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Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority Joins EPA's SmartWay Transport Partnership as an Affiliate to Advocate for Freight Sector Pollution Reduction and Energy Conservation

Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority (LRAPA) joins the SmartWaySM Transport Partnership as an Affiliate. A national voluntary program, SmartWay was developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and freight industry representatives to reduce greenhouse gases and air pollution and promote cleaner, more efficient ground freight transportation. By 2012, the Partnership aims to reduce as much as 33 to 66 million metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions and 200,000 tons of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) emissions annually. SmartWay Transport Affiliates educate their members about the Partnership, its goals, and recommended fuel efficient technologies and strategies. LRAPA's Everybody Wins project is an example of how a local air protection agency has partnered with local trucking businesses to provide a solution to diesel pollution.

Everybody Wins is a project created by LRAPA to reduce pollution caused by heavy-duty trucks that idle in our community. Using loan money available from the Oregon Department of Energy, LRAPA provides low-cost lease-to-own arrangements on Auxiliary Power Units (APUs) for truckers who spend a majority of their idling time on the I-5 corridor in Oregon. The goal of this project is to develop the infrastructure to support the APU technology on the I-5 corridor in Oregon and 100 APUs have been installed on heavy-duty trucks. This project promotes the APU and demonstrates to truck drivers the economic benefits of installing an APU.

"The benefits of installing APUs has attracted the attention of APU manufacturers, and increased awareness of idle reduction technologies among the tens of thousands of drivers who use the I-5 corridor in the western states," says Sharon Banks of LRAPA.

The success of the Everybody Wins program has earned LRAPA a significant EPA grant award of \$500,000 for a "Truck Idle Reduction Technology Demonstration Program" that will demonstrate and evaluate how APUs reduce emissions from idling trucks.

SmartWay is celebrating its 2nd anniversary during February and EPA recently announced several milestones for the Partnership. The milestones include the first wave of environmental progress from SmartWay Partners. To date, the SmartWay Transport Partnership projects fuel savings of approximately 283.6 million gallons per year are, yielding annual reductions of 3.1 million tons of (CO₂), 22,000 tons of NO_x emissions, and 800 tons of particulate matter (PM) emissions by 2007. The emissions reductions and fuel savings achieved through the SmartWay Transport Partnership thus far translates into nearly 547,000 cars off the road or approximately 390,000 homes heated in the United States.

Another SmartWay milestone is the signing of the 300th SmartWay Transport Partner, Dupre' Transport. With participation of the 300th Partner, the SmartWay Transport Partnership has increased the number of Partners almost six-fold in the two years since its launch in February 2004. Visit www.epa.gov/smartway/partners.htm to review the complete SmartWay Partner listing.

As part of the second anniversary celebration for SmartWay, EPA announced it is accepting nominations for SmartWay Excellence Awards now through June 30, 2006. The SmartWay Excellence Awards are designed to recognize companies and organizations that have made significant contributions to protecting the environment through their participation in the Partnership. Award nomination instructions are available at: www.epa.gov/smartway/awards.

LRAPA'S mission is to protect public health, quality of life and the environment as a leader and advocate for the continuous improvement of air quality in Lane County.

For more information about Everybody Wins, visit http://www.lrapa.org/projects/everybody_wins/

For more information about the SmartWay Transport Partnership, visit www.epa.gov/smartway.