NCTCOG Earns EPA SmartWay Affiliate Challenge Honor
Seven partners recognized for commitment to clean air, sustainable freight transportation

May 12, 2015 (Arlington, Texas) – The Environmental Protection Agency recently recognized the North Central Texas Council of Governments as one of seven recipients of a SmartWay Affiliate Challenge award for support of policies and practices that reduce truck emissions and improve freight efficiency.

The SmartWay Affiliate Challenge is a national campaign developed by the EPA to acknowledge organizations that participate in SmartWay and do an exceptional job supporting the partnership’s freight sustainability goals. The challenge was open to all affiliates nationwide.

“EPA commends the Affiliate Challenge honorees for their extraordinary level of commitment, enthusiasm and creativity in supporting EPA’s SmartWay program, and sustainable transportation,” said Christopher Grundler, Director of EPA’s Office of Transportation and Air Quality. “The work in this arena helps advance the environmental sustainability of commercial transportation and logistics bringing us all closer to achieving the shared goals of efficient goods movement and clean air.”

Ten Dallas-Fort Worth area counties are in nonattainment for ozone and have until 2018 to meet the EPA’s standard. The freight industry is crucial to the region’s efforts to clean the air. In the region, 18-wheelers account for 52 tons of nitrogen oxides per day, or about 30 percent of all on-road transportation sources, despite representing only five percent of the vehicle miles traveled in the region.

A SmartWay member since 2006, NCTCOG promotes the initiative throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth area and provides education and outreach to potential partners and affected industries through its programs, workshops and webinars.

Additionally, NCTCOG earned recognition, in part, for integrating SmartWay vehicles and technologies in a new Clean Fleet Policy, which 24 entities have adopted. The policy outlines goals and provides workable, cost-effective solutions to reduce ozone-causing pollution from local fleets and support regional efforts to meet the EPA air quality standard.
Along with NCTCOG, the following public and private entities received recognition:

- American Trucking Associations
- Colorado Motor Carriers Association
- Environmental Defense Fund
- Penske Truck Leasing
- Transportation Intermediaries Association
- Wisconsin Clean Cities

The EPA recognized these affiliates at the Transportation Intermediaries Association Capital Ideas and Exhibition Conference in April, during a recent webinar, through social media and on the SmartWay website.

**About the North Central Texas Council of Governments:**

NCTCOG is a voluntary association of local governments established in 1966 to assist local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit and coordinating for sound regional development. NCTCOG's purpose is to strengthen both the individual and collective power of local governments and to help them recognize regional opportunities, eliminate unnecessary duplication and make joint decisions.

NCTCOG serves a 16-county region of North Central Texas, which is centered on the two urban centers of Dallas and Fort Worth. Currently, NCTCOG has 238 member governments including 16 counties, 169 cities, 22 school districts and 31 special districts. For more information on the NCTCOG Transportation Department, visit [www.nctcog.org/trans](http://www.nctcog.org/trans).

**About SmartWay:**

EPA launched SmartWay in 2004 to help business improve the sustainability of their freight supply chains. Today the Partnership consists of nearly 3,000 Partners, representing a cross section of the freight supply chain industry. As of today, SmartWay Partners have saved over 144 million barrels of oil. SmartWay’s clean air achievements (60 million metric tons of carbon dioxide so far) help protect the health and well-being of citizens.

More information on SmartWay in general: [www.epa.gov/smartway](http://www.epa.gov/smartway).

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