



News Release

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Cascade Sierra Solutions Offers New Centers to Help Truckers Save Money, Use Less Fuel and Cut Emissions

(Eugene, Ore. February 20, 2007) Truckers looking to save money *and* protect the environment can now do both, thanks to a new Cascade Sierra Solutions (CSS) outreach center at a truckstop near Eugene, Oregon. The first of its kind, the CSS Center is also the first nationally-authorized technical assistance center for the Small Business Administration.

The Center will

The CSS Center is now offering financing to small trucking companies and owner-operators for “SmartWay Upgrade Kit” technologies, which can include:

- an idle reduction device,
- low-rolling resistance tires,
- tire inflation and monitoring systems,
- lighter weight trailers & components,
- tractor and trailer aerodynamics,
- an exhaust after-treatment device.

According to Sharon Banks, CSS CEO, the SmartWay Upgrade Kits will save truckers fuel, improve their bottom line, and improve our air quality.

“The true beauty of these SmartWay Upgrade Kits,” said Banks, “is that they ultimately put money in the driver’s pocket....and they do it while reducing air pollution and saving fuel.”

Marvin Newland, an owner-operator contracted to Nickel Plate Express, is convinced. “This is the best way to finance equipment. CSS helped me finance several different

products all in one easy payment...I am glad to do what I can to help the environment—CSS helped me to do that by giving me a payment that I can afford,” said Newland.

CSS is planning to open additional centers in Washington and California. Transportation research reveals that upwards of 100,000 trucks travel annually along Interstate 5 from Canada to Mexico. At many of these stops, where drivers get required rest, idling diesel engines emit harmful pollutants and air toxics, affecting local communities. By strategically placing outreach centers at these truck stops, CSS should accomplish major emissions reductions.

According to Elin Miller, EPA Regional Administrator in Seattle, Washington, the Agency sees a bright future for the CSS centers.

“This is a success story in collaboration to solve a problem,” said EPA’s Miller. “Together, we can improve the economy, improve truck drivers’ bottom line and improve air quality for future generations. I look forward to our continued success.”

Working together, CSS, the EPA SmartWay Transport Partnership and West Coast Collaborative, US and Oregon Departments of Transportation, and Oregon Departments of Energy and Environmental Quality together with over 40 manufacturers of green technology for trucks have made this outreach center possible. Another key financial mechanism in the Center equation was the innovative use of the Oregon State Infrastructure Bank funds and Small Business Administration (SBA) loans. With over \$5 million in initial funding, CSS has created a fund, where lease or SBA loan payments can be used perpetually to retrofit additional trucks.

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Cascade Sierra Solutions is a valued partner in the EPA’s West Coast Collaborative and SmartWay Transport Partnership. For more information about CSS, visit: www.cascadesierrasolutions.org.

The West Coast Collaborative is an ambitious partnership between leaders from federal, state, and local government, the private sector, and environmental groups committed to reducing diesel emissions along the West Coast. For more information about the Collaborative, visit: www.westcoastcollaborative.org

The SmartWay Transport Program is a national public-private partnership between EPA and the transportation industry to conserve fuel and reduce emissions. The Program creates demand for cleaner, more fuel efficient freight transportation. For more information about SmartWay, visit: www.epa.gov/smartway