



SASKATOON – Siemens Transportation Group is at the forefront of positive environmental change in the transportation industry.

The company has a history of environmental responsibility, dating back to the early 1980s when they were the first to use the EEMV program in Saskatchewan. They have been working under the program's auspices since then, explains Operations Manager Kevin Wald.

"We endeavor to run as many double trailers as we can on four-lane highways in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba," he says.

Siemens Transportation Group Inc. generally runs one of two overlength types – the Rocky Mountain double and the turnpike double – and, under the Saskatchewan EEMV provincial agreement, maintain a speed of 90 km/hr in the province. In Alberta and Manitoba, EEMV vehicles are kept to 100 km/hr. The company's long-standing corporate policy has been to maintain speeds of 100 km/hr or the posted speed, whichever is the lower number. This has helped contribute to Siemens Transportation Group's overall fuel economy.

The company's involvement in the EEMV program has further lowered their fuel consumption. According to a recent report from the Canadian Trucking Alliance, single tractor-trailers have a fuel consumption rate of 6.6 miles per gallon (mpg). This means two single tractor-trailers on a 300-mile run from Regina to Winnipeg would consume 45 gallons of fuel, or 90 gallons total. A turnpike double consumes 5.4 miles per gallon – meaning it would consume 55 gallons of fuel on the same run, resulting in a 39 per cent fuel savings.

"The savings have multiple factors," Wald says, adding that the EEMV program and the speed restrictions have helped Siemens Transportation Group Inc. attain greater fuel savings and greenhouse gas emission restriction. "The fuel savings are about 39 per cent. That means saving 39 per cent in greenhouse gas emissions."

The savings in greenhouse gas emissions is of significant value; according to the Options Document presented to the Transportation Climate Change Table in 1997, the Canadian transportation industry accounted for 25 per cent of total greenhouse gas emissions for the year. It was expected that if trends continued then, 1990 levels would have been exceeded by 32 per cent in 2010 and 53 per cent by 2020.

Through their involvement with EEMV, the Siemens Transportation Group has seen huge greenhouse gas emissions savings during the 2005 and 2006 calendar years alone. Not only has the company been able to reduce the number of miles driven by over 2.7 million miles, it has recognized a greenhouse gas emissions savings of more than 1984 tons. In addition, the company has managed to cut fuel consumption by over 171,711 gallons.

While the environmental savings are great, the positive impact on public safety is equally significant. Care is taken to ensure that all EEMV drivers meet stringent standards, both provincially- and locally-established. Drivers must have two years or 150,000 kilometres of experience on tractor-trailers, and submit their abstracts for a thorough examination. They must go through a complete physical every two years, and special training every four years. Each potential EEMV driver's certification is carefully scrutinized and the company then certifies that the driver has met all of their EEMV compliance requirements.

The Siemens Transportation Group's recent acquisition of a driver simulator has contributed to their record of environmental and safety responsibility. Wald says while drivers may spend 65 hours in a truck for training, the time they will spend training on the simulator will save approximately 8 hours in fuel consumption, or 75 gallons in fuel for a single tractor-trailer and 92 gallons for a turnpike double.

In addition, drivers are placed in a variety of driving scenarios, including mountain roads and suburban settings, with a diverse possibility of challenges. Wald explains that this, in turn, contributes to the company's concern for the public's well-being.

"Public safety isn't an issue if the driver has an accident on the simulator," he says, adding that through the simulator, drivers will be able to review their performance and correct any errors so they don't make the same mistakes on the road.

In addition, Siemens Transportation Group Inc. has become a registered participant of FleetSmart, a new governmental initiative put in place to help trucking companies reduce their fuel consumption and, by extension, the amount of greenhouse gas emissions their fleets release. FleetSmart also offers trucking companies SmartDriver for Highway Trucker training, which promotes energy efficiency as a cost-effective and responsible way to cut costs and reduce the environmental impact of their operations.

The company is also becoming a member of the SmartWay Transport Partnership, an innovative collaboration between the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the freight industry to increase energy efficiency while significantly reducing greenhouse gases and air pollution. Corporate Director of Fleet Services Ken Price says that, through SmartWay membership and an anti-idling program that Siemens Transportation Group is undertaking, the company is continuing to be environmentally responsible.

"It's a program to become a green company," he says.

He says that the company's anti-idling program, which will aim to control equipment and monitor and control their driving habits, will ultimately improve on Siemens Transportation Group's already-solid reputation of environmental concern.

"We want to control consumption, reduce emissions and increase efficiency," he says.

Siemens Transportation Group Inc. continues to explore how to improve its already-solid environmental track record as it celebrates its 45th year of operation and looks forward to a greener future at the top of the transportation industry.