

Kaiser Permanente Becomes a Top Scoring EPA SmartWay Partner

Environmental and Human Health Impact: Reduced tons of CO₂ by 7.2 percent (110 tons) and fuel consumed by 16 percent (10,450 gallons) in 2010 over 2009.

Business Impact: Over \$45,000 saved in fuel and maintenance cost.

Challenge

Kaiser Permanente courier services in California currently operate over 40 trucks responsible for delivering pharmaceuticals and medical supplies to multiple hospitals and medical office buildings. While we have undergone many fuel and route efficiency and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction strategies in the past, we decided to turn to the EPA SmartWay Partner fleet certification program to help validate our successes and assist with identification of continuous improvement opportunities.

Aim/Goal

Become an EPA SmartWay Partner, by demonstrating annual reductions of GHGs and increased efficiency of transportation operations, ultimately obtaining the top SmartWay score of 1.25.

Team


Michael Clemons, Director Transportation Northern California
 Kevin Fenderson, Manager Fleet Operations Northern California
 Troy Smith, Director Supply Chain Operations Southern California
 Bill Bafford, Integrated Transportation Manager Southern California

Actions Taken

- ✓ In 2010 KP's Northern and Southern California supply chain teams jointly completed the EPA SmartWay application and data requirements for 2009 and were awarded the standard SmartWay Partner first-year score of 0.75.
- ✓ During 2010 these fleet improvement steps were taken:
 - Increase load utilization by more efficiently loading the trucks to full capacity.
 - Move longer routes to more fuel efficient vehicles.
 - Optimize routes to decrease overall miles driven and reduce fuel consumption.
 - Replace older trucks with cleaner diesel technology.
- ✓ In 2011, supply chain performed their second annual submission to SmartWay containing new data reflecting the myriad retrofits and improvements.

Results

KP earned a Shipper Index Factor (SIF) of 1.25. An SIF of 1.25 represents top environmental performance and serves as a confirmation that we are utilizing most of the commercial available fuel savings strategies and are actively evaluating the latest technologies.

Kaiser Permanente Comparison between reporting years 2010 and 2009			
	2010	2009	Percent Change
Total Trucks	44	42	4.80%
Miles per Gallon	8.95	9.87	-9.30%
Total Miles Driven	1,179,073	1,403,625	-16%
Total Gallons of Fuel	131,749	142,197	-16%
Tons of CO ₂	1,409	1,518	-7.20%

- ✓ Despite overall improvements, our average miles per gallon increased slightly. We are not entirely sure why, but our 2011 initiatives will work to bring that number down.
- ✓ KP may now display the SmartWay Transport Partner logo, the EPA's symbol for superior efficiency and environmental performance.

Lessons Learned

Keeping up to date with advances in fuel and software will allow us to continue to decrease our carbon footprint and reduce fuel expenses.

Next Steps

- ✓ Update fleet with more aerodynamic components like lower rolling resistant tires and wind deflectors to increase miles per gallon.
- ✓ Perform more route optimization to decrease miles driven and increase load capacity utilization.
- ✓ Continue replacing fleet with more efficient and clean-burning vehicle solutions.