CARRIERS:** Annual miles traveled are **less than one percent** of the total miles traveled for that category; (Truckload Dry Van, Refrigerated: **< 0.25 %**).



HOW IS THE SELECTION MADE: EXCELLENCE AWARD SHIPPER CRITERIA ?

SmartWay shipper Partners that demonstrate top environmental performance will be selected as semi-finalists, as described below, and invited to submit supplemental, qualitative documentation that demonstrates leadership efforts important to the Partnership and in support of strategic SmartWay goals.

 **SEMIFINALIST CRITERION #1:** Be designated as either a Way 3 or Way 4 SmartWay Shipper that effectively demonstrates 98 percent of miles or ton-miles shipped are with SmartWay Partners, using inputs to the Shipper Tool, based on actual activity data.

 **SEMIFINALIST CRITERION #2:** Demonstrate best combined, top ranking environmental performance based on a weighted average of three environmental metrics results from the SmartWay Shipper Tool:

$\frac{1}{2} \text{CO}_2\text{e g/ton-mi} + \frac{1}{4} \text{NOx g/ton-mi} + \frac{1}{4} \text{PM g/ton-mi}$

Shippers will be recognized via the following industry sectors: arts & media, building materials, chemicals and petroleum, consumer electronics, consumer goods, food & beverage, industrial manufacturing, packaging, paper and lumber, pharma & health care, and retail.





Awards are given in three shipper categories based on size of freight operations.

- **LARGE SHIPPER:** **500 million or greater** annual miles shipped.
- **MEDIUM SHIPPER:** **Between 25 million and 500 million** annual miles shipped.
- **SMALL SHIPPER:** **25 million or fewer** annual miles shipped.

SEMIFINALIST EVALUATION CRITERIA

Shipper and truck carrier semifinalists may address leadership considerations via the semifinalist application that are important to SmartWay strategic goals, such as an annual environmental footprint, freight strategy and technology innovation and implementation, influential collaboration, and comprehensive tool reporting (e.g., including operations by sister companies or subsidiaries in Tool submissions).

The semifinalist application is a competitive selection process. Submittal of the semifinalist application does not assure award selection. Submissions will be judged on a point system that evaluates:

-  Clarity and completeness of application responses.
-  Quality and substance of summaries and descriptions.
-  Evidence, proof or documentation that substantiates submissions.
-  Actual achievements and accomplishments, as well as activities, tasks and efforts.